

» I-5/Genesee Avenue Interchange Project

FALL/WINTER
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eNewsletter

ISSUE 2

Building Bridges to an Improved Interchange

Construction Timeline:



The Interstate 5 (I-5)/Genesee Interchange Project has significantly progressed in the last several months. Now at stage 4, the project is nearly two-thirds complete.

Building an improved interchange is no small feat, and this interchange is located in one of the largest employment corridors in San Diego County. Here is just a snapshot of what crews have been able to accomplish as they improve this overpass:

- Moved and reused 459,000 cubic yards of dirt on the project
- Installed 640,000 pounds of rebar, reinforcing steel rods in the bridge located on the north side
- Poured 2,500 cubic yards of concrete to form the bridge on the north side

Photos below show the progress of the Genesee Avenue overpass. Over the next several months, crews will build a new bridge on the south side. Additionally, they will continue work on the retaining walls around the interchange and utility connections.

Crews also will finish the bike path from Genesee Avenue to Voigt Drive by grading, paving, and striping it. As a unique addition to the future North Coast Corridor bike network, this path will improve the connection between the Sorrento Valley COASTER station and a large number of employers in the Torrey Pines and Golden Triangle area. People riding bikes will be able to travel in both directions between the Sorrento Valley COASTER Station and Voigt Drive instead of using the I-5 shoulder.

Investing in the Community

The I-5/Genesee Interchange Project will replace the existing six-lane Genesee Avenue overpass with a ten-lane structure and include these additional features:

- widened freeway access ramps
- an auxiliary lane in the northbound direction on I-5 between Genesee Avenue and Roselle Street
- a new, separated bike/pedestrian path

This \$105 million project is made possible in part by your taxpayer dollars - the regional *TransNet* half-cent sales tax for transportation, along with a combination of federal and state sources, and partnerships with the City of San Diego and UC San Diego. We appreciate the community's continued patience as we work to improve your mobility in the Golden Triangle area and throughout the region.



Sept. 2015: Form work creates the shape of the concrete section. Crews installed reinforcement and post-tensioning (steel) ducts in the forms.



Jan. 2016: The bridge deck was poured and the falsework removed. Falsework is the temporary wood forms used to support the foundation of the new I-5/Genesee Avenue bridge.



June 2016: The approach slabs, which provide a transition between roadway pavement and the bridge, were poured and connected to the ramps. Traffic was switched from the old bridge to the newly constructed bridge.



Oct. 2016: The old bridge on the south side was removed and crews will rebuild this bridge section.



A Sneak Peek into the Landscaping Plan

Once the interchange improvements are completed, Caltrans will landscape the area with native, drought-tolerant plants and over 600 trees. Featured here is a sneak peek of some of the colors you may notice in the new landscape. The majority of the new landscape will be irrigated with reclaimed water, aligning with Caltrans' policy on planting and water conservation.



California Buckwheat: Popular in Southern California, this shrub has needle-like evergreen leaves that cover the stems of the shrub and long-lasting cream-colored flowers.



Laurel Sumac: Laurel Sumac is a large evergreen shrub with shiny red-green foliage.



Coast Sunflower: This shrub has a white evergreen foliage color and yellow flowers.



San Diego Monkeyflower: Named for their funny-face-flowers that look like grinning monkeys, these shrubs produce orange flowers.

What are the Concrete Columns?

The beginnings of this concrete structure may seem like a mystery, but it is the start of the construction of the bike and pedestrian overcrossing. The construction to build this connecting piece is anticipated to start next summer. This elevated overcrossing will connect the new separate bike path between the Sorrento Valley COASTER Station and Voigt Drive. This unique addition will support the North Coast Corridor bike network and provide alternative transportation choices to encourage more people to #GObyBIKEsd.



View looking east of the bridge abutment south of Genesee Avenue.



View looking east of the two concrete columns called bridge abutments.



Did you know?

The project team updates a weekly closure list on the I-5/Genesee Interchange Project homepage at KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/Genesee. Posted on Mondays and updated throughout the week, check to see what lanes or ramps are closed on the project. Bookmark [this link](#) today!

Make a Shift in the Way You Move



This is a great time to explore and find an alternative commute to work. Try transit, carpooling, vanpooling, biking, or walking. Not sure where to begin? Here are some helpful tips:



1. Get the inside scoop

Read about new transportation experiences from your colleagues, peers, and neighbors in The Shift Insider, the official [Shift](#) blog. The blog also will feature project and construction highlights, as well as resources and programs that can help improve your commute.

2. Plan your trip

[TripPlanner](#) compares carpool, vanpool, transit, walk, and bike options, while calculating time, cost, calories burned, and emissions estimates. Begin with signing up for a free [iCommute](#) account. Then, enter your starting point and destination in TripPlanner, and click "Let's Go!". It's that easy.

3. Track your alternative trips

Once you determine what mode you want to try, start recording your alternative trips with [TripTracker](#) and you'll be able to see how much you are saving, how many calories you have burned, and how much you have reduced your carbon footprint. Log at least eight trips in a month and you will be automatically entered in a monthly prize drawing.



Happy carpoolers Daniel and Kathleen!

The Carpool Experience

With new carpool lanes on Interstate 805 (one in each direction) between State Route 52 and Mira Mesa Boulevard, and a new Direct Access Ramp (DAR) at Carroll Canyon Road now open to the public, we talked with Kathleen at a nearby employer about her carpool experience and the use of the new facility. Check out her commuter story [here](#).

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