INTERSTATE 8 CORRIDOR STUDY PROJECT OVERVIEW

File Number 3330600

Introduction

SANDAG, in collaboration with Caltrans, the City of San Diego, Metropolitan Transit System (MTS), and other key stakeholders, is developing a multimodal corridor study for the Interstate 8 (I-8) corridor within the City of San Diego. The study commenced in fall 2013 and is expected to be completed in winter 2015.

The I-8 Corridor Study explores issues related to connectivity, right-of-way constraints, and operations including active transportation and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) projects and strategies, transit services, the I-8 freeway and interchanges, and selected local arterials and intersections. Staff will present an overview of the multimodal approach and progress on the study to date.

Discussion

Study Background

Through the competitive Caltrans Transportation Planning Grant Program process, SANDAG was awarded a Caltrans Partnership Planning Grant in the fall of 2012 to develop a planning-level I-8 Corridor Study. SANDAG partnered with local agencies to develop the study scope of work. A project study team comprised of technical staff from SANDAG, Caltrans, the City of San Diego, and MTS meets regularly to provide input on the study. Additionally, a consultant team is providing technical analysis and support.

I-8 serves as one of the primary east/west travel corridors within the City of San Diego and serves other parts of the region to the east. The study area generates a high volume of trips due to the number of connecting freeways, as well as the types of land uses, including regional shopping centers, hotels/tourism/recreation, higher education institutions, and medical centers. Additionally, there are significant residential communities within close proximity to the corridor with new development activity and planned development for the future. Attachment 1 illustrates the study area.

Study Purpose and Need

This corridor study provides an opportunity to explore active transportation and TDM connections to land uses, transit, and roadways, as well as roadway operational improvements that would
provide greater transit operating efficiencies and access. By considering these types of options concurrently, the study will follow a multimodal framework.

With a majority of the corridor study area situated near Mission Valley, there are topographical challenges for roadway expansion. The 2050 Regional Transportation Plan and its Sustainable Communities Strategy (2050 RTP/SCS) include the addition of operational improvements between Interstate 15 (I-15) and State Route 125 (SR 125) by 2040 and between I-5 and I-15 by 2050. The City of San Diego has future planned active transportation and roadway improvements within the study area as well. Additionally, the Green Line Trolley frequencies are planned to increase to 15 minutes by 2020 and 7.5 minutes by 2040.

Since the 2050 RTP/SCS was adopted in 2011, the region has continued with planning and implementation efforts related to active transportation, TDM, and transit projects and strategies. This study provides an opportunity to explore potential improvements or enhancements to active transportation and TDM projects and strategies, transit services, and roadways through two multimodal alternatives.

**Multimodal Analysis Approach**

The study will describe existing conditions, identify future deficiencies, develop two multimodal alternatives, perform technical analysis, and propose an implementation strategy. Study findings and recommendations will be documented in a report. Below are some of the preliminary multimodal considerations.

For active transportation and TDM, the project team is identifying key focus areas throughout the study corridor. There are potential synergies with active transportation, TDM, and transit services, such as safe routes to transit and better connectivity. The team is considering major transit centers and other adjacent areas of focus.

For transit services, the project team has worked to identify Trolley and bus service in the corridor as they relate to major east/west transit centers/locations. The team is identifying issues such as first mile/last mile connections, transit center access and circulation, and congested roads that lead to transit service delays and other operational issues.

The project team has worked to develop a multimodal framework for the assessment of the I-8 facilities, and local arterials and intersections within the study area. The team is identifying freeway congestion issues, arterial capacity deficiencies, intersection related congestion, and poor intersection operations. These assessments are meant to be considered in unison with active transportation, TDM, transit connection, access, circulation, and service operational issues.

**Public Outreach**

The I-8 Corridor Study will organize two public workshops to engage City of San Diego Community Planning Groups (CPGs), other key stakeholders, and the general public. The workshops are anticipated to be held in the spring and fall of 2014 to solicit input and feedback on the development of the multimodal alternatives and the results of the technical analysis.
**Next Steps**

After the spring 2014 public workshop, the project study team will develop the multimodal alternatives for technical analysis. Preliminary draft results of the multimodal alternatives are anticipated to be presented to the Transportation Committee for discussion in fall 2014.

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Attachment: 1. I-8 Corridor Study – Study Area

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