

Laguna Niguel to San Juan Capistrano *Passing Siding Project*



Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ

1. What is the Laguna Niguel to San Juan Capistrano Passing Siding Project?

The project adds 1.8 miles of new passing siding railroad track adjacent to the existing track between the Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo Metrolink Station and Trabuco Creek in San Juan Capistrano.

2. What is a passing siding track?

A passing siding track runs adjacent to an existing track, connecting to it at each end, allowing trains traveling in opposite directions to pass each other without stopping.

3. What other improvements are a part of this project?

The project also includes:

- ◆ Relocating a spur track further south;
- ◆ Improving the private crossing from Camino Capistrano to Saddleback Rancho Capistrano;
- ◆ Raising approximately 600 feet of Camino Capistrano adjacent to the private rail crossing to improve access; and
- ◆ Paving a small area adjacent to Camino Capistrano to accommodate two parking spots for maintenance personnel and train crews.

4. Why is this project being constructed and what will it achieve?

Project benefits include:

- ◆ Safer, more reliable and efficient passenger service;
- ◆ Congestion relief at the Laguna Niguel-Mission Viejo station; and
- ◆ Enhanced operational efficiency of passenger services in the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) rail corridor.

Operations between the Irvine and Oceanside stations will be 4 percent to 6 percent more efficient than the current scheduled travel times. The passing siding track will reduce the amount of time that trains will spend holding for opposing trains; therefore, this proposed project will allow trains to move efficiently through this section of the LOSSAN rail corridor.

5. When will construction begin and what are the details of the construction schedule?

Construction began in March 2019 and is expected to take two years. Work hours are expected to be from 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, though some weekend and nighttime construction will be required. Advance notification will be provided to the local community prior to nighttime activities.



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6. Will there be rail service interruptions or road closures?

Intermittent service interruptions and closures of Rancho Capistrano are anticipated. The public will be notified prior to the closures.

7. How will access to Saddleback Rancho Capistrano be affected?

Access to the church will be maintained during the day. Camino Capistrano is expected to remain open but will be restricted to one northbound lane and one southbound lane during construction.

8. Will construction limit bicyclist and pedestrian access along Camino Capistrano?

Construction activity will take place primarily within the existing railroad right-of-way and will not prevent bicyclists or pedestrians from using Camino Capistrano.

9. Are detours anticipated during construction? If so, where?

No detours are expected.

10. How is the project funded?

The project is being paid for with federal, state and local funds, including OC Go funds (formerly Measure M) Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements.

11. Will the project increase noise?

The project will not result in noise above present levels, however some construction activities may result in a temporary increase in noise. Work on the project will comply with the local noise restrictions.

12. Will this project result in increased passenger rail service in the area?

The project will not increase the number of trains in the project area. Any future proposed increase in passenger rail service would require a public hearing.

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