

SAN DIEGO TROLLEY RENEWAL PROJECT

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Overview

After more than 30 years of successful operation, the San Diego Trolley has completed a sweeping overhaul of its Blue and Orange Lines and freight line facilities. With the \$660 million project complete, passengers and freight carriers enjoy more efficient and reliable services.

The Blue Line opened in 1981, providing service from San Ysidro to Downtown San Diego, and was extended to Old Town in 1996. The first segment of the Orange Line to Euclid Avenue opened in 1986, and the extension to El Cajon began service in 1989. By the time the Trolley Renewal project began in fall 2010, many of the system's original parts were nearing the end of their useful lives. Some trolley cars had logged as many as 2.5 million miles.

To upgrade the oldest Trolley segments, the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) and SANDAG teamed up for the Trolley Renewal project.

Construction began in fall 2010 and station, track and signal work were completed in summer 2015.

Key Improvements

65 new low-floor vehicles -

To accommodate faster boarding, 65 sleek, low-floor cars have replaced the older vehicles. Platforms at 35 stations were raised to accommodate these new low-floor cars. These changes enable all passengers, including parents with strollers, bicyclists, and wheelchair users, to get on and off more easily. Passengers now enjoy nearly level boarding, rather than having to use stairs or a mechanical lift.

The new models are 81 feet long, so trains with three cars can fit in downtown city blocks without obstructing intersections. Low-floor cars were added to the Green Line in fall 2011, the Orange Line in January 2013, and the Blue Line in early 2015.

New shelters and improved platforms -

Upgrades to the Trolley stations included the installation of larger shelters that provide more protection from the sun and rain, and new furnishings, such as benches and trash receptacles. Platforms have decorative paving. In addition, stations are now equipped with digital "next arrival" signs.

Upgraded track and train signaling system -

The backbone of the Trolley system—the rails, ties, wires, power lines, electrical substations, and signaling systems—was also upgraded. Additional crossovers were added to allow single-track operations around maintenance or construction areas. A fiber-optic communication line was installed for security cameras, fare collection, and "next arrival" signs.

The benefits of the upgrades include:

- » Greater operational flexibility to increase passenger service, add freight capacity, and perform maintenance on the tracks without disruption
- » Green Line extension through Downtown San Diego all the way to the 12th & Imperial Transit Center to eliminate the need to transfer at Old Town
- » Low-floor service, which reduces boarding and exit times for all passengers and eliminates the need for wheelchair lifts

(Continued on reverse)



Funding

The \$660 million Trolley Renewal Project was funded primarily by California Proposition 1B bond funds and *TransNet*, the regional half-cent sales tax for transportation projects. Other funding sources include California Proposition 1A, and the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, commonly known as the federal stimulus package.

For More Information

For more information on the project, visit sdmts.com or KeepSanDiegoMoving.com. In addition, call the Trolley Renewal Hotline at (866) 497-2326, get updates via Twitter at twitter.com/sdmts, and follow the project on Facebook at facebook.com/sdmts.