

SAN ELIJO LAGOON DOUBLE TRACK AND BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

FACT SHEET

Project Cost:

\$76.8 million

Status:

Completed May 2019



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration



North Coast Corridor
A better environment for the future



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The Project

SANDAG worked with the North County Transit District (NCTD) to add 1.5 miles of second mainline rail track and replace an aging timber rail bridge on the Los Angeles–San Diego–San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) coastal rail corridor between the cities of Encinitas and Solana Beach. The new track extends between Cardiff-by-the-Sea and the southern border of the San Elijo Lagoon, resulting in 4.2 miles of continuous double track. The previously existing single-track bridge, built in the early 1940s was replaced with a modern, double-track concrete bridge. Other elements of the project included signal and grade crossing improvements at Chesterfield Drive in Cardiff, two new rail crossovers, the construction of a retaining wall north of the lagoon to keep the rail tracks separated from the lagoon inlet, and track and signal improvements south of the Solana Beach train station. The project was completed along with the Coastal Rail Trail in Encinitas.

The Need

The project was necessary to meet future increases in passenger and freight rail services, which are estimated to double by the year 2030. Increased rail capacity provides a viable alternate transportation choice for people and goods, potentially reducing the number of vehicles that travel on Interstate 5 (I-5), and ultimately reducing greenhouse gas emissions. SANDAG coordinated the construction of the new rail bridge with the restoration of the San Elijo Lagoon and bridge improvements on I-5. Aligning the construction and restoration efforts minimized disturbance in the lagoon, consistent with recent state legislation. The San Diego rail corridor was built more than



The more than 70-year-old existing wooden trestle bridge was replaced with a modern, double-track bridge. Its wider spans help improve tidal flow in the lagoon.

125 years ago. It is used daily by as many as 70 trains including NCTD COASTER and Amtrak Pacific Surfliner passenger trains as well as BNSF Railway freight trains.

This project was a critical part of the 351-mile LOSSAN rail corridor and serves as a vital link for passenger and freight movement in the San Diego region. The LOSSAN corridor is the second busiest intercity passenger rail line in the United States and the only viable freight rail link between San Diego and the rest of the nation.

Corridor Strategy

Two-thirds of the county's LOSSAN rail

(Continued on reverse)



The project added 1.5 miles of second main track and replaced an aging timber rail bridge on the LOSSAN coastal rail corridor between the cities of Encinitas and Solana Beach.

pedestrian crossings, modernization and operational enhancements. The rail enhancements are part of a strategy to improve all modes of transportation within the congested I-5 North Coast Corridor(NCC). The NCC Program is a balanced set of transportation, environmental, and coastal access projects to improve the quality of life for residents, create a stronger local and regional economy, and enhance the coastal environment.

Project Status

Construction was completed in May 2019.

Project Funding

The project was funded through a combination of federal, state, and local sources, including *TransNet*, the regional half-cent sales tax for transportation administrated by SANDAG.

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corridor has been double tracked to date. Currently, SANDAG has fifteen LOSSAN rail transportation projects in various stages of planning, design, and construction. According to SANDAG's 2018 Infrastructure Development Plan for the LOSSAN Rail Corridor in San Diego County, the Agency plans to double track 94 percent of the LOSSAN rail corridor by 2035 if project funding can be secured. Double tracking allows trains traveling in opposite directions to pass without slowing down or stopping. Other infrastructure improvements include bridge and track replacements, new platforms,