

I-5 / ORTEGA HIGHWAY INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



background

The Ortega Highway Interchange Improvement Project, initiated by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), will improve traffic congestion at the San Diego Freeway (I-5) and Ortega Highway (SR-74) interchange. The City of San Juan Capistrano also played a key role in the project's initiation by preparing the environmental document, from which the City Council approved the selected alternative in January 2009.

In its current state, the I-5 / Ortega Highway interchange experiences high levels of congestion during morning and evening peak traffic hours. To facilitate better traffic flows and ease these areas of congestion, the project will widen and reconstruct existing on- and off-ramps on the I-5 freeway and Ortega Highway interchange, reconstruct the Ortega Highway bridge over the freeway, as well as realign Ortega Highway west of the I-5.

the project will:

- Construct a new traffic interchange that will replace the existing I-5 / Ortega Highway interchange
- Reconstruct the existing Ortega Highway bridge over the I-5
- Widen existing on- and off-ramps
- Construct a new northbound I-5 loop on-ramp from eastbound Ortega Highway
- Realign Ortega Highway to the west of the I-5 interchange to curve into Del Obispo instead of continuing straight into Camino Capistrano

project benefits:

- Provide congestion relief to improve local traffic flow as well as ease regional commutes
- Relieve the existing traffic congestion chokepoint at the I-5 / Ortega Highway Interchange
- Improve traffic safety and operations at the I-5 / Ortega Highway interchange
- Eliminate existing geometric deficiencies
- Create consistency with existing and planned local development

construction schedule

Start Date: February 2013
Completion Date: Fall 2015

closures

Projected closures of the I-5 freeway, Ortega Highway and on-and-off-ramps will take place intermittently throughout the duration of the project. While construction work will take place throughout the day, full closures will only take place at night between the hours of midnight and 7 a.m. Specific closure and detour information will be available on the project website once construction begins.

In addition to the intermittent closures, crews will perform several long-term full closures during construction. These long-term closures include:

- Northbound I-5 off-ramp to Ortega Highway (3 weeks)
- Southbound I-5 on-ramp from Ortega Highway (6 weeks)
- Ortega Highway between southbound I-5 ramps and Del Obispo (3 weeks)
- Ortega Highway between El Camino Real and Del Obispo (4 weeks)

ortega highway bridge reconstruction

Crews will demolish and reconstruct the Ortega Highway bridge over the I-5 freeway one half at a time. The bridge will remain open to the traveling public except for intermittent nighttime activities including demolition and falsework construction.

project funding

State Transportation Improvement Program	\$47,014,000
Corridor Mobility Improvement Act	\$30,926,000
Local	\$4,200,000
County	\$4,074,000

Total - \$86,214,000

Keeping You Moving



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Ortega Interchange Project



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