

MID-COAST CORRIDOR TRANSIT PROJECT

FACT SHEET



MID-COAST CORRIDOR



The Project

The Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project will extend the Trolley Blue Line service from the Santa Fe Depot in Downtown San Diego north to the University City community, serving major activity centers such as Old Town, the University of California, San Diego (UC San Diego), and Westfield UTC. The project will be partially funded by the regional *TransNet* half-cent sales tax program administered by SANDAG. SANDAG is seeking a match of *TransNet* funds through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

The Trolley extension project was approved by the SANDAG Board in fall 2014. The route begins just north of the Old Town Transit Center and travels in existing railroad right-of-way and alongside Interstate 5 to serve UC San Diego and University City. The extension will serve nine new stations: Tecolote Road, Clairemont Drive, Balboa Avenue, Nobel Drive, VA Medical Center, Pepper Canyon (serving UC San Diego west campus), Voigt Drive (serving UC San Diego east campus), Executive Drive, and the terminus station at the Westfield UTC transit center.

The Need

Freeways and arterials in the Mid-Coast corridor are generally congested, and traffic congestion is projected to increase as the region grows. By 2030, population in the corridor is forecast to increase 19 percent and employment is expected to increase by 12 percent. The University City area has developed as a major employment and high-density residential area, similar to Downtown San Diego. University City is San Diego's second downtown, and UC San Diego is

one of the region's largest trip generators; however, neither is served directly by regional transit services.

The Mid-Coast Trolley extension will provide an effective alternative to congested freeways and roadways for travelers, improve public transit services, and enhance travel options by connecting the corridor with areas served by the existing Trolley system.

Project Costs

The current project budget is \$1.7 billion, exclusive of financing costs. The project budget will be updated prior to entering final design in the FTA New Starts process.

Project Status

In fall 2014, the SANDAG Board of Directors and the FTA gave final environmental clearance to the project. The Mid-Coast Trolley is now poised to seek final approval of federal funding and move forward into construction. The next step for the project is to seek approval from the FTA to enter final engineering and to pursue a full funding grant agreement (FFGA) from the FTA's New Starts Program, anticipated in late 2015. According to the current project schedule, construction is expected to begin in 2016.

Funding Status

The Mid-Coast Trolley extension has been identified as a high-priority project by SANDAG and is part of the *TransNet* Early Action Program. *TransNet* will provide a 50 percent local match to federal funding, which SANDAG is seeking through the New Starts program. *TransNet* also will provide

(Continued on reverse)

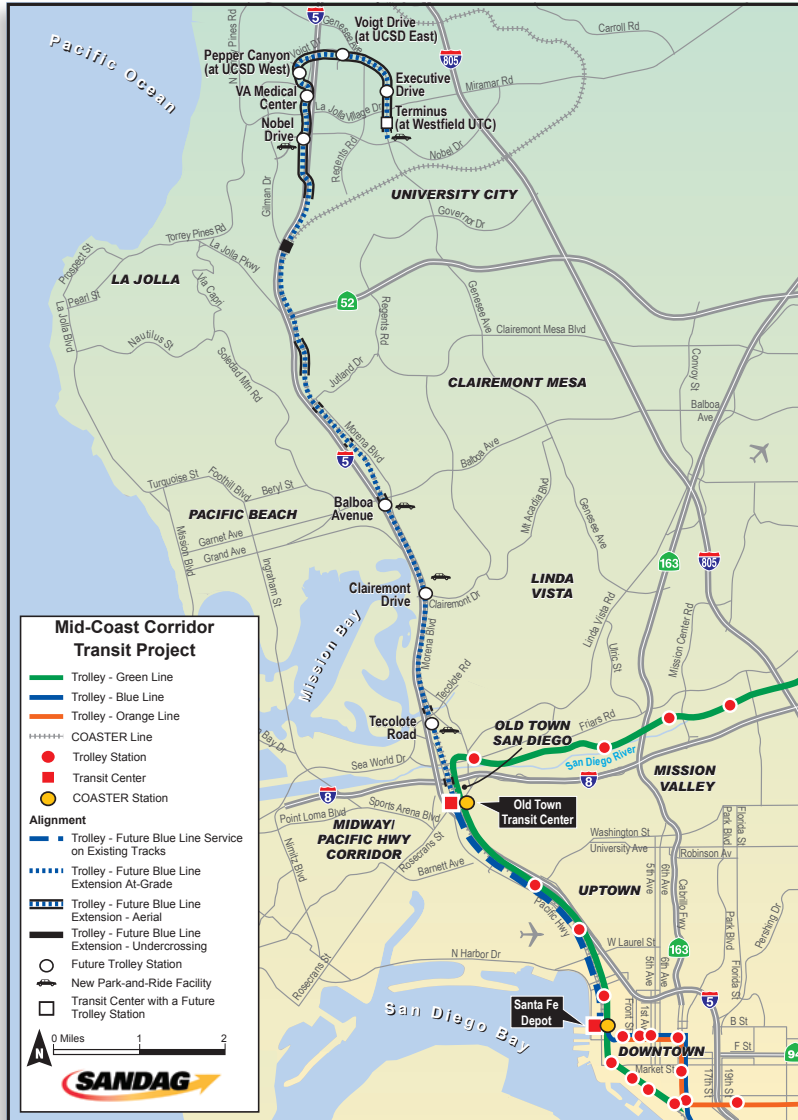


401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 699-1900
Fax (619) 699-1905
sandag.org

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operating funds for the Mid-Coast Trolley extension through the year 2048.

Summary

The Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project is the agency's highest priority transit project. It will improve access to growing employment, education, and residential areas. A Trolley extension is particularly well-suited to the corridor because:

- » It connects with the existing regional rail system at the Old Town Transit Center and Downtown San Diego at Santa Fe Depot, providing a vast improvement to mobility within the region.
- » As an extension of the existing Trolley Blue Line, it will offer a one-seat (no transfer) ride from the international border and communities south of Downtown San Diego all the way to University City.
- » It will connect residents of the corridor with major activity centers such as UC San Diego, UTC, Old Town, and Downtown San Diego.

For More Information

Visit sandag.org/midcoast.