



SAN JUAN CREEK

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What is the San Juan Creek Bridge Replacement Project?

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), in coordination with Metrolink, is replacing the railroad bridge over San Juan Creek in the City of San Juan Capistrano. Built in 1917, the bridge has reached the end of its useful life. A new three-span girder bridge will be constructed west of the existing bridge. The new bridge will enhance safety, reduce maintenance needs and meet current design and bridge load standards. In addition, a new foundation and substructure will be constructed for a potential future rail bridge. The bridge serves Metrolink and Amtrak Pacific Surfliner passenger trains as well as freight trains.

How much does the Project cost and how is it funded?

The total Project cost is estimated at \$65.6 million. The Project is funded by OC Go, also known as Measure M, a half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements in Orange County, as well as state and federal funds.

When will construction begin?

Construction began in May 2024 and is expected to be completed in 2026.

Why is a second bridge foundation being constructed?

There are no plans for a second bridge but because there may be a need, a foundation and substructure for a bridge will be constructed. San Juan Creek is home to environmentally sensitive wildlife and habitat and the area is difficult to access for construction, so if a future need arises for a second bridge, the supporting infrastructure is in place.

What can I expect during construction?

Construction will occur Monday through Friday, from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Weekend and night work may be required for some activities. Work will be primarily in the creek and within railroad right of way. As with any construction project, the public and businesses adjacent to the Project area may experience noise, vibrations and light from construction operations.

How will construction affect the Quiet Zone?

A Quiet Zone is a designated segment of track where routine sounding of train horns while approaching public crossings is not required. The Quiet Zone designation in this area will remain in effect. However, there is expected to be an increase in the sounding of train horns because Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) guidelines require all trains to sound their horns when workers are present, in emergency situations, or when there are trespassers on or around railroad tracks. This federal mandate applies to construction zones. As a result, for the safety of construction workers, train crews and passengers, and the public, train horns will sound when they pass through the area.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS *(continued)*



Will there be rail service interruptions or road closures?

There are no road closures expected at this time, however, intermittent train service interruptions are anticipated.

Is a bike and/or pedestrian bridge over the creek part of the Project?

No, a bikeway/pedestrian bridge over the creek is not within the project scope. Construction of a bikeway/pedestrian bridge would fall under the jurisdiction of the County of Orange Public Works Department, Orange County Flood Control District and the City of San Juan Capistrano.

Will the San Juan Creek and Trabuco Creek trails be affected during construction?

A segment of the San Juan Creek Trail/Vereda Bikeway will be closed intermittently between Camino Capistrano and where the two trails meet west of the railroad. The public will be notified prior to closures. A detour has been established using Camino Capistrano, Del Obispo Street and the Trabuco Creek Trail. The detour is the most direct route around the closure.

Will Descanso Park remain open?

Yes, Descanso Park will remain open during construction.

How can I stay informed?

- Visit the Project website: octa.net/SJCBridge
- Sign up for Project alerts: octa.net/SJCBridge under the “Stay Connected” tab
- Email SJCBridge@octa.net
- Call 800-724-0353



San Juan Creek Trail Detour Map

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