

## CENTRAL MOBILITY HUB

### A Regional Transit Connection to the Airport

#### THE PROJECT

The San Diego region is in need of a fast and convenient transit connection to San Diego International Airport. The Central Mobility Hub project would do just that.

A fundamental objective of the 2021 Regional Plan, the Central Mobility Hub project proposes two direct transit connections to the airport, one from a new transit center located in San Diego's Middletown neighborhood and the other from the existing Santa Fe Depot.

The **Port Transit Center at Middletown** would be constructed at the current site of the Port of San Diego headquarters, located at the intersection of Pacific Highway and Sassafras Street, and will incorporate the Middletown Trolley Station. A transit connection between the airport and Port Transit Center at Middletown would make travel to the airport more convenient for travelers coming from throughout the San Diego region including I-5 commuters, Trolley riders, and drivers using the adjacent airport car rental facility. This site may also allow for a new commuter rail stop serving the COASTER and Amtrak Pacific Surfliner.

The **Santa Fe Depot** is located on Pacific Highway, near the North Embarcadero. The transit connection between the airport and Santa Fe Depot would provide a critical link to San Diego's urban core and make travel to the airport more convenient for anyone who lives in, works in, or visits Downtown San Diego.

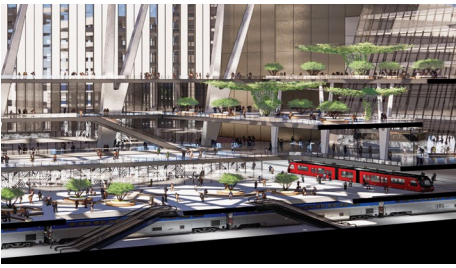


Proposed Central Mobility Hub and airport transit connections

These connections would link to the future **Central Mobility Hub**, which is anticipated to be built at a location yet to be determined in Downtown San Diego. The Central Mobility Hub would provide the San Diego region with a centrally located transit center that serves everyone traveling to or from the airport – whether they use the bus, Trolley, COASTER, or Amtrak Pacific Surfliner. By bringing together all current and future modes of regional public transportation, the Central Mobility Hub would help increase transit ridership, reduce traffic, and advance climate action goals in addition to boosting economic development in the region by supporting new opportunities for housing and revitalized public space.

#### THE NEED

For decades, San Diego has explored ways to better connect the region to San Diego International Airport. Roads surrounding the airport are congested and transit access is limited. Additionally, air traffic at the airport is projected to increase with the development of a new and expanded Terminal 1, and the number of visitors to the area is expected to increase with the Port of San Diego's plans for the waterfront. A fast and convenient transit connection to the airport is needed now more than ever.



Conceptual rendering of the Central Mobility Hub



Conceptual rendering of the Central Mobility Hub



Conceptual rendering of connected, multimodal transportation options

## PROJECT STATUS

In December 2018, the SANDAG Board of Directors formed the Airport Connectivity Subcommittee to explore a regional solution for connecting transit to the airport. In September 2019, the committee issued a report with potential solutions including a Central Mobility Hub.

Following the Subcommittee’s report, SANDAG evaluated possible locations for the Central Mobility Hub, which included a site at the Navy’s Old Town Campus and a site near the Port of San Diego’s headquarters. In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, SANDAG shared refined alternatives with the public in a Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report issued in April 2021.

In December 2021, the SANDAG Board of Directors adopted the 2021 Regional Plan, which includes the creation of Mobility Hubs around the region and calls for a fast transit connection to the airport. The Central Mobility Hub would help achieve these long-term priorities for the region.

Also in December 2021, following initial environmental analysis and after receiving significant public input about potential alternatives, SANDAG announced that Downtown San Diego and the Port of San Diego headquarters in Middletown were being considered as locations for the Central Mobility Hub.

In April 2022, SANDAG and the Navy agreed to cease exploration of the Central Mobility Hub at the Navy’s Old Town Campus. SANDAG revised the project to focus on a location in Downtown San Diego with transit connections to San Diego International Airport. SANDAG and the Navy continue to work together to plan for a future transit connection at the Navy site.

To expedite delivery of the project, SANDAG anticipates moving forward with the environmental review process for the airport transit connection phase of the project in 2022. The environmental review for the Central Mobility Hub in Downtown San Diego would follow, after additional study.

## FUNDING

In September 2019, the SANDAG Board of Directors allocated \$40 million to support preliminary environmental analysis, planning, and engineering for a regional transit solution for the airport. SANDAG is actively seeking additional federal, state, and local funding to progress the project.

## MORE INFORMATION

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