

# I-5 / SR 78 INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS FACT SHEET

## The Project

This project adds two freeway-to-freeway connectors at the interchange of Interstate 5 (I-5) and State Route 78 (SR 78).

These connectors will reduce traffic congestion, improve the transitions from southbound I-5 to eastbound SR 78 and from westbound SR 78 to southbound I-5, and reduce peak period travel times.

The proposed project improvements address both the current and future traffic demands on both highways and will be designed to complement the future Managed Lanes improvements on I-5 and SR 78.

In addition, the project will add auxiliary lanes on I-5 north and south of the interchange, and on SR 78 to provide a merging area for entering and exiting traffic.

## The Need

The existing I-5/SR 78 interchange has connectors for vehicles traveling from

westbound SR 78 to northbound I-5 and from northbound I-5 to eastbound SR 78. Vehicles wishing to access I-5 to the south from SR 78 must travel through a signalized intersection at the end of the highway. Vehicles wishing to access SR 78 from southbound I-5 must negotiate a loop ramp and a merge onto the highway.

*(Continued on reverse)*



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Currently, during the peak commute periods, the traffic volumes approaching the interchange exceed the capacity of the existing connectors, causing congestion on both freeways. These conditions have resulted in long delays, operational issues, and safety concerns that must be addressed as a part of the planned improvements.

#### **Project Costs**

The estimated costs of the proposed interchange improvements are \$200 million (2006 dollars).

#### **Project Status**

Preliminary engineering and environmental work is set to begin as soon as funds are available.

- » The proposed project crosses Buena Vista Lagoon which is a sensitive coastal resource that will require special design and construction considerations. Attention to community and environmental issues will be instrumental in the successful development of the project.
- » Early identification of biological issues associated with the project will occur as part of the overall I-5 North Coast project.

#### **Funding Status**

Federal and local funds have been identified for this project. To date, Congress has appropriated \$500,000 (FY 2005) for this project, and \$4 million was included in SAFETEA-LU.