



I-405 Project



San Diego Freeway (I-405) Improvement Project

Project Status

Today, the San Diego Freeway (I-405) is one of the most congested freeways in Orange County, carrying more than 300,000 vehicle trips in some sections each day. Traffic volumes on the I-405 are expected to increase approximately 20 percent and the population is expected to grow 13 percent by 2030. The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) is in the process of initiating the environmental review process for the San Diego Freeway (I-405) Improvement Project.

Alternatives Under Consideration

Four project alternatives are under consideration. The first two – known as the locally preferred strategy (LPS) – came out of the I-405 Major Investment Study and were approved by the OCTA Board of Directors in 2005. The second two alternatives were added in January 2009 by the Board in light of the current economic climate and a decrease in available funds. As more detailed project information becomes available during the course of the environmental phase, this could help narrow down the proposed project alternatives.

All of the alternatives currently under consideration would add up to two lanes in each direction, generally within existing freeway right-of-way in the 14-mile stretch between the San Joaquin Hills Toll Road (SR-73) and the San Gabriel River Freeway (I-605).

The alternatives approved for study in January include a “funding constrained” alternative as well as a high-occupancy toll (HOT) lane and general purpose lane option. This “funding constrained” alternative is referred to as the “localized improvements alternative”.

ALTERNATIVE 1 – Adds one general purpose lane in each direction.

Alternative 1 was included in the LPS and was adopted by the OCTA Board of Directors in 2005.

ALTERNATIVE 2 – Adds two general purpose lanes in each direction.

Alternative 2 also was identified in the LPS. To fit a second lane that generally stays within the existing right-of-way, this alternative would require the use of non-standard features (such as narrower lane widths and shoulders) and would be subject to Caltrans and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approval. In order to allow Caltrans and FHWA to make an informed decision, OCTA is required to study the two-lane alternative using full standard design features to determine the level of environmental impacts associated with a full standard two-lane alternative.

ALTERNATIVE 3 – High-Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lane Alternative: Adds one HOT lane and one general purpose lane in each direction.

The existing carpool lane also would be converted into a HOT lane, resulting in a total of two HOT lanes and five general purpose lanes in each direction. The HOT lane could potentially generate revenue to help fund the project. A study will be conducted in the early stages of the environmental analysis to evaluate operational and revenue aspects of the HOT lane alternative.

ALTERNATIVE 4 – Localized Improvements Alternative: Alternatives 1 and 2 are estimated to cost between \$1.2 billion and \$1.7 billion. Currently, less than \$500 million in Renewed Measure M dollars are allocated to the I-405 Improvement Project. This

alternative would evaluate the extent to which one lane could be added within the 14-mile corridor utilizing available funding or whether the improvements would need to be sequenced.

The environmental phase will include extensive public outreach. Scoping meetings will be held in late 2009 and are an excellent opportunity to give the community a general overview of the project and receive feedback on early plans.

The I-405 Improvement Project environmental phase must be complete before the project moves forward to design, right of way and construction. Construction is approximately seven to ten years away, depending on funding availability.

Currently there is an estimated \$500 million allocated to the proposed project from the Renewed Measure M Freeway Program.

For more information, visit www.octa.net/405widening or contact Christina Byrne at (714) 560-5717 or cbyrne@octa.net.

I-405 Environmental Phase Milestones Chart

Notice of Preparation/ Notice of Intent	Late 2009
Scoping Meetings	Late 2009
Draft Environmental Document	Mid 2011
Final Environmental Document	Early 2012