

State Route 78: Project Fact Sheet

February 2010

State Route 78 Widening and Nordahl Road Bridge Replacement Project

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), working collaboratively with the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and the cities of Escondido and San Marcos, is proposing improvements to westbound State Route 78 (SR-78) at Interstate 15 (I-15) and to the Nordahl Road bridge to address severe traffic congestion during the morning and afternoon commute hours.

Why Improvements are Needed

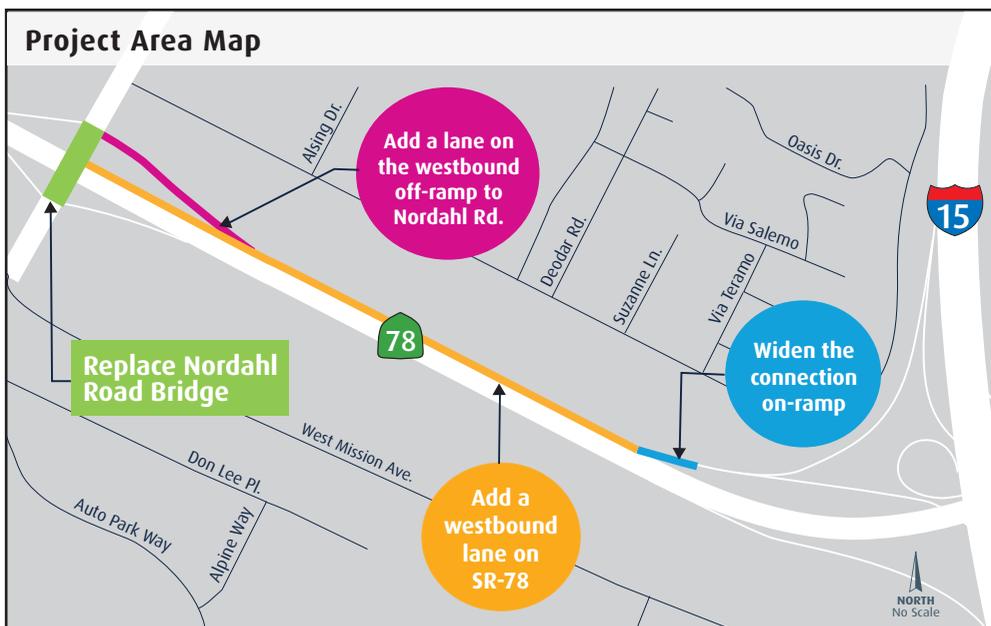
Traffic congestion is caused at westbound SR-78 where the connector ramp from I-15 decreases from three to two lanes just before they join SR-78. This bottleneck causes traffic to slow both on the connector ramp and on the I-15 general purpose lanes. The stop-and-go traffic also makes maneuvering between lanes difficult for drivers. During peak hours, traffic congestion currently causes a 14-minute delay on average for commuters. By 2030, that delay is projected to increase to 30 minutes if no improvements are made.

Just west of the SR-78 and I-15 connection, the Nordahl Road bridge will be replaced in order to accommodate this widening of SR-78 and to accommodate future planned High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes. The replacement of Nordahl Road bridge will also improve height clearance under it.

Improvements to be Constructed

To address these problems, Caltrans will:

- Widen the connector on-ramp from I-15 to westbound SR-78
- Add a fifth westbound lane on SR-78 between the end of the I-15 connector ramp and Nordahl Road
- Add a lane on the westbound SR-78 off-ramp to Nordahl Road
- Replace the Nordahl Road bridge to improve height clearance, add space for turn lanes to the SR-78 eastbound and westbound on-ramps, and accommodate the widening of SR-78 and future HOV lanes



Project Details

Construction Boundaries:

I-15 connector to SR-78 west to the Nordahl Road bridge.

Construction Start:

Mid 2011

Construction Completion:

Estimated for 2013

Total Costs:

\$41 million

