

San Dieguito Double Track and Special Events Platform

Future Special Events Rail Platform Will Deliver Passengers Directly to Del Mar Fairgrounds

As one of the main event centers in San Diego County, the Del Mar Fairgrounds welcomes millions of visitors each year from all over Southern California and other areas. Today, people traveling by passenger trains arrive at the Solana Beach Train Station, then must transfer to a shuttle bus that drives them the final two miles to complete their trip to the fairgrounds. To make rail travel an increasingly attractive option for future fairgrounds attendees, SANDAG is planning a special events platform adjacent to the fairgrounds.



Train passengers must now board a shuttle bus at Solana Beach Train Station to complete their trip to the fairgrounds.

Special Events Platform to Serve as an Attractive Transit Option

Taking the train to attend special events at the fairgrounds is already a popular option to avoid the congestion on Interstate 5. Past surveys indicate that ridership could significantly increase if a direct and convenient platform is built, eliminating the need for the shuttle buses. SANDAG is planning a 1,000-foot long platform for a 10-car train, which passenger train operators conclude is necessary to accommodate current and future demand. A rail platform at the fairgrounds is not a new idea and has been in various stages of planning and design for the last 20 years.

High Demand and Future Fairgrounds Parking Loss Adds to the Need for a Special Events Platform

Last year, demand exceeded capacity on both Amtrak and North County Transit District (NCTD) COASTER trains during fairground special events. On opening day of the horse races last year, daily ridership doubled on the COASTER leaving standing room only. Amtrak and NCTD's COASTER regularly added more train cars to serve the high demand during special events. The attractiveness of a direct transit option is underscored as parking at the fairgrounds continues to decrease in order to preserve lagoon wetlands. The fairgrounds will lose 1,250 parking spots in the fall of 2015.



The fairgrounds is studying the feasibility of future cessation of an additional 1,500 spaces in the East Overflow Lot.

Creating a Balanced Regional Transportation System

The San Dieguito Project is part of the North Coast Corridor (NCC) Program, a unique and balanced transportation plan aimed to provide travelers choices for the future while enhancing the quality of life for residents. The program's coastal rail and transit enhancements are essential to meeting our regional goals of moving more people, not just cars.

In addition to the special events platform, the San Dieguito Project will also add a one-mile section of double track and replace the existing wooden trestle rail bridge allowing for more frequent passenger rail service. It is expected to be completed by 2030. Please visit KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/SDDT for more project information.

Up Next

Summer/Fall 2014

SANDAG and North County Transit District to host Open House #2 in Solana Beach

Project Map



Photo Album of Trains

Amtrak runs longer trains during busy travel periods. Check out some of our action shots taken November 2013.



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