

North Coast Transportation Corridor Frequently Asked Questions Series

Welcome to the second broadcast in a series about the transportation improvements in the North Coast Corridor. This series provides answers to questions we frequently receive about the multi-modal transportation and environmental improvements in this corridor. This week and next week's focus is on the corridor's unique characteristics.

Corridor's Characteristics Influence Planned Transportation Improvements



Question #2:

How do the corridor's characteristics influence the range of proposed transportation improvements?

Answer: The North Coast Corridor is one of the most unique corridors in the nation. Characteristics that define this corridor provide the framework of what improvements can be made and where.

Land use and environmental characteristics include:

► Existing Low Density Development:

Coastal residents value low density land use as a contributing factor to their quality of life. Regional planning projections show that this development pattern for the most part will continue in the future. This land use trend limits the effectiveness of mass transit solutions.

► **Sensitive Coastal Resources:** Our coastal assets include six lagoons and 27 miles of world-renowned coastline. Development is limited in our coastal zones and any proposed transportation improvements must incorporate ways to protect, enhance and preserve these assets. A coastal protection plan is being developed to outline our commitment to a proactive, balanced approach to implementing rail, highway, bike and pedestrian improvements.

► **Topography:** Steep grades, adjacent coastal bluffs and lagoons limit parallel arterial road routes and the ability to place rail within the I-5 footprint. With limited parallel options, I-5 carries a significant share of traffic that would otherwise be served by local roads and creates travel patterns that are highway-centric.

These land use and environmental characteristics require that a balanced and comprehensive set of transportation choices—rail, express lanes, mass transit and pedestrian and bicycle—be created for travelers, complementing proposed environmental improvements.

Thank you for your continuing interest while we work to provide you with more reliable travel choices, improve the corridor's community and natural resources, and sustain economic growth.

Allan Kosup,
Corridor Director