

MID-COAST CORRIDOR TRANSIT PROJECT



Welcome to the Spring 2012 edition of the Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project eNewsletter. This newsletter will provide you with up-to-date information about this important expansion of San Diego's regional transit system.

Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project Update

Activities and planning for the Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project continue to move forward:

- **Preliminary Engineering (PE) Approval:** In September 2011, the Mid-Coast project was accepted into Preliminary Engineering with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) New Starts Program. The Mid-Coast project is now officially in the pipeline for New Starts funding and will be included in FTA's 2013 Annual Report of Funding Recommendations to Congress. During PE, the project team will focus its efforts on project-specific details such as station design, layout and function, parking needs at the stations, and expanded outreach with property owners near the preferred alignment.
- **Refinements to Project Scope, Budget, and Schedule:** Since the SANDAG Board's adoption of the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the project, several refinements have been made to the project scope, budget, and schedule:
 - **Scope:** Several key refinements have been made to the LPA to improve operations, efficiency, and safety. After years of collaboration with UCSD representatives, an elevated alignment is now proposed through the west campus of UCSD, with an elevated station in Pepper Canyon (UCSD West station). Additionally, the alignment connecting UCSD West and East campuses will be an elevated structure crossing over I-5 north of Voigt Drive and connecting to the UCSD east campus. The UCSD East station will be an aerial station in the vicinity of Scripps and Thornton Hospitals. All of these refinements to the LPA will be analyzed in the Draft SEIS/SEIR.
 - **Budget:** The current project budget is \$1.7 billion, exclusive of financing costs. The project budget will be updated for inclusion in the Draft and Final SEIS/SEIR and updated again during Preliminary Engineering prior to entering Final Design in the FTA New Starts process.
 - **Schedule:** The Draft SEIS/SEIR is currently anticipated to be released for public review and comment in late 2012. It is estimated that the Final SEIS/SEIR will be adopted in 2013, with construction beginning in 2015 and revenue service beginning in 2018.



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What is the Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project?

The Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project will increase trolley service from the Santa Fe Depot to Old Town Transit Center and extend the line north to the University City community, serving major destinations including the Westfield UTC shopping mall, UCSD, and downtown San Diego. This project is funded in part by the San Diego region's TransNet half-cent sales tax for transportation.

FTA Hosts Session on News Starts Funding Criteria

On February 16, 2012, a delegation from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) held an outreach session in San Diego to provide information on proposed changes to the New Starts program funding criteria. Because half of the funding for the Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project will come from the New Starts program, local elected officials, business leaders, and community members attended the session to express their support for the proposed changes and for the implementation of the Mid-Coast project. This strong attendance from the project stakeholders conveyed to the FTA representatives the importance of the project to the San Diego region.

For more information on the session, [click here](#).

SuperLoop Status Update

Improvements are underway on the *SuperLoop*, a circulator bus route in the North University City area in the City of San Diego. Construction began last summer on amenities, including bus stations at 17 locations and improvements to roadways and traffic signals throughout the nine-mile route. The new bus stations will feature inviting shelters, electronic signs indicating when the next *SuperLoop* vehicle will arrive, leaning rails, comfortable seating, and low-energy lighting. This phase of the project is expected to be complete in late 2012.

For more information, please visit the *SuperLoop* page on the SANDAG Web site at www.sandag.org/superloop.

