



# Interstate 5 / State Route 56 Interchange

*Project Notebook*

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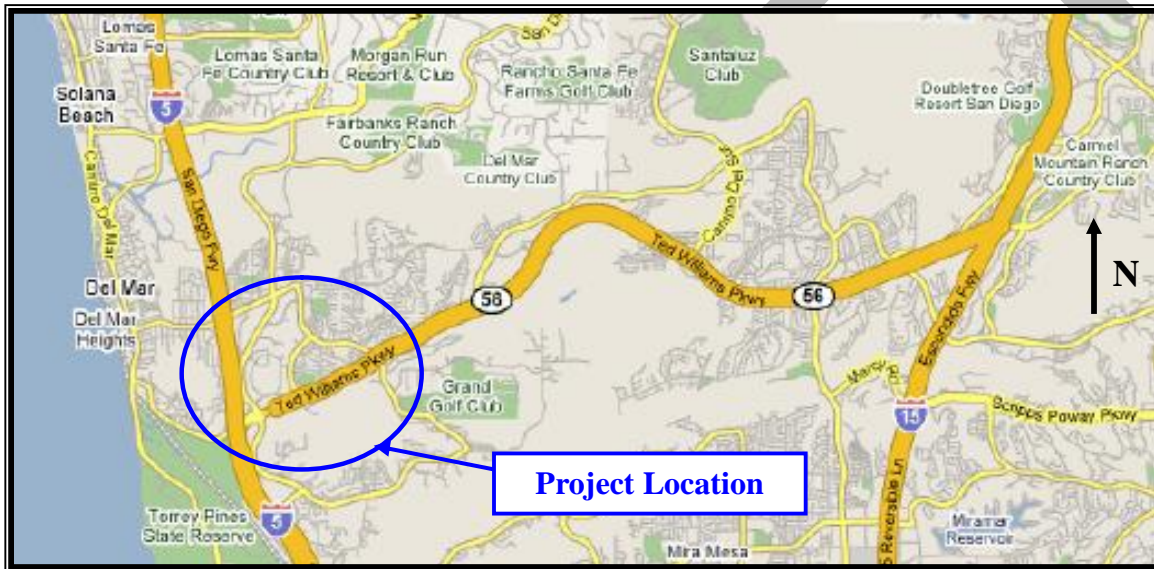
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# **PROJECT OVERVIEW**



**Introduction:**

State Route 56 (SR-56) is a four lane facility servicing the northern communities of the City of San Diego. Completed in 2004, the facility serves as a vital interregional east-west link between Interstate 5 (I-5) to the west and Interstate 15 to the east. The I-5 / SR-56 Interchange project proposes to maintain or improve the existing and future traffic operations along the I-5 and SR-56 corridors between Del Mar Heights Road, Carmel Valley Road, and Carmel Country Road, (see Project Location Map), in order to improve the safe and efficient local and regional movement of people and goods, while minimizing environmental and community impacts for the planning design year of 2030.



The objectives of this project are to:

- Maintain or improve future traffic levels of service in 2030 over the existing and forecasted level of service.
- Maintain or reduce off peak and peak hour delay for SR-56 traffic moving to & from the north on I-5.
- Maintain or reduce peak hour congestion at the El Camino Real/56 ramp termini.
- Maintain or reduce freeway related traffic bypassing the congestion by traveling through local communities during the peak hour.
- Maintain or reduce congestion on I-5 and SR-56 mainlines during the peak hour.
- Provide a facility that is compatible with future transit and other modal options.
- Follow the Regional Transportation Plan, Mobility 2030 – The Transportation Plan for the San Diego Region, SANDAG, April 2003 (2003 SANDAG RTP) where feasible and be in compliance with Federal and State regulations.
- Maintain the facility as an effective link in the intra-regional and inter-regional movement of people and goods.
- Avoid and minimize impacts to human and natural environment.



## **Background:**

Interstate 5 and I-15 are principal north-south arterials for the western United States, linking the Mexican border in the south to the Canadian border to the north. Regionally, I-5 and I-15 serve as a commuter link for North San Diego County with significant intraregional, interregional and international traffic. Located in Central San Diego County, SR-56 serves as an east-west corridor for I-5 and I-15. SR-56 was completed in three phases with the final phase opening to traffic in 2004 as a four-lane facility.

A project to reduce congestion along I-5 from the I-5 / Interstate 805 (I-805) interchange to Del Mar Heights Road was completed in phases beginning in 1995, with the final phase completed in April of 2007. This project entailed the addition of high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes in the northbound (NB) and southbound (SB) directions, a four-lane SR-56 bypass in the NB and SB directions, and the construction of NB to eastbound (EB) and westbound (WB) to SB freeway-to-freeway connectors. Traffic projections prior to the North City Future Urbanizing Area phase shifts indicated that connectors were not warranted, limiting construction to the WB to NB and SB to EB freeway-to-freeway connectors. Drivers traveling SB on I-5 or WB SR-56 must use Carmel Valley Road and El Camino Real to travel on EB SR-56 and NB I-5, respectively.

In 1996 and again in 1998, the citizens of San Diego voted to phase shift the relatively undeveloped section of the North City Future Urbanizing Area from “future” to “planned” urbanizing. This phase shift and the associated developments will increase the population and traffic demand in the region utilizing the SR-56 facility.

## **Chronology of the Route:**

- **1959** - SR-56 appears in the state legislative highway system.
- **1965** - SR-56 adopted as planned as a freeway.
- **July 1993** - SR-56 East segment opened to traffic between Black Mountain Road and Interstate 15.
- **March 1995** - SR-56 West segment opened to traffic between El Camino Real and Carmel Country Road.
- **December 1995** - Phase One of the I-5 / I-805 / SR-56 Interchange upgrade completed.
- **July 1998** - Phase Two of the I-5 / I-805 / SR-56 Interchange upgrade completed including the NB-EB and WB-SB freeway to freeway connectors.
- **November 1998** - Propositions K and M are approved by the citizens of San Diego.
- **July 2004** - SR-56 Middle segment opened to traffic.



**Engineering Chronology of the I-5 / SR-56 Interchange Project:**

- **December 2000** – Project Study Report (PSR) approved.
- **May 2002** – Value Analysis (VA) Report completed.
- **October 2003** – Initiation of engineering studies
- **December 2004** – Initiation of environmental studies

**Upcoming Project Milestones:**

- **August 2008** – Traffic, environmental, and geometric studies complete
- **June 2009** – Circulation of draft Environmental Document
- **November 2009** – Record of Decision

**References:**

[http://www.sandiego.gov/5\\_56freewayconnectors/index.shtml](http://www.sandiego.gov/5_56freewayconnectors/index.shtml)

<http://www.westcoastroads.com/california/ca-056.html>

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<http://maps.google.com/maps>



# PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



**WE ARE HERE**

