



I-5 CENTRAL COUNTY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

General Information and Frequently Asked Questions

What is the project?

OCTA and Caltrans are adding a second high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane in each direction on I-5 between SR-55 and SR-57. HOV lanes are also sometimes called carpool lanes. The project requires removing the existing barrier in some locations between the current HOV lanes and the general purpose lanes. The I-5/Main Street HOV drop-ramp structure also will be removed. The HOV lanes will be restriped for continuous access. Continuous access HOV lanes allow motorists to enter and exit the HOV lane at any point in their commute.

Why is it necessary?

According to traffic volume data, more than 380,000 motorists travel the I-5 freeway between the SR-55 and SR-57 freeways every day. By 2030, this figure is projected to increase to more than 400,000 vehicles daily. The existing HOV lanes don't have the capacity to handle current and projected travel demands. Adding a second HOV lane in each direction and restriping for continuous access will reduce congestion and travel delay for all motorists.

When did the project begin?

The environmental phase of the project began in 2011. Several alternatives were studied to determine their potential effects, and a preferred alternative was selected. The studies and a Draft Environmental Document were released for public review in August 2014, and the Final Environmental Document was completed in April 2015. It can be found on the Caltrans District 12 website at dot.ca.gov/dist12/DEA/OC890/index.htm.

What is the current project phase?

The project is about to enter the construction phase. From April 2015 to December 2017, OCTA and Caltrans worked on finalizing the project design, which involved surveying and collecting data on current traffic volumes, affected utilities and current road and bridge conditions among other items. The information was used to refine the project design and construction costs. Over the last several months, Caltrans and OCTA have worked to prepare the final project documents and bid package which has been advertised. A contractor is expected to be selected in the coming weeks.

Will property be acquired as part of the project?

No. All improvements will be made within the existing Caltrans right of way.

What will the project cost?

The total project cost is estimated at \$41.6 million. The project is funded by OC GO, (formerly Measure M, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements) and federal dollars.

What is the project's construction schedule?

Construction is expected to begin in early-2019 and take approximately two years to complete.

How will it affect me?

During construction, motorists will be dealing primarily with intermittent nighttime lane closures. Residents who live adjacent to the project area may experience construction noise. There will be a complete freeway closure for the demolition of the Main Street HOV ramp structure. Motorists will receive advance notice and detours will be in place.

How can I stay informed?

Sign up for email alerts at octa.net/i5central, or follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/oci5centralcounty, Twitter @oci5centralco or Instagram @oci5centralco. Or, email us at central5fwy@octa.net or by calling 800-724-0353.

Stay informed! Visit the project website, and sign up to receive updates by email.

iMantengase informado! Visite la pagina web del proyecto, inscribese para recibir correo electronico.

www.octa.net/i5central



PROJECT HELPLINE: (800) 724-0353



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