

SANTA MARGARITA RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AND SECOND TRACK PROJECT

FACT SHEET

Status:

Under construction

Cost:

\$40.6 million

Completion:

Mid-2013

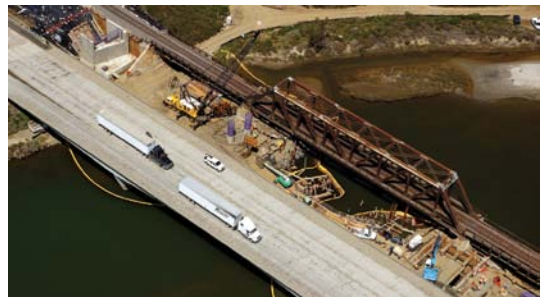


The Project

The Santa Margarita Bridge is located north of the City of Oceanside, within the southwestern-most boundaries of U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. The bridge sits parallel to Interstate 5 (I-5) between the northbound and southbound lanes of the freeway, within the North County Transit District (NCTD) right of way.

The existing steel truss single-track railroad bridge is being replaced with a modern, reinforced concrete double-track bridge. The new 755-foot-long bridge will have a 500-foot main bridge spanning the Santa Margarita River and a 255-foot approach trestle spanning the tidal marsh to the south. Torrential floods destroyed the bridge at least twice in the 20th century. The new structure has been designed to withstand 100-year flood levels in the Santa Margarita River.

In addition, nearly one mile of second main track will be added to the bridge approach.



When completed, the new bridge and new track work will help to speed passenger and freight trains by creating a continuous 4.5-mile section of double track with maximum passenger train speeds between 75 and 90 mph.

The project also includes the demolition of the existing, single-track railroad bridge and the realignment of the existing 1.7-mile Fallbrook Junction Passing Track located south of the river. The track will be realigned in this location and upgraded with new rail and ties to allow for higher train speeds.

(Continued on reverse)



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The Need

This project is a critical part of the 351-mile Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) rail corridor and serves as a vital link for passenger and freight movements in San Diego County. The LOSSAN corridor is the second busiest intercity passenger rail line in the United States. Additionally, the corridor is the only viable freight rail link between San Diego and the rest of the nation.

The San Diego rail corridor was built more than 100 years ago. It is used daily by as many as 70 trains including the NCTD COASTER commuter train, Amtrak Pacific Surfliner, Southern California Regional Rail Authority's Metrolink, and BNSF Railway freight trains.

~~The Santa Margarita Bridge dates back to 1916 and is in need of repair. In the past, repairs were made to the timber portion but it was determined that more substantial and costly repairs to the entire structure would be necessary to ensure the single-track span's long-term viability.~~

The single-track bridge is located within a 0.8-mile segment between existing double-track segments to the north and south. Replacement of the bridge with a double-track reinforced concrete bridge fits in with the major double-track upgrading taking place along the entire 60 miles of the LOSSAN corridor in San Diego County.

This project, combined with others in the corridor, will reduce travel times for passengers,

improve system reliability, facilitate goods movement, help reduce passenger and truck volumes on I-5, and provide for increased passenger and freight rail services in the future.

Corridor Strategy

During the next 20 years, SANDAG has approximately \$800 million in planned improvements for the San Diego County section of the LOSSAN corridor, including a large-scale effort to double track the corridor from Orange County to downtown San Diego. To date, half of the county's LOSSAN rail corridor is double tracked, with an additional 11 miles in design or under construction. Eventually, more than 97 percent of the corridor will be double-tracked. Other infrastructure improvements include bridge and track replacements, new platforms, pedestrian undercrossings, and other safety 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.

Project Costs

SANDAG has secured \$40.6 million for the project, primarily from state Proposition 1B and Traffic Congestion Relief Program funds.

Project Status

Construction of the bridge began in 2012. It is anticipated to be completed by mid-2013.

For More Information

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