

Rapid



Construction and Project Overview

Overview

After several years of planning and collaboration with South County communities, construction is underway on the South Bay *Rapid* Project, a \$113 million effort to provide travelers with a frequent and reliable transportation choice. An additional \$15 million will be used to purchase 16 new *Rapid* vehicles. The 26-mile *Rapid* route will run between the Otay Mesa Port of Entry and Downtown San Diego via eastern Chula Vista. When completed, the new service will connect to employment and activity centers in Downtown San Diego and South County.

Transit Guideway

At the heart of the project is the dedicated transit guideway—a nearly six-mile-long transit-only lane being constructed in the median of East Palomar Street and along Eastlake Parkway in Chula Vista. Construction of the dedicated transit guideway is being performed in phases in order to minimize impacts to nearby residents, businesses, and motorists.



Rapid Stations

A dozen *Rapid* stations are planned along the 26-mile route, including five in Downtown San Diego. Seven stations are being constructed in eastern Chula Vista and Otay Mesa as part of this project. These stations will include new modern shelters, level platforms for easier boarding, and upgraded amenities including real-time next vehicle arrival information, landscaping, and enhanced paving and architectural treatments. All stations will be located in the public right-of-way and have been designed to provide safe pedestrian access at intersections.





Transit guideway bridge over South Bay Expressway

Guideway Bridge

An elevated transit guideway bridge will be constructed over a portion of the transit corridor between Magdalena Avenue and Town Center Drive, traversing the South Bay Expressway. The bridge will allow *Rapid* vehicles to cross the South Bay Expressway while maintaining high-frequency, limited-stop service. Construction of the guideway bridge began in late 2016 and was completed in mid 2018.

Otay Mesa Transit Center

At the southern end of its route, *Rapid* will terminate at the Otay Mesa Transit Center near the United States-Mexico Port of Entry. The Otay Mesa Transit Center will serve as a welcoming gateway between the two countries and provide travelers with amenities such as ticket vending machines, a concession stand, and real-time next vehicle arrival signs. The facility will include dedicated transit access for *Rapid* vehicles and local buses, which will improve traffic flow and facilitate the movement of goods and people at the border crossing and in the surrounding Otay Mesa community. Construction of the Otay Mesa Transit Center began in summer 2017 and is expected to be complete in 2018.

Rapid Service in South Bay

Limited service is expected to begin in September 2018. Following the completion of construction, full service will launch in early 2019 and will be operated by the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System. The estimated travel time between eastern Otay Ranch in Chula Vista and Downtown San Diego will be approximately 50 to 60 minutes during peak commuting hours.

What to Expect During Construction

- **Nearby residents/businesses** can expect intermittent lights, noise, and dust during construction, as well as periodic sidewalk/bike path closures. Some night and/or weekend work is possible.
- **Motorists** can expect temporary lane closures and detours, reduced lane widths, and construction equipment moving in and around the work area. Street parking on East Palomar Street also may be impacted intermittently.

Project Funding

Funding for the project is being provided by a combination of federal, state, and local programs. These programs include the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP), Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSCP), and *TransNet*, the regional half-cent sales tax for transportation administered by SANDAG.

Future Corridor Improvements

Additional long-term improvements are planned for South County, including:

- Construction of three in-line (freeway-level) transit stations along Interstate 805 (I-805) at H Street in Chula Vista, East Plaza Boulevard in National City, and 47th Street in San Diego;
- Park & Ride lots at the H Street and East Plaza Boulevard in-line stations;
- Freeway-to-freeway direct HOV connector ramps between I-805 and State Route 94; and
- Southbound freeway-to-freeway connector ramps between State Route 905, State Route 125, and State Route 11 (northbound connectors are complete).

Collectively, these improvements will provide increased access for people in San Diego, National City, and Chula Vista, and reduce travel times for most passengers. Construction of these improvements will be scheduled as funding becomes available.

☎ (888) 754-5062 ✉ SouthBayRapid@KeepSanDiegoMoving.com

🐦 @SANDAG 📘 SANDAGregion 📺 SANDAGregion