

*Build***NCC**

# Digital Briefing Booklet



# NORTH COAST CORRIDOR (NCC) PROGRAM

Located in San Diego County's north coastal area, the North Coast Corridor (NCC) Program consists of 27 miles of Interstate 5 (I-5) and connects the cities of Oceanside, Carlsbad, Encinitas, Solana Beach, Del Mar, and San Diego. The NCC is part of the larger I-5 transportation corridor that links San Diego County to the national highway system and the nation to the Canadian and Mexican borders. The NCC Program represents a \$6 billion investment in the San Diego economy over the next few decades, including more than \$250 million to preserve and enhance sensitive coastal habitat and improve coastal access.



# ABOUT BUILD NCC

Build NCC is the first phase of construction of the Caltrans and SANDAG 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 designed 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 and SANDAG will extend two Carpool/High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes on Interstate 5 (I-5) - one lane in each direction - between Lomas Santa Fe Drive in Solana Beach and State Route 78 (SR 78) in Oceanside. Additional highway improvements include replacing and lengthening the San Elijo Lagoon highway bridge to accommodate the Carpool/HOV Lanes and help improve lagoon tidal flow; building several sound walls on private property; constructing a new multiuse facility at the I-5/Manchester Avenue interchange; and adding auxiliary lanes on I-5. The multiuse facility will provide parking for carpools/vanpools, bike racks, infrastructure for electric vehicle charging stations, and recreational access to the San Elijo Lagoon and new North Coast Bike Trail.



## Rail Improvements

Improving the Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) coastal rail line is a central component of Build NCC. The completed San Elijo Lagoon Double Track project is part of a larger effort to double track the coastal rail line, allowing trains traveling in opposite directions to pass without slowing down or stopping and increasing overall efficiency and service reliability. Other completed project features include the new, lengthened concrete rail bridge above the San Elijo Lagoon. Additionally, at-grade rail crossing improvements were made at Chesterfield Drive in Encinitas.



## Lagoon/Bike/Pedestrian

Build NCC includes the restoration of the San Elijo Lagoon. The restoration project is made possible through funding from the TransNet Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP), and in coordination with Nature Collective (formerly San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy) and lagoon resource agencies. Restoration efforts will enhance the lagoon's wetland and upland areas, improve tidal flushing, and includes beach sand replenishment. Expanding access to coastal resources and habitats is a critical component of the NCC Program. Build NCC will include new east-west and north-south bicycle and pedestrian trails within and surrounding the San Elijo Lagoon.





Integrating Transportation and Environmental Enhancements



San Elijo Lagoon Highway Bridge

The San Elijo Lagoon highway bridge will be replaced to accommodate new Carpool/HOV Lanes along I-5. The new bridge will be lengthened to improve tidal flows, circulation, and the overall health of the lagoon. In addition, a suspended bike and pedestrian bridge will be built underneath the highway bridge to further increase north-south and east-west connectivity, and create more travel choices. The North Coast Bike Trail will be constructed to expand the regional bike and pedestrian network.

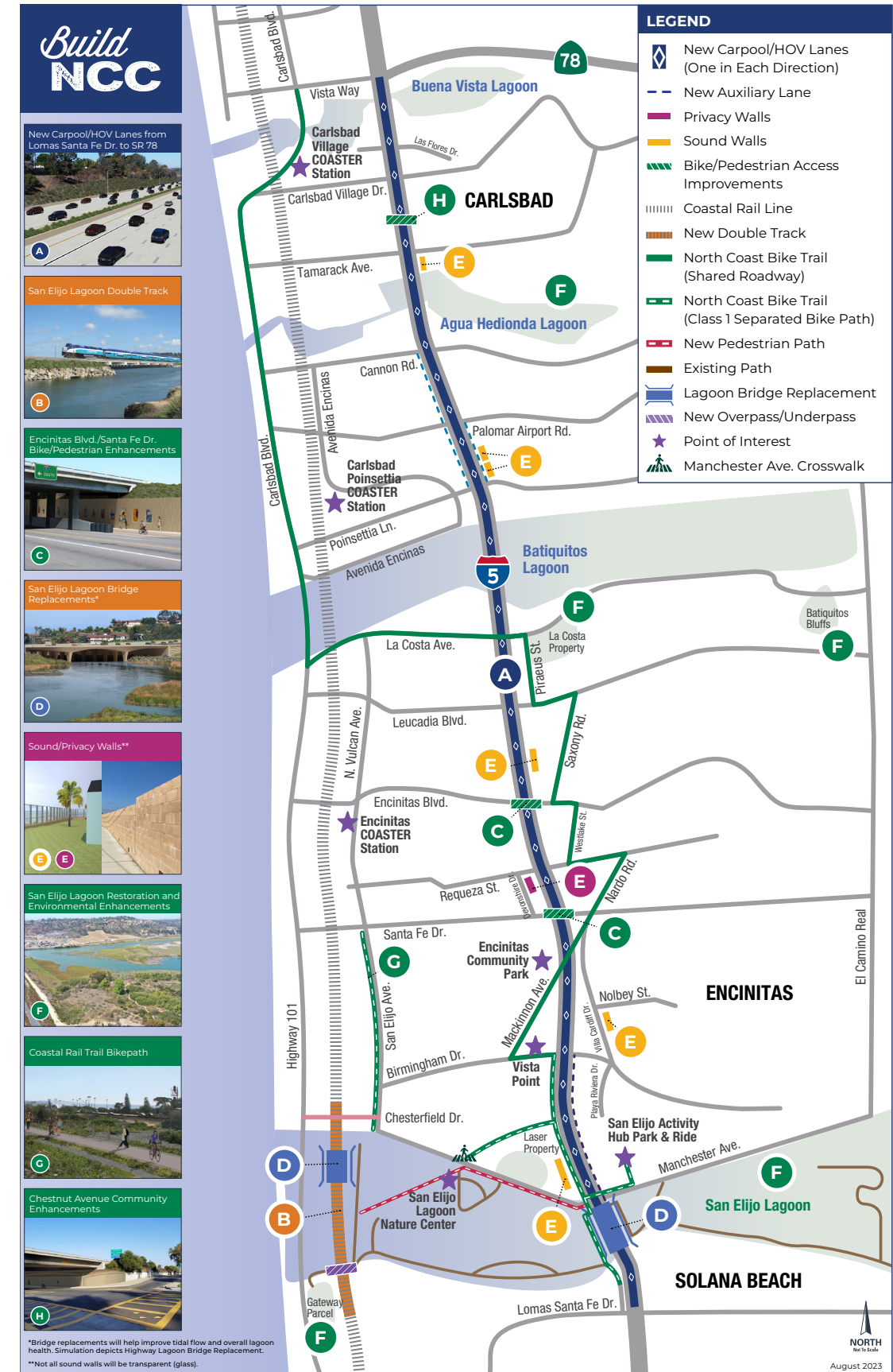
Preserving Community Character and Improving Coastal Access



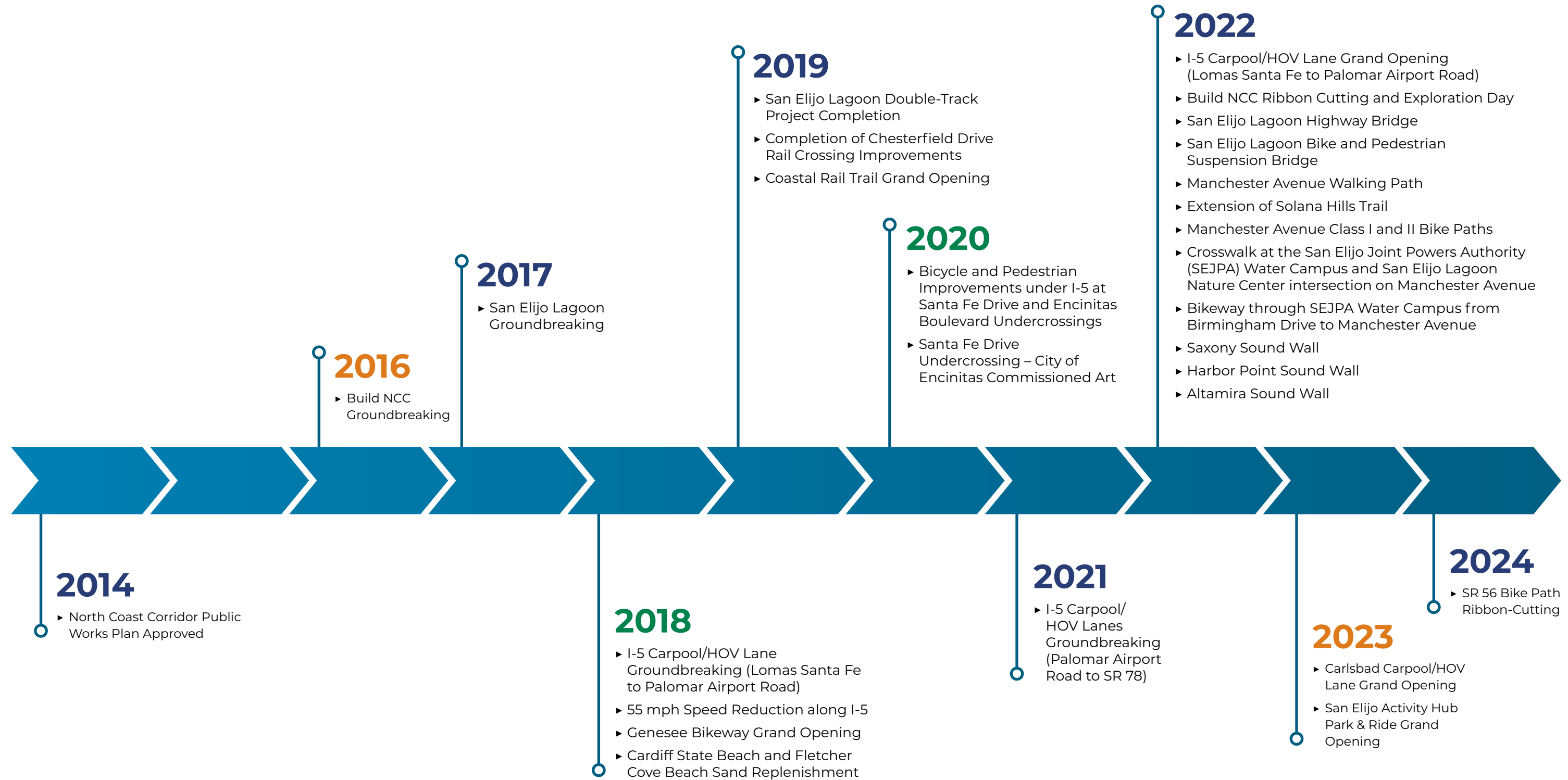
Santa Fe Drive in Encinitas

Separated bike and pedestrian paths were constructed at the I-5 interchanges at Santa Fe Drive and Encinitas Boulevard in Encinitas. These enhancements help improve east-west connectivity and safety for people walking and biking to nearby schools, activity centers, and coastal resources. Community artwork was incorporated in coordination with the city.

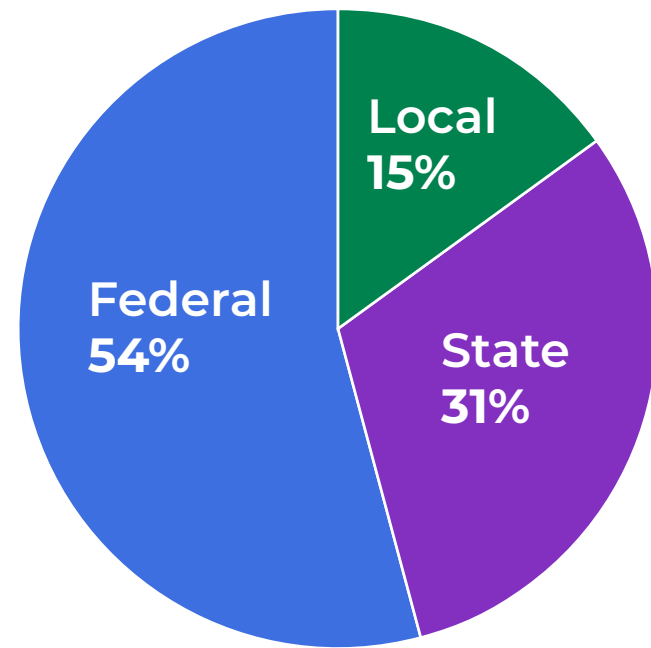
To help reduce freeway noise for nearby residents, Caltrans will construct several sound walls on private property. In areas with views, transparent sound walls are offered to residents.











Federal: \$163,966,295

State: \$342,354,387

Local: \$605,766,476

**Total: \$1.1 Billion**



More than **5 miles** of double tracked rail lines



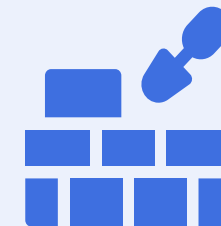
Over **13 miles** of Carpool/HOV lanes on I-5 in each direction



Nearly **7 miles** of bicycle and pedestrian trails



More than **600 acres** of restored and preserved coastal habitat



**4 new** sound walls



Over **440,000 cubic yards** of replenished beach sand

\*As of 9/24/2024

On August 13, 2014, the California Coastal Commission voted to approve the Public Works Plan/Transportation and Resource Enhancement Program (PWP/TREP). The PWP/TREP includes a package of highway, rail, transit, bike/pedestrian, environmental and coastal access improvements along San Diego's North Coast Corridor—a 27-mile stretch from La Jolla to Oceanside – over the next 40 years. The document serves as the master permit and implementation blueprint for the NCC Program.

2014



## North Coast Corridor

*A better environment for the future*



## BUILD NCC GROUNDBREAKING NOVEMBER 29, 2016

On November 29, 2016, after more than a decade of planning, the Caltrans and SANDAG broke ground on the North Coast Corridor Program. This package of projects is the result of an innovative collaboration between SANDAG, Caltrans, the California Coastal Commission, neighboring cities, and agency partners. The first package of projects, called Build NCC, worked to extend the carpool lanes on I-5 to help relieve traffic congestion, double track the coastal rail line to improve train efficiency, and restore a cherished lagoon.

# 2016





# SAN ELIJO LAGOON GROUNDBREAKING NOVEMBER 29, 2017

On November 29, 2017, Caltrans and SANDAG Build NCC construction crews broke ground on the \$80 million environmental mitigation project to restore the San Elijo Lagoon, one of San Diego County's largest coastal wetlands connecting the cities of Encinitas and Solana Beach. The San Elijo Lagoon Restoration project includes:

-  Dredging and widening lagoon channels for improved tidal flows
-  Replenishing Cardiff State Beach and Fletcher Cove in Solana Beach with 440,000 cubic yards of sand
-  Forming and shaping new wetlands habitats
-  Planting of native species to support coastal ecosystems
-  Constructing two pedestrian bridges within the lagoon to create new trail connections for enhanced coastal accessibility

# 2017





I-5 CARPOOL/HOV LANE GROUNDBREAKING  
(LOMAS SANTA FE TO PALOMAR AIRPORT ROAD)  
NOVEMBER 2, 2018

2018





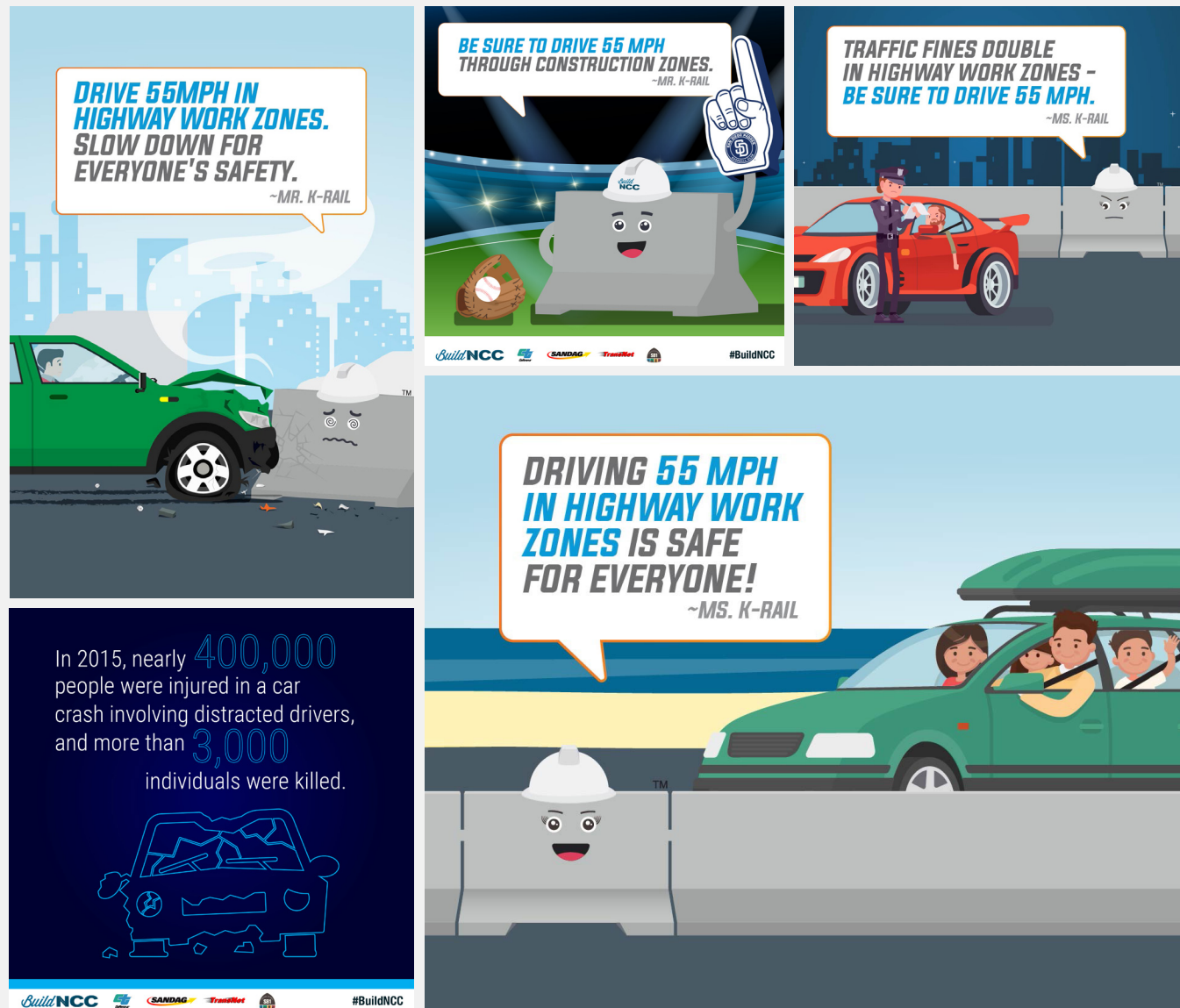
## 55 MPH SPEED REDUCTION ALONG I-5

Caltrans reduced the speed limit along I-5 from 65 miles per hour (mph) to 55 mph within the Build NCC project limits – between Manchester Avenue in the City of Encinitas and Palomar Airport Road in the City of Carlsbad. The speed limit reduction within the highway work zone is to ensure the safety of the traveling public, and construction and maintenance professionals along I-5.



## GENESEE BIKEWAY GRAND OPENING – APRIL 2018

A new 1.5-mile stretch of protected Class I bikeway, along the west side of I-5, connects the Sorrento Valley Transit Station to major employment hubs in the San Diego communities of La Jolla and University City. Additionally, this new section of bikeway was critical to closing a gap in the greater regional bike network, allowing bikers to now travel unimpeded between Mission Bay and State Route 56 (SR 56). This project was completed in 2018.

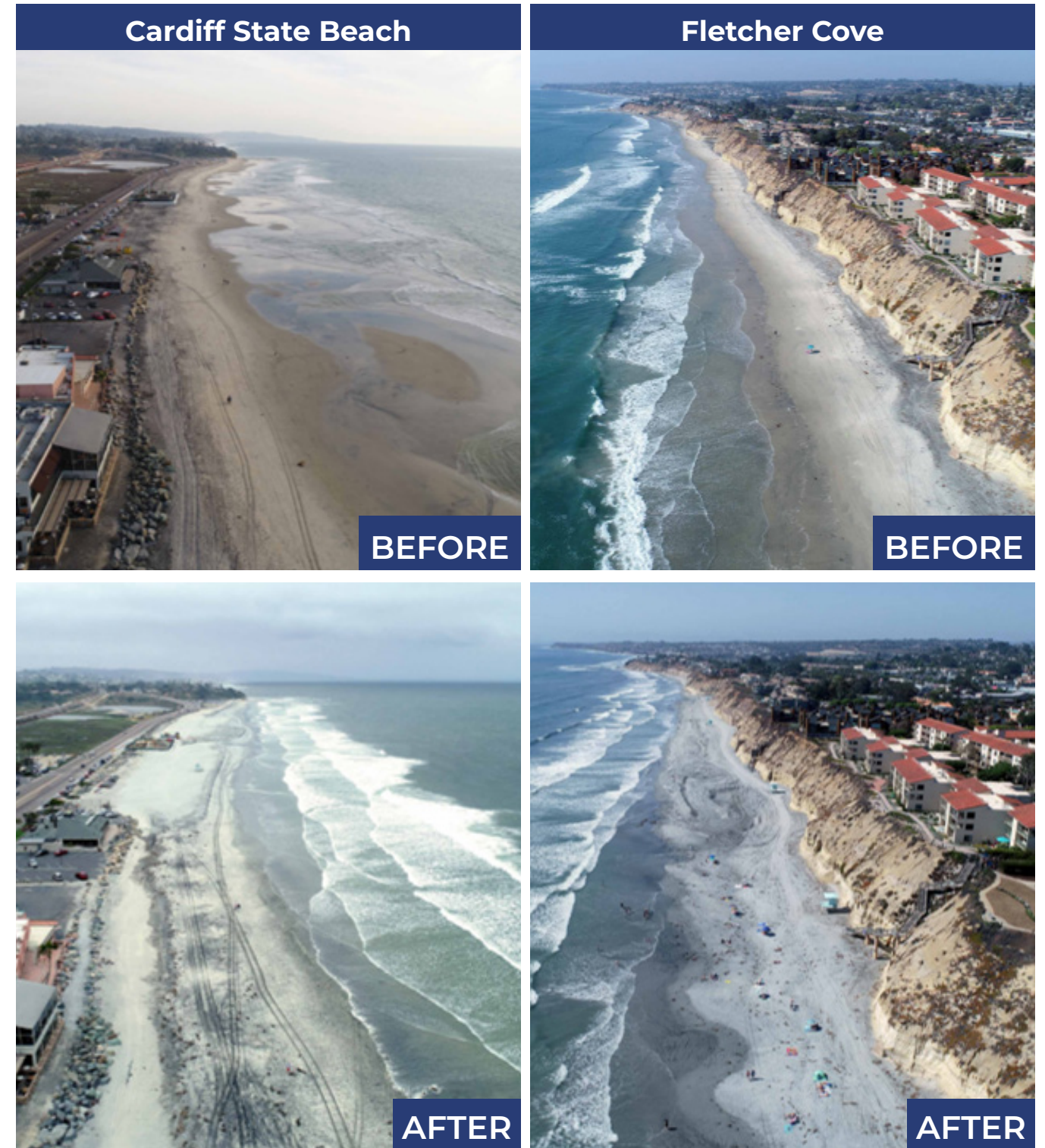
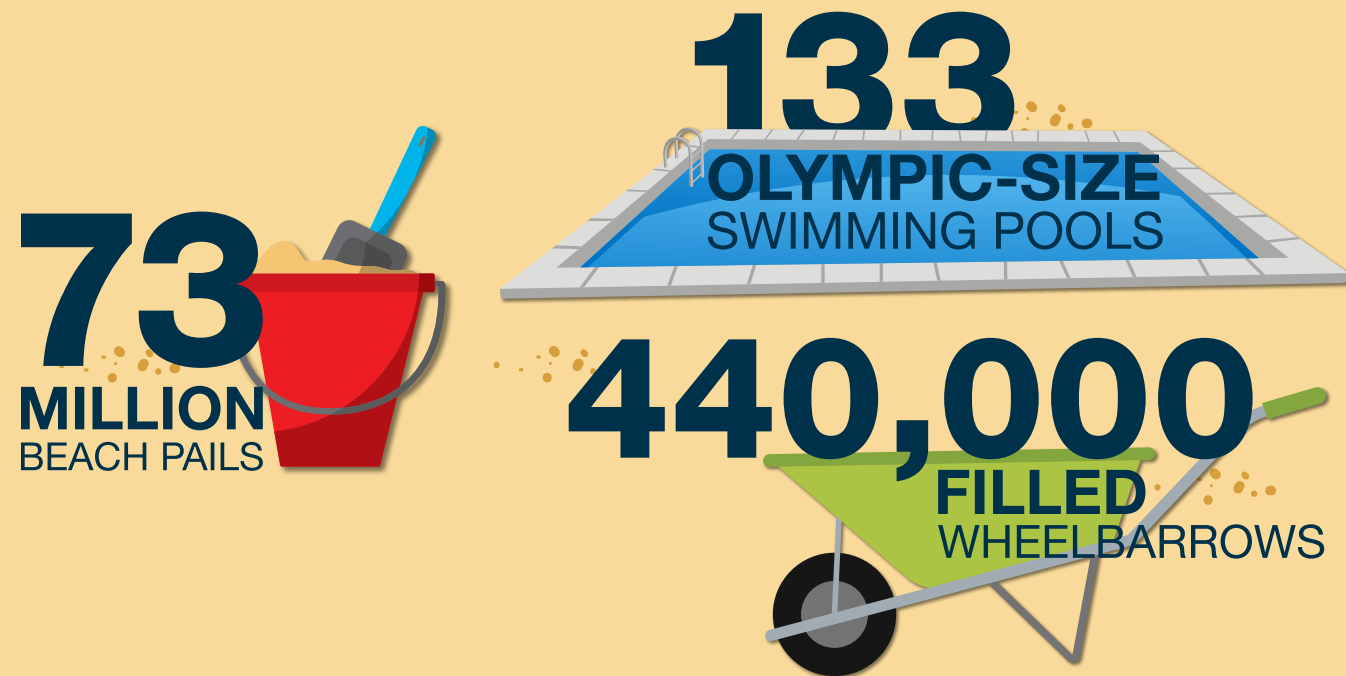




# CARDIFF STATE BEACH AND FLETCHER COVE BEACH SAND REPLENISHMENT – JULY 18, 2018

Over approximately four months, construction crews pumped nearly 440,000 cubic yards of sand onto the two north county beaches from the central basin of the San Elijo Lagoon, completing the process to replenish, preserve, and reinforce the shoreline with native, beach quality sand as part of the San Elijo Lagoon Restoration Project.

What does 440,000 cubic yards of sand look like?



# SAN ELIJO LAGOON DOUBLE-TRACK PROJECT COMPLETION JANUARY 2019

# 2019

SANDAG and Caltrans worked in collaboration with the North County Transit District (NCTD) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to design and construct the San Elijo Lagoon Double-Track Project, a rail improvement project that extends between the cities of Encinitas and Solana Beach.

The project added **1.5 miles of second main track** from Cardiff-by-the-Sea to the southern border of the San Elijo Lagoon. Additionally, the project replaced the more than 80-year-old wooden trestle rail bridge with a modern, reinforced concrete bridge.

The new double track creates **more than four miles** of continuous double track on the LOSSAN coastal rail corridor, eliminating the need for meeting or passing trains to take turns using the single track.

Other improvements included:



A new pedestrian undercrossing at the south end of the lagoon



Upgraded signaling at the Chesterfield Drive grade crossing



Reconfigured rail switch



A new retaining wall north of the lagoon to keep the rail tracks separated from the lagoon inlet



# SAN ELIJO LAGOON DOUBLE-TRACK



# CHESTERFIELD DRIVE RAIL CROSSING IMPROVEMENTS





# COASTAL RAIL TRAIL GRAND OPENING – MAY 9, 2019

The Encinitas segment of the Coastal Rail Trail provides **1.3 miles of new biking and walking paths** connecting to many community assets including the Downtown Encinitas COASTER station, Scripps Memorial Hospital Encinitas, the Santa Fe Drive rail undercrossing, Swamis Seaside Park, George Berkich Park, Cardiff Elementary School, Cardiff State Beach, San Elijo State Beach and Campground, Carpentier Parkway, Downtown Cardiff, and Glen Park.





# BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS UNDER I-5 AT SANTA FE DRIVE AND ENCINITAS BOULEVARD UNDERCROSSINGS JULY 2020

Caltrans and SANDAG completed construction on new bicycle and pedestrian paths under I-5 at Santa Fe Drive and Encinitas Boulevard in the City of Encinitas as part of Build NCC. New ADA-compliant sidewalks and dedicated bicycle lanes, separated from traffic by concrete barriers, now line both the north and south sides of each street where none existed previously.

# 2020





SANTA FE DRIVE UNDERCROSSING ART - JOINT EFFORT WITH THE CITY OF ENCINITAS



ENCINITAS BOULEVARD UNDERCROSSING ART - JOINT EFFORT WITH THE CITY OF ENCINITAS





# SAN ELIJO LAGOON GRAND OPENING – AUGUST 2020





# I-5 CARPOOL/HOV LANES GROUNDBREAKING (PALOMAR AIRPORT ROAD TO SR 78) OCTOBER 2021

In October 2021, elected officials and local leaders joined Caltrans and SANDAG to commemorate the groundbreaking of Segment 4 of Build NCC, which included the construction of new Carpool/HOV lanes along I-5 between Palomar Airport Road in Carlsbad and SR 78 in Oceanside.



# 2021





# I-5 CARPOOL/HOV LANE GRAND OPENING (LOMAS SANTA FE TO PALOMAR AIRPORT ROAD) FEBRUARY 15, 2022

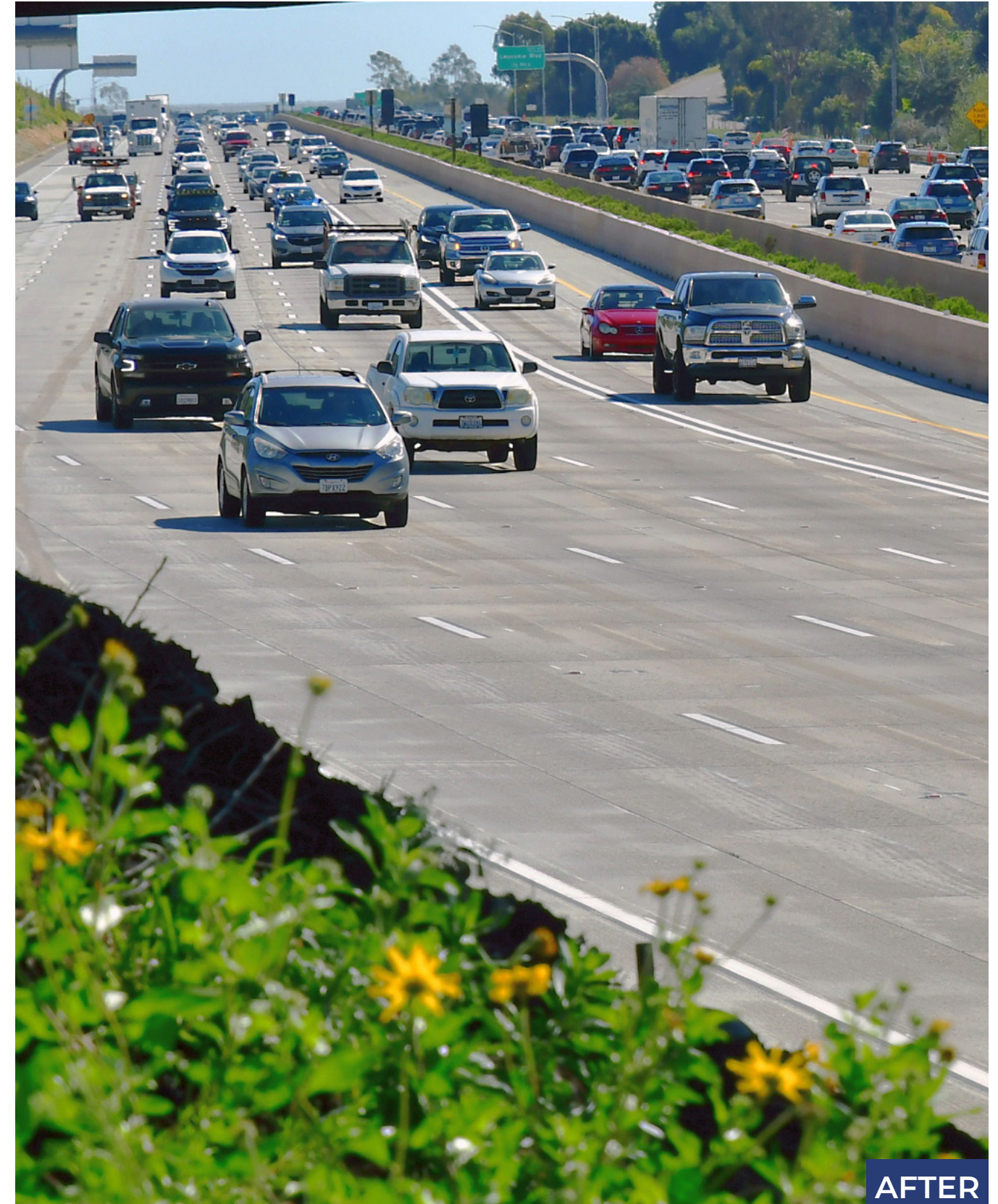
On February 15, 2022, Caltrans and SANDAG celebrated the completion of 9 miles of Carpool/HOV lanes along I-5 between Lomas Santa Fe in Solana Beach and Palomar Airport Road in Carlsbad.

# 2022

















# I-5 CARPOOL/HOV LANES (LOMAS SANTA FE TO PALOMAR AIRPORT ROAD)

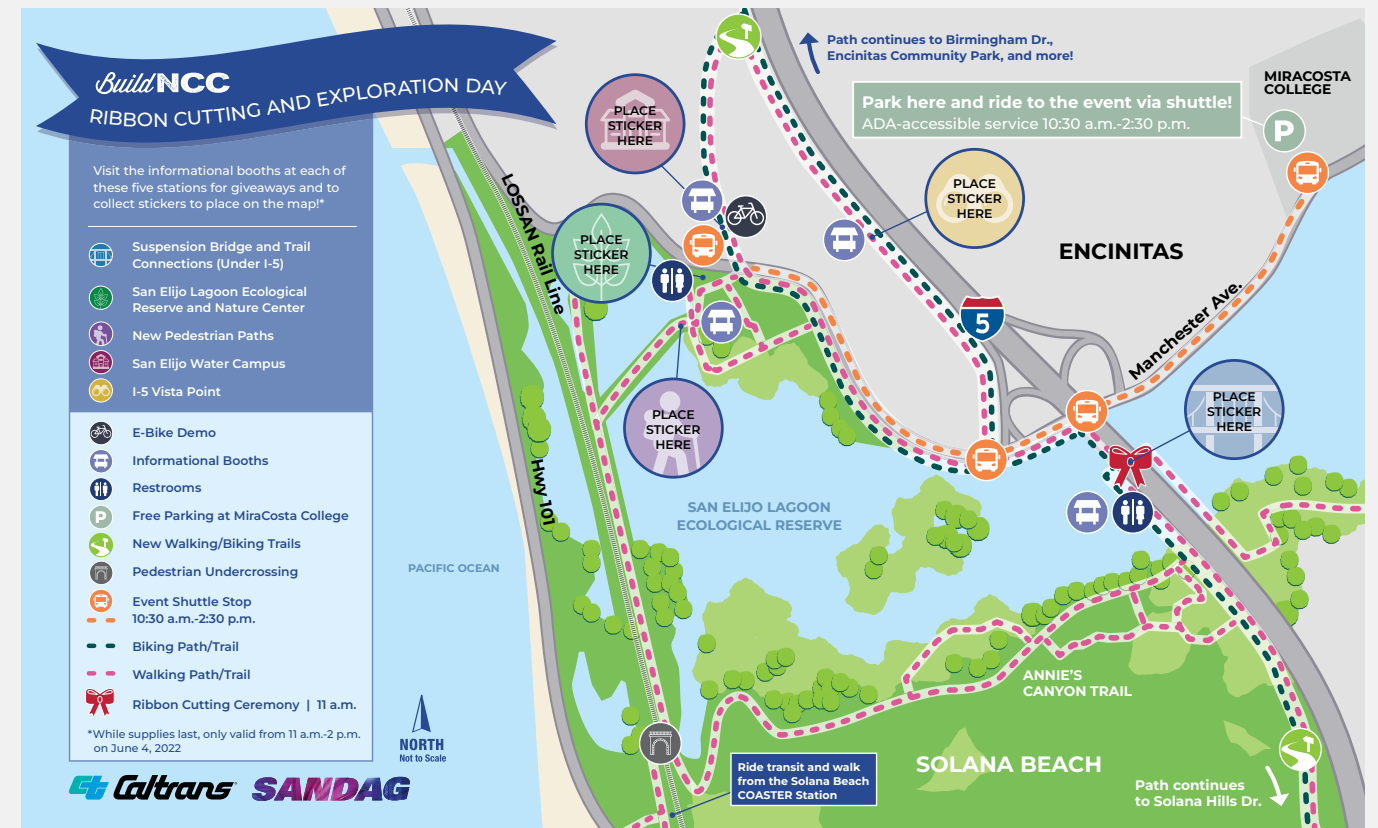




# BUILD NCC RIBBON CUTTING AND EXPLORATION DAY – JUNE 4, 2022

On June 4, 2022, Caltrans and SANDAG hosted a community celebration to commemorate the completion of several highway, rail, bike/pedestrian, and environmental improvement projects in the cities of Solana Beach, Encinitas, and Carlsbad made possible as part of Build NCC.

-  I-5 Carpool/High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes
-  San Elijo Lagoon Highway Bridge
-  San Elijo Lagoon Bike and Pedestrian Suspension Bridge
-  San Elijo Lagoon Restoration
-  Manchester Avenue Walking Path
-  Extension of Solana Hills Trail
-  Manchester Avenue Class I Bike Path
-  Manchester Avenue Class II Bike Path
-  Crosswalk at the San Elijo Joint Powers Authority (SEJPA) Water Campus and San Elijo Lagoon Nature Center intersection on Manchester Avenue
-  Bikeway through the SEJPA Water Campus from Birmingham Drive to Manchester Avenue
-  Cardiff State Beach Nourishment
-  Saxony (Encinitas), Harbor Point (Carlsbad), and Altamira (Carlsbad) Sound Walls





# SAN ELIJO LAGOON HIGHWAY BRIDGE



# SAN ELIJO LAGOON BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN SUSPENSION BRIDGE UNDER I-5





# MANCHESTER AVENUE WALKING PATH



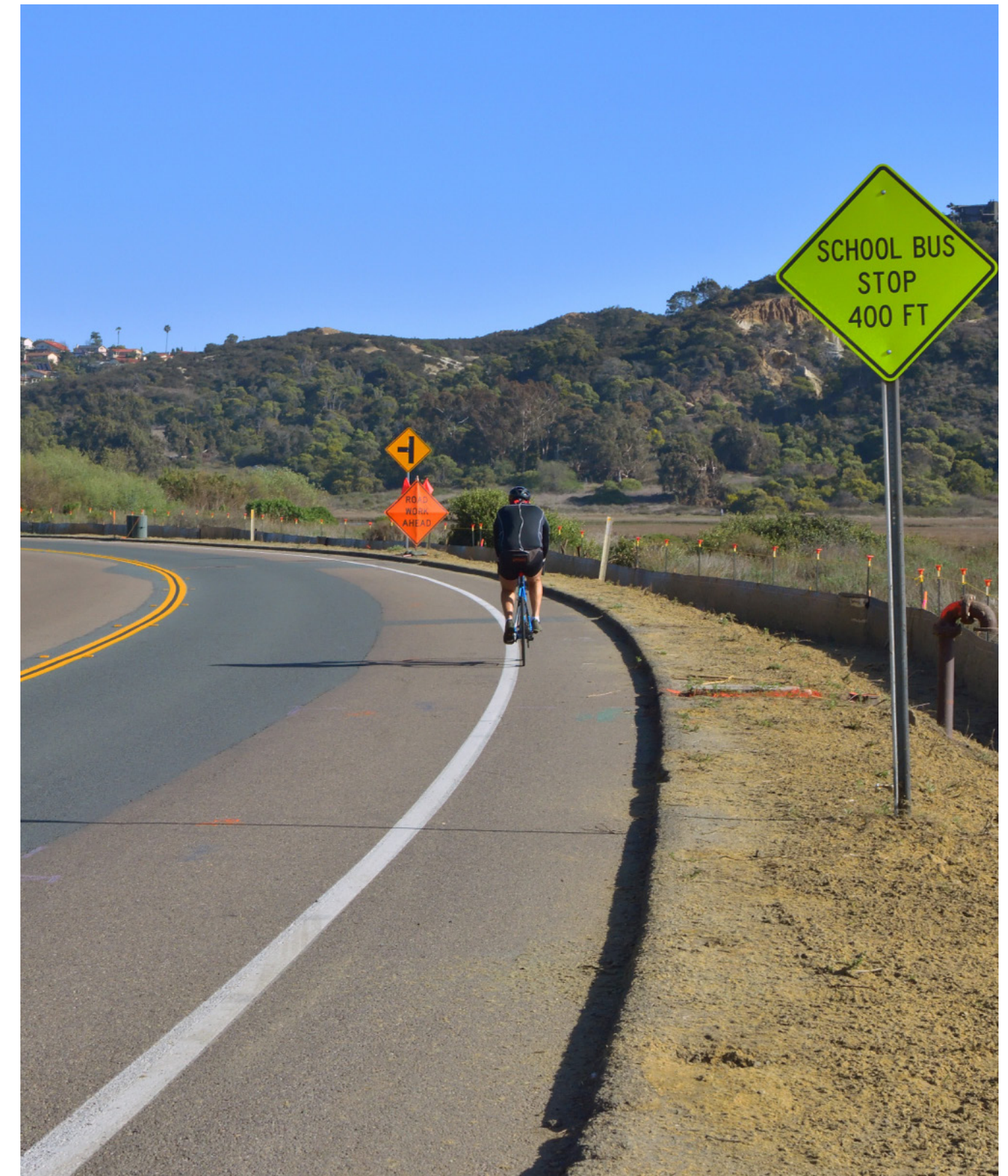
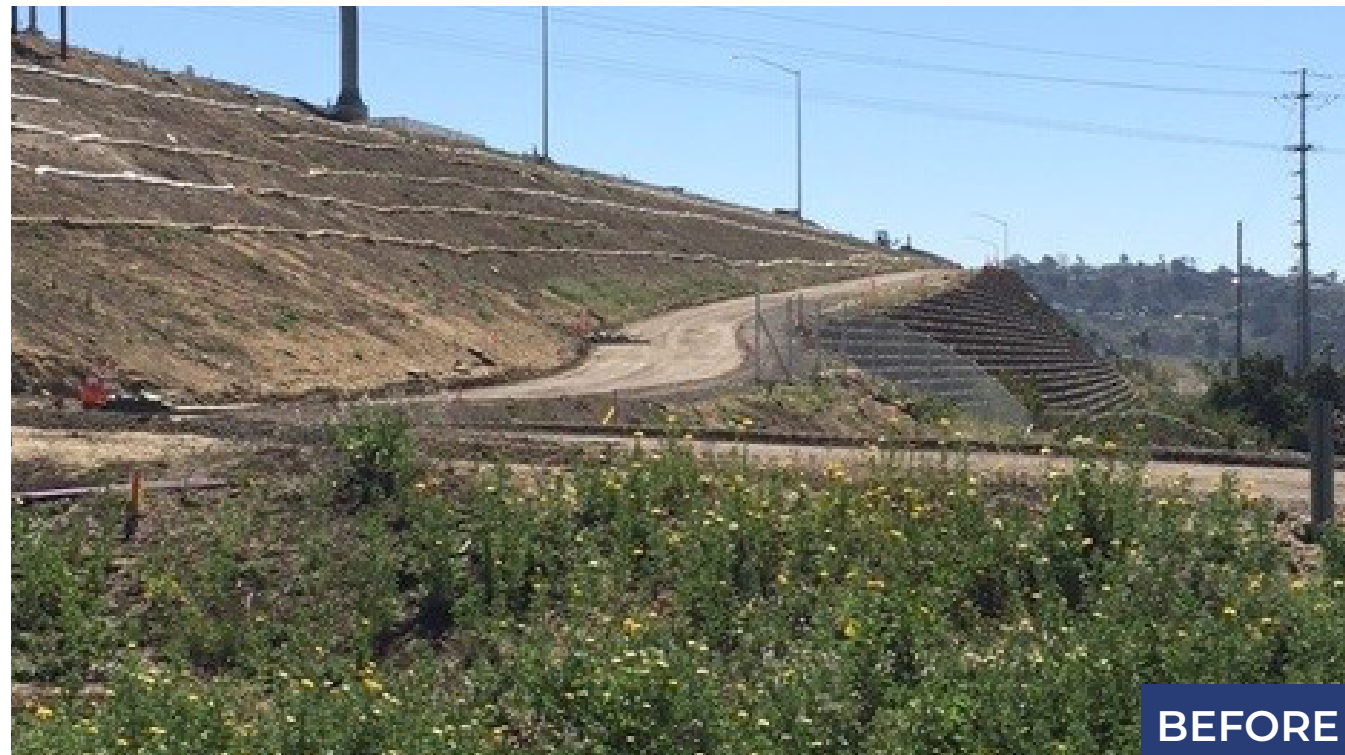
# EXTENSION OF SOLANA HILLS TRAIL





# MANCHESTER AVENUE CLASS I BIKE PATH

# MANCHESTER AVENUE CLASS II BIKE PATH





# CROSSWALK AT THE SAN ELIJO JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY (SEJPA) WATER CAMPUS AND SAN ELIJO LAGOON NATURE CENTER INTERSECTION ON MANCHESTER AVENUE



# BIKEWAY THROUGH SEJPA WATER CAMPUS FROM BIRMINGHAM DRIVE TO MANCHESTER AVENUE





# CARDIFF STATE BEACH NOURISHMENT



# SAXONY SOUND WALL – ENCINITAS





# HARBOR POINT SOUND WALL – CARLSBAD



# ALTAMIRA SOUND WALL – CARLSBAD





# CARLSBAD CARPOOL/HOV LANE GRAND OPENING JUNE 13, 2023

On June 13, 2023, Caltrans and SANDAG commemorated the completion of four new miles of Carpool/HOV lanes along I-5, expanding one of the most heavily traveled corridors in the San Diego region to 13 miles of available Carpool/HOV lanes. The addition of the Carpool/HOV lanes provides the region with new travel options, increased connectivity, and a projected 50% reduction in commute times.

# 2023





# SAN ELIJO ACTIVITY HUB PARK & RIDE GRAND OPENING – AUGUST 12, 2023





# SR 56 BIKE PATH RIBBON-CUTTING MAY 23, 2024

On May 23, 2024, elected officials and local leaders commemorated the completion of 8 miles of new biking and walking paths connecting Encinitas, Old Sorrento Valley Road, the Coastal Rail Trail, and I-5 North Coastal Trail.



# 2024



# WHAT'S UPCOMING





# CHESTNUT AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS – ESTIMATED COMPLETION SUMMER 2025

Improvements at Chestnut Avenue include:



Widening of the underpass



A new bike lane



Enhanced sidewalk



Community art installations in partnership with the City of Carlsbad



# PALOMAR AIRPORT ROAD IMPROVEMENTS – ESTIMATED COMPLETION SUMMER 2025

Improvements at Palomar Airport Road include:



Construction of a new bike lane on the north and south sides of the street



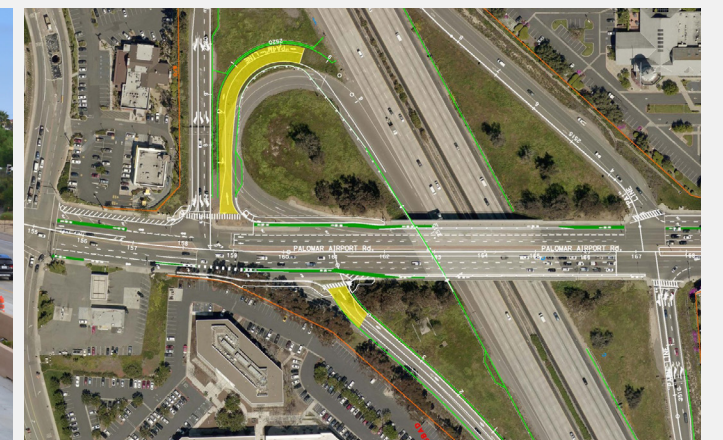
Integrated technology to protect cyclists



Widened sidewalks for enhanced pedestrian safety



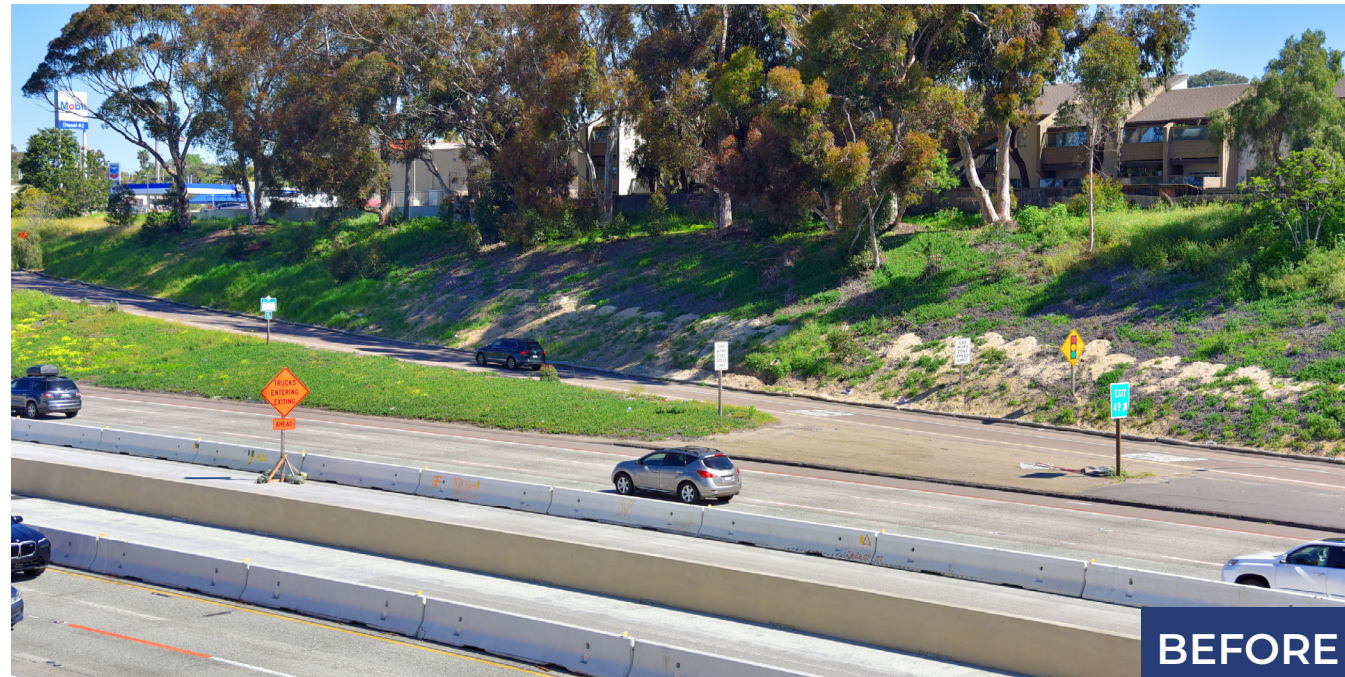
Re-aligned southbound I-5 on- and off-ramps to accommodate the new bike lanes





## TAMARACK AVENUE SOUND WALL

The Tamarack Avenue sound wall will provide a 5-decibel noise reduction to residents on the eastern side of the sound wall.



## BATIQUITOS LAGOON DOUBLE-TRACK – ESTIMATED COMPLETION SPRING 2028

The Batiquitos Lagoon Double Track Project will add 0.6 miles of new double track from Avenida Encinas in Carlsbad to La Costa Avenue in Encinitas. The addition of the second track will allow trains traveling in opposite directions to pass without slowing down or stopping. In doing so, the project will help provide faster, more predictable travel times for both passenger trains and freight trains. The project will also replace the existing 80-year-old wooden trestle bridge over the Batiquitos Lagoon with a modern, concrete double track bridge. The new bridge will widen the lagoon channels underneath the bridge, helping to improve tidal flow for local wildlife.





# SR 78 TO HARBOR DRIVE MANAGED LANES – IN DESIGN

In 2023, construction was completed on 13 miles of Carpool/HOV Lanes on Interstate 5 (I-5) from Lomas Santa Fe Drive in the City of Solana Beach to State Route 78 (SR 78) in the City of Oceanside. Due to the phased approach of the NCC Program, the Public Works Plan identifies the expansion of the current Carpool/HOV Lanes to Harbor Drive. This would include the construction of one Carpool/HOV Lane in each direction on I-5 from the current end of the HOV Lanes at SR 78 to Harbor Drive.

Design began in July 2024.



## CONTACT US

### For more information:

[SANDAG.org/NCC](https://sandag.org/NCC)

### Construction Hotline:

(844) NCC-0050

### Text Alerts:

Text "BuildNCC" to (760) 454-0070

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