About the Project

Build NCC is the first phase of construction of the North Coast Corridor (NCC) Program in the cities of Solana Beach, Encinitas, and Carlsbad. Build NCC is part of a comprehensive set of transportation, environmental, and coastal access projects to improve the quality of life for residents, create a stronger local and regional economy for the future, and enhance the coastal environment.

Highway Improvements

Caltrans will extend carpool lanes on Interstate 5 (I-5) from Lomas Santa Fe Drive in Solana Beach to State Route 78 (SR 78) in Oceanside. Additional highway improvements include replacing and lengthening the San Elijo highway bridge to accommodate the carpool lanes and help improve lagoon tidal flow; some sound walls on private property; a new Park & Ride/Multi-Use Facility at the I-5/Manchester Avenue interchange; and auxiliary lanes. The multi-use facility will provide parking for carpools, bike lockers, electric vehicle charging stations, and recreational access to the San Elijo Lagoon and the new North Coast Bike Trail.

Rail Improvements

Improving the coastal rail line is a central component of Build NCC. The San Elijo Lagoon Double Track Project is part of a larger plan to improve the coastal rail system by adding a second track, allowing trains traveling in opposite directions to pass without slowing down or stopping, increasing efficiency and reliability. Other project features include the replacement and lengthening of the rail bridge spans over the San Elijo Lagoon. Additionally, at-grade rail crossing improvements will be made at Chesterfield Drive in Encinitas.

Lagoon/Bike/Pedestrian

Build NCC includes the restoration of the San Elijo Lagoon. The restoration project will be coordinated with the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy and resource agencies. Restoration will enhance the lagoon’s wetland and upland areas, improve tidal flushing, and includes beach sand replenishment.

Improving coastal access is a critical component of the NCC Program. Build NCC will include new east-west and north-south bicycle and pedestrian trails in and around the San Elijo Lagoon.

Preserving Community Character and Improving Coastal Access

Build NCC includes local bike/pedestrian path improvements in Encinitas and Carlsbad. The interchanges at Encinitas Boulevard and Santa Fe Drive will be upgraded with new bike and pedestrian paths. To help reduce freeway noise for nearby residents, Caltrans is proposing to construct some sound walls on private property. In areas with views, transparent sound walls will be offered to residents.

For more information:
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Project Schedule and Funding

Construction Start Date
2017
Completion Date
2022
Funding Sources
Federal
State
SANDAG (TransNet)
Contractor
Flatiron-Skanska-Stacy and Witbeck

Total Project Cost
Approximately $1.1 billion
(Highway $846 million; Rail $80 million; Environment $130 million)

The budgeted amounts are per the Draft FY19 budget provided to the SANDAG Board of Directors.

As of October 2018
HOV/Carpool Lanes from Lomas Santa Fe Dr. to SR 78

San Elijo Lagoon Double Track

Coastal Rail Trail Bikepath

Encinitas Blvd./Santa Fe Dr. Bike/Pedestrian Enhancements

San Elijo Lagoon Bridge Replacements*

Sound Walls**

San Elijo Lagoon Restoration and Environmental Enhancements

LEGEND

New HOV/Carpool Lanes (one in each direction)

New Auxiliary Lane

Sound Walls

Bike/Pedestrian Access Improvements

Coastal Rail Line

New Double Track

Class 1 Bike Path

Lagoon Bridge Replacement

Existing Path

Rail Crossing Improvements

New Pedestrian Underpass

Point of Interest

* Bridges replacements will help improve tidal flow and surrounding lagoon health. Simulation depicts highway Lagoon Bridge Replacement

** Not all proposed sound walls will be transparent (glass)