

WESTBOUND/EASTBOUND SR 78 WIDENING AND NORDAHL BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

FACT SHEET

The Project

Auxiliary lanes will be added to both eastbound and westbound State Route 78 (SR 78) and the Nordahl Road Bridge will be replaced as part of a project to relieve traffic congestion in inland North County. The improvements will be made in the vicinity where SR 78 and Interstate 15 (I-15) converge.

A collaborative effort between SANDAG, Caltrans, and the cities of Escondido and San Marcos, the project has three major components:

- » Add two eastbound lanes between the Barham Drive on-ramp and Nordahl Road

Nordahl Road and Bridge:

- » Replace the existing bridge with a new structure to accommodate dedicated left-turn lanes to minimize vehicles stacking up and blocking the through lanes
- » Increase height clearance under the bridge
- » Lengthen bridge from 193 feet to 234 feet to accommodate future HOV lanes
- » Add a turn pocket to the westbound and eastbound off-ramps to Nordahl Road

The Need

Cars back up at westbound SR 78 where the connector ramp from I-15 decreases from three to two lanes just before converging with SR 78. This bottleneck causes traffic to slow both on the connector ramp and on the I-15 general purpose lanes. Similarly, there is gridlock along eastbound SR 78 between Woodland Parkway/Barham Drive and I-15 during rush hours. Without improvements, these two choke points would only get worse.

Nordahl Road is a major north-south road through the cities of Escondido and San Marcos and passes over SR 78 at a diamond interchange. The improvements will reduce delays caused by traffic backups in and around the Nordahl/SR 78 Interchange and adjacent intersections. A local transit route operating through the intersection is frequently delayed during peak periods due to congestion. This project will significantly

(Continued on reverse)



Westbound SR 78:

- » Widen the connector on-ramp from I-15 to westbound SR 78
- » Add a fifth westbound lane on SR 78 between the end of the I-15 connector ramp and Nordahl Road
- » Add a lane on the westbound SR 78 off-ramp to Nordahl Road

Eastbound SR 78:

- » Add an eastbound lane between Woodland Parkway and the Barham Drive on-ramp



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reduce congestion at the interchange and decrease vehicle idling times, resulting in better air quality and reduced greenhouse gases.

Project Costs

The total project costs \$41 million.

Project Status

On westbound SR 78, a new auxiliary lane from the I-15 connector opened in January 2012, around the same time that construction on the eastbound auxiliary lane began. The bridge work started in February 2012.

Funding Status

The project is funded by a mix of local, state and federal dollars. *TransNet*, a regional half-cent sales tax for transportation administered by SANDAG, provided \$15.5 million. The City of San Marcos contributed \$6.75 million, and the City of Escondido \$4.75 million. Caltrans provided \$14.1 million through the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP).