

MID-COAST TROLLEY PROJECT

FACT SHEET



MID-COAST TROLLEY



The Project

The Mid-Coast Trolley project will extend UC San Diego Blue Line Trolley service from the Santa Fe Depot in Downtown San Diego north to the University community, serving major activity centers such as Old Town, Mission Bay, the University of California, San Diego (UC San Diego), and University Towne Centre.

The route begins just north of the Old Town Transit Center and travels in existing railroad right-of-way, alongside Interstate 5, to serve UC San Diego and the University community. The extension will serve nine new stations: Tecolote Road, Clairemont Drive, Balboa Avenue, Nobel Drive, VA Medical Center, Pepper Canyon (serving UC San Diego west campus), Voigt Drive (serving UC San Diego east campus), Executive Drive, and the terminus station at the UTC Transit Center.

The Need

Freeways and arterials in the Mid-Coast corridor are generally congested, and traffic congestion is projected to increase as the region grows. By 2030, population in the corridor is forecast to increase 19 percent and employment is expected to increase by 12 percent. The University community area has developed as a major employment and high-density residential area, similar to Downtown San Diego. The University community is San Diego's second downtown, and UC San Diego is a high transit use area with students and employment. In October 2017, SANDAG

opened a regional transit center at University Towne Centre, and the Mid-Coast Trolley project will directly connect to the transit center, increasing transit ridership.

The Mid-Coast Trolley project will provide an effective alternative to congested freeways and roadways for travelers, improve public transit services, and enhance travel options by connecting the corridor with areas served by the existing trolley system.

Project Costs

The current project budget is \$2.17 billion, which includes financing costs.

Project Status

In fall 2014, the SANDAG Board of Directors and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) gave final environmental clearance to the project. In September 2016, through its New Starts Program, the Federal Transit Administration signed a Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) with SANDAG to provide the nearly 50 percent federal match needed to fund the project and allow construction to start in fall 2016. In June 2017, SANDAG secured a loan from the federal Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program, which reduces borrowing costs and increases flexibility that will save taxpayer dollars in building the largest transit project in the region's history.

Pre-construction activities—consisting of the relocation of underground utilities—began in early 2016, and primary construction activities

(Continued on reverse)



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started in fall 2016. Construction is now well underway along the entire 11-mile alignment. Service is scheduled to begin in late 2021.

Funding Status

The Mid-Coast Trolley project is fully funded. The project is one of the highest priorities for SANDAG in its *TransNet* Early Action Program. The FFGA is providing approximately 48 percent of the project funding, with *TransNet* providing the remaining local match. *TransNet* also will provide operating funds for the Trolley extension through the year 2048.

Summary

The Mid-Coast Trolley project will improve access to growing employment, education, and residential areas. A trolley extension is particularly well-suited to the corridor because:

- » It connects with the existing regional rail system at the Old Town Transit Center and at Santa Fe Depot in Downtown San Diego, providing a vast improvement to mobility within the region.
- » As an extension of the existing UC San Diego Blue Line Trolley, it will offer a one-seat (no transfer) ride from the international border and communities south of Downtown San Diego all the way north to the University community.
- » It will connect residents of the corridor with major activity centers such as Downtown San Diego, Old Town, the VA Medical Center, UC San Diego, University Towne Centre, and two major hospitals.

For More Information

- » Visit: KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/MidCoast
- » Call: (877) 379-0110
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