

# » I-5/Genesee Avenue Interchange Project

WINTER  
2017

eNewsletter

ISSUE 3

## Progress Made on Constructing and Paving

The I-5/Genesee Interchange Project is approximately 90 percent complete. A few of the recent construction milestones are: placing concrete on the bridge deck, paving several main lanes on the freeway and ramps, and completing all of the retaining walls.

Over the next several months, crews will continue to work in the following project areas:



*Eastbound Genesee lanes, facing west*

**Genesee Avenue Roadway** Crews completed grading and paving the eastbound lanes of Genesee Avenue and traffic was shifted.



*Retaining wall southeast of Genesee Avenue*

**Retaining Walls** Crews are installing the railing on top of the large and highly-visible retaining wall southeast of Genesee Avenue. Adjacent to the retaining wall is the widened ramp, which runs along its base. This is the last of 12 retaining walls to be completed on the project.



*I-5/Genesee Avenue Interchange, facing north*

**I-5/Genesee Avenue Interchange Bridge** Crews made significant progress last year on the south side of the newly constructed bridge. With traffic shifted, a new work area is created in between the eastbound and westbound lanes of Genesee Avenue for crews to construct several drainage structures. Once that is complete, crews can then construct the raised median on Genesee Avenue. Along the median, crews will also install a rock blanket, a rock aesthetic component consisting of rocks arranged in a texture and pattern. Rock blankets can also be seen in sections alongside the bike path.



*Bike path from Genesee to Gilman Bridge, facing north*

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge** The bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Genesee Avenue is under construction. The extension of the bike path, the section that runs from Genesee Avenue to Voigt Drive, has been paved, but remains closed to the public until the entire bike path is complete. The bicycle and pedestrian bridge that will cross Genesee Avenue will connect the south section of the bike path (Voigt Drive to Genesee Avenue) to the north section (Genesee Avenue to Sorrento Valley Road).

?

### Did you know?

The I-5/Genesee project team has built 12 retaining walls. A retaining wall is a structure that holds back material (usually soil) and prevents it from sliding or eroding away. It is designed to resist the pressure of the material that it is holding back. The largest one constructed onsite measures 810 feet long and 75 feet tall. The smallest one constructed onsite measures 86 feet long and 12 feet tall.

## Preparing for a wet season

While San Diego typically enjoys sunny, dry weather, there are a couple of winter months when rainfall is expected. To prepare for a wet season and keep the roads safe and work areas protected, crews are continually maintaining the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for the project site. Some examples of this are: the hydromulch, fiber socks/rolls on the slopes, tarps, and shaker plates on construction entrances and exits of the site.

**Hydromulch** Crews spray a thick mixture of wood fiber mulch, plant or grass seed, and fertilizer on slopes around the project area to weigh down soil and keep dust from entering the storm drains and gutters. When rain or irrigation water is applied to the mulch, the seeds of this native plant mixture will germinate and provide a vegetated slope.

**Fiber socks and fiber rolls** Made of mulch, they are installed along the slopes to prevent erosion.

**Tarps** Crews cover piles of material with tarps to keep down dust and other materials from entering the storm drains or eroding nearby areas.

**Shaker plates** These are rigid metal plates placed at the entrances and exits of a work area to help remove and prevent the tracking of mud and dirt outside of the designated work areas.

**Filter** Crews also place filter material at drainage inlets to prevent dirt and debris from entering.

## The Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge

Crews are working on the last major component of the project – the bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Genesee Avenue. Both pedestrians and people on bikes will be able to use the bridge and path. The bridge will connect the south section of the bike path (Voigt Drive to Genesee Avenue) to the north section (Genesee Avenue to Sorrento Valley Road). The bridge is curved and measures 260 feet long and 18 feet wide. This unique addition will support the North Coast Corridor bike network and provide alternative transportation choices to encourage more people to #GObyBIKEsd.

For those who like to walk, the bridge connects to the sidewalks on Genesee Avenue with bike and pedestrian access points at the southwest and northwest corners of the southbound ramp at the I-5 and Genesee Avenue intersection.



*Rendering of interchange and bicycle/pedestrian overcrossing*



*Fiber socks installed along the northwest corner of I-5 and Genesee Avenue*



## The community celebrates the expansion of Shift San Diego

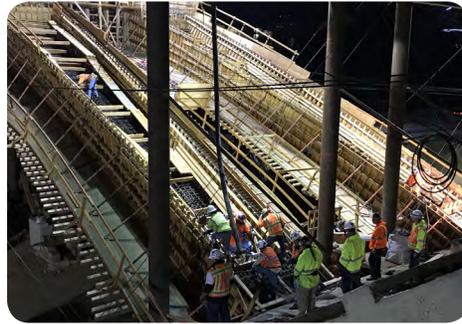
The Shift team has been consistently coordinating with over 60 employers in the Golden Triangle area of University City to promote alternative transportation solutions, such as carpooling, vanpooling, taking transit, biking and walking to work. By offering ways to rideshare, there are fewer cars on the roads, which mean less congestion, especially during construction. In the summer, the Shift team held a press conference to launch the expansion of this one-stop resource. In attendance were the program partners: Mayor Kevin Faulconer and Councilmember Barbara Bry from the City of San Diego, Brian Gregory from UC San Diego, Paul Jablonski from MTS, and Allan Kosup from Caltrans. It is anticipated that in the next five years, over 50 public and private projects will be under construction or in the planning stages in the community.

## Commuting options during construction and beyond

If you are having trouble navigating your commute through construction zones, there are a variety of transportation resources on [ShiftSanDiego.com](http://ShiftSanDiego.com) to help find a ride. Try a different way to work during construction and perhaps rideshare with a colleague or friend.

Additionally, if you are an employer who would like some assistance on transportation demand management initiatives and commuter benefits program, the Shift team has an Employer Services Program available to you. Please contact us at [info@shiftsandiego.com](mailto:info@shiftsandiego.com) to schedule a consultation.

## Mid-Coast Trolley and Gilman Bridge Update



Crews adjusting falsework on Gilman Bridge

Crews have made visible progress on the Gilman Drive Bridge spanning I-5. This will provide a much-needed connection between the east and west sides of the UC San Diego campus. Crews prepared and adjusted the bridge falsework – temporary structures used to support the bridge until final construction is completed – and the first concrete structure was poured in late November. Additional concrete pours will take place with structure work continuing this year on the Gilman Drive Bridge. The bridge is being constructed in tandem with the Mid-Coast Trolley viaduct project – an elevated bridge-like structure to secure the tracks for the elevated trolley extension down the middle of Genesee Avenue. To facilitate this work, there will be ongoing, intermittent closures of on- and off- ramps and lanes on I-5 and Genesee Avenue.

Projects like this one can be found on the interactive map on [ShiftSanDiego.com](http://ShiftSanDiego.com). Closures and detours associated with construction can be found on the notices tab on [ShiftSanDiego.com](http://ShiftSanDiego.com).



## Guaranteed Ride Home Program Gives Commuters a Back-Up Plan for Emergencies

One of the most common challenges people face is the need and flexibility to drive home when an emergency arises. If you carpool, vanpool, take transit, walk, or bike to work, you have a safety net with the Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program. Read about the program and what employees have to say about it on the Shift Insider blog.

### I-5/Genesee Project Information

-  Website  
[KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/Genesee](http://KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/Genesee)
-  Email  
[I-5Genesee@KeepSanDiegoMoving.com](mailto:I-5Genesee@KeepSanDiegoMoving.com)
-  Hotline  
(888) 720-9321  
TTY: (619) 699-1904
-  SANDAG | SDCaltrans
-  SANDAGregion | CaltransDistrict11
-  SANDAGregion | CaltransDistrict11

### Shift Program Information

-  Website  
[ShiftSanDiego.com](http://ShiftSanDiego.com)
-  Email  
[info@ShiftSanDiego.com](mailto:info@ShiftSanDiego.com)
-  Hotline  
(844) SHIFT-SD (744-3873)
-  Text  
ShiftSD to 797979 (to receive construction alerts)
-  @ShiftSanDiego