

ORANGE COUNTY COASTAL RAIL RESILIENCY STUDY



OCTA is evaluating strategies to ensure uninterrupted rail operations in south Orange County.

AT A GLANCE

FUNDING:	\$2 million+ (Surface Transportation Block Grant Program & Measure M2)
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STUDY OVERVIEW

OCTA is studying rail challenges in south Orange County to assess existing and future environmental risks and issues with operations and maintenance along the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor. The study will evaluate strategies to address these challenges.

OCTA owns 40+ miles of rail between the cities of San Clemente and Fullerton. This vital link in the 351-mile LOSSAN Rail Corridor is the second busiest passenger rail corridor in the nation and annually carries more than \$1 billion in freight throughout Southern California. Between Los Angeles and San Diego, the line is designated as a Strategic Rail Corridor Network by the Department of Defense due to its connectivity with military bases and major ports.

Near heavily populated and built-out residential and commercial areas, this rail line is vulnerable to catastrophic failure due to changing environmental conditions and coastal erosion, rendering passenger rail service inoperable for extended periods. Service suspension has occurred multiple times over the last several years, underscoring the importance of addressing the vulnerability of the railroad.

STUDY OBJECTIVES

The Coastal Rail Resiliency Study (CRRS) will evaluate strategies to protect the railroad in place for up to 30 years and ensure uninterrupted rail operations while minimizing passenger and freight service disruptions. It will include a detailed analysis of seven miles of critical coastal rail corridor between Dana Point and San Clemente up to the San Diego County line (map of study area on reverse).

Key milestones include conducting an initial assessment to identify and evaluate locations at immediate risk; establishing evaluation criteria to vet potential alternative concepts; developing these concepts, and ultimately, presenting draft and final feasibility study reports.

A separate long-term study will look at potential rail line relocation to an inland alignment between San Juan Capistrano and San Onofre State Beach. Given the potential magnitude of this effort, it will require the involvement of state and federal agencies. Discussions are underway to determine which agency is best positioned to lead that effort.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement is a critical study component and fundamental to shaping its outcome. Initial listening sessions with stakeholders took place in 2024. Additional stakeholder and public meetings will continue through the end of the study.

STUDY MILESTONES



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