

Coastal Connections Conceptual Planning Study

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose and need for this project?

The need for safe and legal access along the 1.6-mile segment of the LOSSAN corridor atop the Del Mar bluffs is a priority for the City of Del Mar and the California Coastal Commission. SANDAG secured funding for this study in the form of a Caltrans Planning Grant. The implementation of a north-south trail, a CPUC-approved railroad crossing, and an accessway down to the beach (“Access Improvements”) was included in the approval conditions of the Del Mar Bluffs 5 Federal Coastal Consistency Certification. These access improvements will be informed by the Coastal Connections Study.

Is there a preferred concept by the development team?

The project development team will not select a preferred concept in this Study. A preferred concept will be developed in the next phase of this project concurrent with the [Del Mar Bluffs Stabilization Phase 5](#) construction project.

Will this project delay SANDAG/NCTD’s goal of moving the tracks off the bluffs?

These projects are happening concurrently, and implementation of any access improvements will not delay the long-term realignment project.

Will at-grade crossings include a signal crossing?

Yes, any at-grade crossing would be required to have a signal crossing that complies with all California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) requirements and standards.

Can you clarify when the selected crossing will be open to the public?

The implementation timeline is subject to many factors including a final decision on the improvements to be brought forward through design and construction, securing funding, environmental clearance, approval by regulatory agencies, and final design. The California Coastal Commission's approval for the [Del Mar Bluffs 5](#) project included a condition that the Access Improvements would begin construction in 3 years (approximately 2026).

How long will it take to construct the project?

The construction duration of the Access Improvements has not been detailed at the conceptual stage and is dependent on which concepts are selected for implementation. Once fully designed and approved, we estimate the construction timeline as one to two years.

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Has the California Coastal Commission (CCC) approved these concepts?

The California Coastal Commission approved a concept for a north-south trail, a concept for an at-grade crossing at the end of 7th or 11th Street, and stairs at 11th Street as part of the federal consistency certification. To account for potential modifications or refinements to the design concepts as they proceed through development process, the CCC provided a procedure for review.

Will seawall infills be a part of the Coastal Connections Study? ***

New seawalls and infill grading are not proposed as part of the Coastal Connections Study. Any seawalls referenced in the conceptual designs will be constructed as part of the [Del Mar Bluffs 5](#) project.

Who will bear the cost of maintenance for this project? ***

Any project located within the railroad right-of-way will require future agreements between NCTD and the City of Del Mar regarding responsibility for ongoing maintenance. NCTD Board Policy No. 18 and the scope of work for the SANDAG [Del Mar Bluffs 5](#) project recommend that liability and maintenance for any coastal access or recreational improvements in the NCTD right-of-way should be the responsibility of the City of Del Mar. These details will require additional collaboration and consensus among the stakeholder agencies before commencement of construction of the Access Improvements.

How much will these concepts cost?

The cost estimates for each concept can be found in [Appendix D of the draft report](#).

Does the cost estimate include a quiet zone?

The cost estimates do not currently include implementation of a quiet zone.

How does this relate to the news I've heard about fencing the entire rail line? Are you doing fencing as part of this project?

The proposed fencing is an NCTD project and is not associated with SANDAG. SANDAG is focused on stabilizing the bluffs and improving access for the community and aims to coordinate with the NCTD fencing plan to improve the corridor and deliver community benefits. Any improvement concepts developed in this study will consider the proposed fencing plan and may recommend modifications to improve access while still fulfilling NCTD's goal of improving railroad safety.

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How does the Coastal Connections project connect to other SANDAG projects in Del Mar?

Construction for the pedestrian access project will begin toward the end of the [Del Mar Bluffs Stabilization Phase 5](#) project. We will be reaching out to the community again as we conclude the study phase and begin the next phase of preliminary engineering and environmental clearance.

SANDAG is committed to stabilizing the coastal bluffs within the City of Del Mar and evaluating and implementing [a strategy to move the tracks completely off the Del Mar coastal bluffs](#). The LOSSAN rail corridor is vital to local, state, and national economies, as well as to national defense and the quality of life for our region's residents. The LOSSAN rail corridor is a cornerstone in the region's planned services that will serve as a critical and modern solution to connectivity and transit in the San Diego region.

How do I view the preliminary concepts and provide my comments and feedback to the project team?

To see the concepts and provide your feedback through January 31, 2023, please visit: KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/CoastalConnections

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