



# SR-55 Access Study

## Fast Facts



### Improving Travel on Newport Boulevard

#### Overview

The Costa Mesa Freeway (SR-55) is the primary north-south route from northeast Orange County and the Inland Empire to the beach and tourist attractions in Orange County's coastal communities.

The freeway portion of the SR-55 ends in Costa Mesa at 19th Street, with the SR-55 continuing on Newport Boulevard to Newport Beach. From 19th Street south toward Pacific Coast Highway (PCH), drivers experience high levels of traffic congestion along Newport Boulevard.

Alleviating traffic congestion on the SR-55 is a top priority for Costa Mesa and Newport Beach

#### Study Area

The study area extends south from Victoria and 22nd streets to PCH and east from the Santa Ana River to Upper Newport Bay. The study focuses on key intersections and arterial streets in Costa Mesa and Newport Beach while minimizing environmental and community impacts in the greater study area.

#### Study Purpose

The goal of the SR-55 Access Study is to reduce congestion on Newport Boulevard by identifying safer, faster and more efficient transportation solutions that will alleviate traffic congestion and optimize travel time for drivers within Costa Mesa and Newport Beach.

Current plans for the SR-55 include a proposed extension of the freeway from 19th Street to the surrounding area of Industrial Way, rejoining with Newport Boulevard. Due to land use impacts on adjacent businesses and residential areas, OCTA is working closely with Costa Mesa, Newport Beach and Caltrans through the SR-55 Access Study to develop a broad range of transportation alternatives to the freeway extension.

#### Study Process

The SR-55 Access Study will identify conceptual alternatives and screen those concepts down to three or four feasible alternatives. Those alternatives will be evaluated in detail in a subsequent study effort.

In addition to technical analysis of potential transportation alternatives, the study also will include a public involvement process to assess community ideas for improvements and concerns that may not have been anticipated by the study team.

#### How You Can Participate

The SR-55 Access Study began in Spring 2007 and is expected to be completed in Summer 2008.

- Attend upcoming open houses (Spring 2008)
- Sign up to receive newsletters, surveys and e-mail updates
- Schedule a presentation for your organization, club, neighborhood association, business or other group

For more information, visit the web at [www.octa.net](http://www.octa.net) or contact Sarah Swensson, OCTA Community Relations, at (714) 560-5376 or [sswensson@octa.net](mailto:sswensson@octa.net).

#### Average Daily Vehicles

• SR-55	100,000
• Newport Blvd. Corridor (south of 19th St. and north of 17th St.)	87,000
• 17th St. to PCH	55,000

\* By 2030, the number of vehicles traveling the SR-55 / Newport Blvd. Corridor is expected to increase by nearly 20 percent.

