



# Sand Canyon Undercrossing Project

The City of Irvine and the Orange County Transportation Authority are working together to improve traffic congestion and safety along Sand Canyon Avenue. The agencies have teamed up to build an undercrossing at the intersection of Sand Canyon Avenue and the Metrolink railroad tracks in Irvine. The project will lower Sand Canyon beneath the existing railroad tracks used for Metrolink and Amtrak passenger rail service and Burlington Northern Santa Fe freight service.

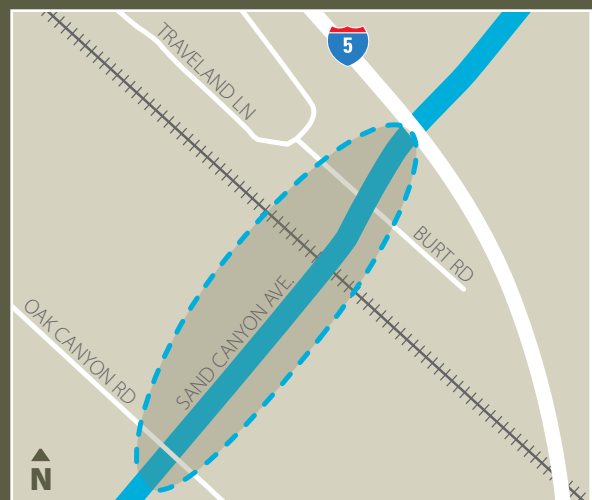
The Sand Canyon Undercrossing was ranked by OCTA as one of the highest priority rail crossing projects in Orange County. Building this undercrossing will help relieve traffic delays and accommodate future travel needs in the area.

The undercrossing will be built to the west and alongside the existing Sand Canyon Avenue alignment. This new road will allow vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists to travel safely under the railroad tracks and avoid delays from trains.

In addition, the project will widen Sand Canyon from four lanes to six lanes between Interstate 5 and Oak Canyon Road/Laguna Canyon Road, rebuild the intersection at Sand Canyon and Burt Road, build retaining walls, add landscaping and relocate the Walnut Bike Trail.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$56 million. Construction will be underway from mid-2011 to approximately late 2014. Funding is provided by a combination of Measure M – the half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements in Orange County – and state and local sources.

## PROJECT AREA MAP



## PROJECT BENEFITS

*Once completed, the project will:*

- Eliminate delays from trains
- Provide easier business access
- Boost economic vitality
- Enhance driver/pedestrian/cyclist safety
- Shorten emergency response times
- Improve air/noise conditions
- Provide a better quality of life



## WHAT TO EXPECT DURING CONSTRUCTION

*During construction, the City of Irvine and the Orange County Transportation Authority will work to reduce the impact of construction to the area. Please expect the following:*

- **Changes to Travel Patterns** – Two travel lanes will remain open in each direction before 9 am and after 3:30 pm to avoid conflicts with peak morning and afternoon/evening commute hours. A lighted pedestrian walkway will be in place.
- **Detours** – Several 30-day detours will be required as part of the project. Please watch for notices and signs.
- **Dust** – Construction projects cause dust. Watering trucks will help reduce dust.
- **Noise** - Heavy equipment will be used periodically, creating noise.
- **Notices** - If you live or work nearby, you will receive notices about construction work. Please watch for printed notices and signs, and register to receive email and Twitter updates.

## BUSINESSES ARE OPEN DURING CONSTRUCTION

Please remember to visit local businesses and attractions during construction, including Traveland USA, Old Town Irvine, La Quinta Inn, Great Park, the Irvine Animal Care Center, U.S. Post Office and others. For a complete listing of area businesses, visit the project website, [cityofirvine.org/sandcanyon](http://cityofirvine.org/sandcanyon).

## CONSTRUCTION SAFETY: OUR TOP PRIORITY

*The safety of construction crews and the traveling public are the highest priority of this project. Please follow these safety tips near the Sand Canyon construction zone:*

- Slow down and watch for construction workers, heavy equipment, children, pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Allow extra time to get to work, school or appointments.
- Tell customers and visitors in advance about construction work and detours.
- Be extra careful when driving at night and in rainy weather.
- Immediately report to the police any suspicious activity or children playing on construction sites.
- Avoid mobile phones or other distractions when driving through this area.
- Watch for lane closures and follow detours.
- Be patient. Please remember that this is a short-term inconvenience for a long-term solution to traffic congestion.

**Call our toll-free project helpline:**  
1-855-777-SAND

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[twitter.com/city\\_of\\_irvine](https://twitter.com/city_of_irvine)

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[cityofirvine.org/sandcanyon](http://cityofirvine.org/sandcanyon)

