



INTERSTATE 5/EL TORO ROAD INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

PROJECT COST: Approximately
\$29 million - \$333 million

FUNDING: Federal, State and Local

**DEVELOPMENT
PHASE:** Project Approval /
Environmental Document
(PA/ED)

**CEQA/NEPA
LEAD AGENCY** Caltrans

**SPONSORING
AGENCY** OCTA

**COMMUNITY
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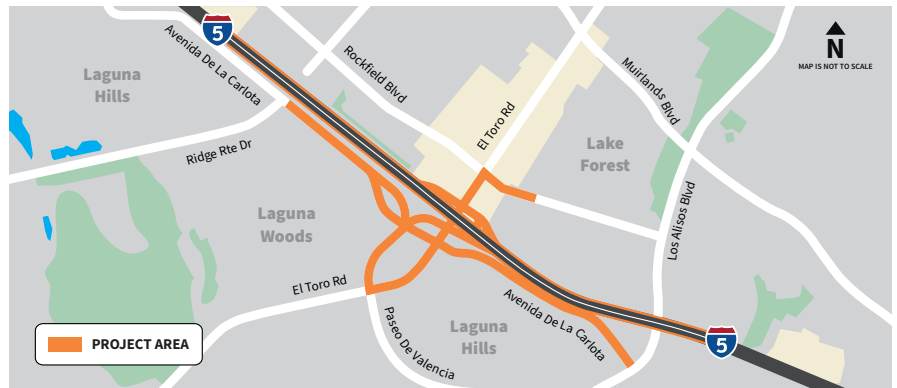
**PROJECT
WEBSITE:** bit.ly/ETRimprovement



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The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in cooperation with the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) proposes to modify the Interstate 5 (I-5)/El Toro Road Interchange to improve traffic flow, optimize traffic signalization, improve traffic mobility through adjacent local street intersections, reduce freeway ramp queuing, and apply technology to help manage traffic demand. Thousands of motorists drive through the interchange to reach employment centers, shopping malls, and medical centers daily.

The project is currently in the environmental phase, during which a Draft Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Assessment (DEIR/EA) is being prepared to evaluate the potential effects that could result from the proposed project.



ALTERNATIVES BEING STUDIED

Two Alternatives (and a design variation) are being studied and are under consideration in addition to one No Build Alternative.

- **Build Alternative 1 – Southbound I-5 Hook Ramps:** Proposes an additional I-5 southbound off-ramp to independently serve El Toro Road to the east and to the west. This would include new ramp alignments, a new bridge over El Toro Road, a realigned Avenida de la Carlota, and removal of the existing southbound on-ramp.

Design Variation: Build Alternative 1a: A design option is proposed for Build Alternative 1 that includes all of the features described above plus a new public street that would enter the Village of Laguna Hills development at the new southbound I-5/Avenida De La Carlota ramp intersection south of El Toro Road.

- **Build Alternative 3 – Transportation System Management/Transportation Demand Management:** Installs intelligent transportation systems to improve traffic signal synchronization.

***Alternative 2** proposed a southbound I-5 flyover to serve El Toro Road East and West was previously considered but was eliminated due to non-compliance with State Policy.

MILESTONES	TIMEFRAMES
Public Scoping Meetings	July 2023, August 2023
Draft Environmental Document	July 2026
Public Hearings	August 2026, September 2026
Environmental (Project Approval)	Early 2027*
Completion of Final Design	Late 2030*
Begin Construction	Late 2031*
Open To the Public	2035*

*Subject to change