



SOC MIS Fast Facts



South Orange County Major Investment Study

Improving Mobility in South Orange County

The ability to efficiently move people, goods and services is critical for the sustained economic growth and quality of life in Orange County. Due to rapid growth in both residential development and employment, South Orange County residents are finding it increasingly difficult to avoid congestion. The San Diego Freeway (I-5) is the main transportation corridor in the South County area. This is an eight-lane facility with traffic volumes as high as 350,000 vehicle trips per day. Without a long-term strategic vision, the I-5 corridor and surrounding transportation infrastructure will continue to experience higher levels of congestion.

Alternatives/Strategies for Improvement

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) is conducting an assessment of various strategic alternatives for improving travel from the San Diego County border to the Costa Mesa Freeway (SR-55). This conceptual planning process, known as a Major Investment Study (MIS), will occur in an 18-month period.

The study area extends from just south of the SR-55 to the San Diego County border and from the foothills on the east to the coast on the west. All reasonable transportation strategies will be considered, including but not limited to: a no-build alternative, improved east/west connections, roadway capacity improvements, mass transit, commuter rail improvements and express bus service.

Why a Study?

The South Orange County MIS is an effort by OCTA to examine the transportation needs of southern Orange County. It is part of OCTA's strategic effort to keep Orange County moving over the next 25 years and beyond.

This study will include a comprehensive public participation process and is divided into three major steps:

Step 1: Needs/Conceptual Alternatives Identified

Fall/Winter 2006/07. The study began in early 2006 to inform cities in the study area and to seek their input in the development of the study objectives. In late 2006/early 2007 a draft purpose and need statement will be developed with the involvement of local residents, communities and concerned groups. The input received (i.e., needs, ideas for improvements and concerns) will be included in a comprehensive technical analysis resulting in a set of preliminary transportation improvement strategies for public review and comment.

Step 2: Conceptual Alternatives Reduced

Spring/Summer 2007. Once the study team has developed a broad range of conceptual alternatives, additional technical analysis will take place and the new information will be presented to agencies and the public for additional feedback to help pare down the list to the most viable alternatives/strategies for further study.

Step 3: Solutions Presented

Fall 2007. After each remaining conceptual alternative has been analyzed, a strategy with "a program of projects" will be recommended for public review and ultimately OCTA Board approval. The Board-approved program of projects and "locally preferred strategy" from the MIS then moves to project-level environmental and further engineering studies.

The goals of this study are to be sensitive to local concerns, be objective in developing the mobility problem statement and options, and provide a framework for decision-makers on the direction of any next steps through intensive stakeholder and public involvement efforts.

How You Can Participate

The MIS began in early 2006 and is expected to be completed in December 2007. Here are some of the ways you can participate:

- Attend upcoming open houses
- Sign up to receive newsletters, surveys and/or e-mail updates
- Schedule a presentation to your organization, club, neighborhood association, business or other group

Log onto the OCTA website at www.octa.net/SOCMIS to learn more about the South Orange County MIS, to see when upcoming meetings are scheduled or to sign up for e-mail updates. Contact Tamara Warren, OCTA MIS Outreach Manager, at (714) 560-5590 for more information on how you can participate in the study.