



I-5/SR 78 Interchange Project

May 2013

I-5/SR 78 Interchange Project Fact Sheet

The Project

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is evaluating alternatives for future study to improve the Interstate 5 (I-5) / State Route 78 (SR-78) interchange located in the Cities of Oceanside and Carlsbad in San Diego County. The proposed interchange improvements may include direct freeway-to-freeway connectors from southbound I-5 to westbound SR-78 and from westbound SR-78 to southbound I-5; direct access ramps for carpool and transit vehicle HOV linkage, as well as a reconfiguration of the existing interchange to accommodate these new connections. Improvements to the I-5/SR-78 Interchange are part of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) 2050 Regional Transportation Plan and included in *TransNet*, the local half-cent sales tax for transportation projects in the region.

The I-5/SR 78 Interchange Project will:

- Improve traffic operations within the project for local motorists, increase interchange capacity, and improve traffic operations
- Reduce travel times and congestion through the interchange for regional commuters
- Provide HOV connectivity between two regionally important facilities
- Support plans for the North Coast Corridor project as well as the potential enhancements of the Buena Vista Lagoon

Vehicles moving between SR-78 and I-5 experience significant delays where no direct freeway-to-freeway connections currently exist. These movements are handled via a traffic signal at the I-5 southbound ramps/Vista Way intersection causing excessive congestion and queuing impacts not only on the freeway, but within the adjacent community. Travel demand within this interchange is projected to increase, further degrading operations.

What's Next

Caltrans has initiated environmental studies for the project. In the summer of 2013 Caltrans will hold public scoping meetings in the cities of Oceanside and Carlsbad. The intent of these meetings is to identify a range of issues pertinent to the proposed project and feasible alternatives to avoid potentially significant environmental effects of any planned improvements.



Project study area shown above.



The I-5/SR 78 Interchange Project proposes to improve traffic conditions in North County.

The project is federally funded for the initial planning and environmental efforts. Over the next few years as project alternatives are refined, additional funding will need to be identified for construction.