



September 2012

## North Coast Corridor Program Newsletter

### Key Features of the Supplemental Environmental Document for the I-5 Project Highlighted in Latest Issue

Thank you for your continued interest in the North Coast Corridor (NCC) Program. I am writing to share with you the latest NCC Program newsletter. The issue includes information about the recently released Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the Interstate 5 (I-5) NCC Project, as well as updates on critical highway and coastal rail projects, among other information.

As you know, Caltrans and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) are working cooperatively to improve mobility, reduce travel times and relieve congestion along the NCC, an economic lifeline for the region. The corridor is one of Southern California's most critical roadways, connecting the cities of Oceanside, Carlsbad, Encinitas, Solana Beach, Del Mar and San Diego with the rest of the state and beyond.

The NCC Program will invest \$6.5 billion in San Diego's regional economy and includes the construction of additional Express Lanes on I-5 for carpools, vanpools, public transit and solo drivers using FasTrak®, double tracking of the coastal rail corridor and improving the efficiency of the rail system, and more than \$250 million in environmental preservation and coastal access improvements.

For more information, please visit [KeepSanDiegoMoving.com](http://KeepSanDiegoMoving.com). Thank you again for your interest in the North Coast Corridor Program.

**Allan Kosup**

I-5/SR 76 Corridor Director

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**Caltrans Releases Supplemental Environmental Document for I-5 Project**

The North Coast Corridor (NCC) Program, a comprehensive package of highway, rail, transit, and environmental protection and coastal access improvements, is the largest transportation investment in the San Diego economy over the next few decades. The NCC Program is detailed in a Public Works Plan (PWP), which identifies the major components of the program that will improve transportation by increasing all forms of transportation including bicycles, pedestrians, trains, cars, and environmental enhancements. The Interstate 5 (I-5) NCC Project is one of the major components of the overall environmental projects proposed or underway at the 27-mile corridor.

To provide the public with additional clarifying information on the recently released Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the I-5 NCC Project released in 2010, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) released its supplemental document on August 31, 2012 to explain how the DEIS can be enhanced.

The Supplemental Draft EIS includes additional information on how the DEIS can be enhanced, contained in the Draft EIS. The Supplemental Draft EIS does not substantially change the analysis contained in the highway project's original environmental impact statement (EIS), which were recently completed, proposed community and regional enhancement measures, and the planning process presented and adopted in the 2010 Regional Transportation Plan among the topics detailed in the document.

The Supplemental Draft EIS does not address responses to comments received during the original comment period for the Draft EIS for the I-5 NCC Project. All public comments will be addressed in the project's Final EIS, which is scheduled to be released in early 2013.

Comments of the Supplemental Draft EIS begin a 45-day public review and comment period. The document provides the community an opportunity to take a more in-depth look at the studies completed for the project which evaluate how the proposed highway, rail, transit, and environmental projects will improve traffic and overall health of the NCC area in regions in conjunction with the highway project.

Additionally, the Supplemental Draft EIS reflects the locally preferred alternative for the I-5 NCC Project, which was announced in July 2011. Caltrans identified the Locally Preferred Alternative after extensive outreach and engagement with the public and resource agencies and the Federal Highway Administration.

The Express Lanes Only option would improve mobility and reduce travel times by adding two express lanes in each direction between the San Dieguito River Park Drive to Harbor Drive in Chula Vista. The lanes would provide a free flow alternative to the general purpose lanes and guarantees commuter travel times throughout the corridor.

Additionally, Caltrans is in the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) process to review the PWP for the NCC Program every year, providing the community with another opportunity to provide input on projects in the corridor. As another example, the PWP will be revised to include another public hearing on the PWP before it is submitted to the California Coastal Commission in Spring 2013.

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**NCC Program Progress Report**

Significant progress has been made on several projects within the NCC Program. The following are just a few of the projects that have been completed or are currently underway in the corridor:

**January 2012:** Existing trails were established along a two-mile stretch of coastline in Del Mar, helping to protect sensitive areas of coastal habitat.

**January 2012:** Construction began on a pedestrian undercrossing beneath the railroad tracks near Santa Fe Drive in Encinitas, which will provide a safe and legal crossing for pedestrians traveling to and from the coast.

**March 2012:** Amtrak crews finished double tracking approximately two miles of track from Carlsbad Village Drive south past Caron Road, resulting in the safe arrival of continuous double decker trains in Carlsbad.

**Mid-Late 2012:** Work began to restore native upland and wetland habitat at the 31-acre property in Carmel Valley, located in the northern part of the NCC corridor.

**Early 2013:** The Public Works Plan (PWP), which provides a comprehensive and coordinated package of improvements for the North Coast Corridor, will be released for public review.

**Summer 2013:** The I-5/I-805 Carlsbad Canyon Direct Access High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Project is expected to open to traffic.

**All comments must be submitted by October 15, 2012.**

[Click here for the English newsletter](#)

[Click here for the Spanish newsletter](#)

### Latest News:

- New I-5 expansion report calls for boosting lagoon health
- Construction going as planned on Santa Fe Crossing
- SANDAG approves request to serve as lead for Buena Vista Lagoon Project

### NCC Newsletter

Read the second in a series of newsletters about the NCC Program.

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### Program Brochure

Learn more about the balanced approach of the NCC Program.



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[KeepSanDiegoMoving.com](http://KeepSanDiegoMoving.com)



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