



INTERSTATE 5 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: SAN DIEGO COUNTY LINE TO AVENIDA PICO

FACT SHEET – SCOPING PERIOD

Project Overview

The I-5 Improvement Project from the San Diego County Line to Avenida Pico Interchange proposes to reduce traffic congestion and provide inter-county connectivity between Orange County and San Diego County. The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 12 and the City of San Clemente, are proposing improvements to 4.8 miles of I-5 in the City of San Clemente from south of the San Diego County line to Avenida Pico (Project).

Purpose

The primary purpose of the project is to maximize efficiency of the freeway mainline by increasing person and vehicle throughput on the I-5 corridor from San Diego County line to Avenida Pico. This I-5 corridor improvement project is intended to achieve the following purposes:

- Increase vehicle occupancy and vehicle throughput
- Improve mobility and trip reliability
- Provide inter-county and regional system connectivity
- Provide improvements to accommodate projected regional growth
- Incorporate environmentally sustainable design elements by developing efficient transportation improvements; and
- Improve multimodal efficiency and provide advanced technology to meet the current and future transportation demands

Need

There is a lack of High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane connectivity from San Diego County line to Avenida Pico. In addition, the existing aging facility lacks advanced technology to meet current and future transportation demands.

Project Funding

The environmental phase (current phase) is funded through federal funding. There is no current funding for the final design and construction phases.

Environmental Document

The Project is in the environmental phase. The anticipated Environmental Document will be an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and an Environmental Assessment (EA) under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).





Estimated Project Schedule

- **Mid-2023** – Publish Draft Environmental Document and Conduct Public Hearing
- **Late 2024** – Publish Final Environmental Document and Identify Preferred Alternative
- **Mid-2026** – Begin Final Design (Plans, Specifications, and Estimates)*
- **Late 2030** – Begin Construction*

*Pending available funding.

Project Area



Proposed Project Alternatives

The proposed project alternatives include one No Build Alternative and a Build Alternative.

Alternative 1: No Build

- The No Build Alternative proposes no improvements to I-5, maintaining the existing four general-purpose lanes throughout the project limits in the northbound and southbound directions. The freeway facility would remain as is, with the exception of other proposed projects that are either under development or currently under construction.

Alternative 2: Build Alternative

- Alternative 2 proposes to add an HOV lane on I-5 in the northbound and southbound directions within the project limits. The Build Alternative would implement ramp improvements where feasible and auxiliary lanes throughout the corridor and would include Transportation System Management / Transportation Demand Management (TSM/TDM) features.