

INTERSTATE 5 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

SAN DIEGO COUNTY LINE TO AVENIDA PICO



LENGTH
4.8 miles

ADJACENT AREAS
City of San Clemente

AT A GLANCE

DEVELOPMENT PHASE: Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA/ED)

ESTIMATED COST: \$6.4 million (current phase)

FUNDING SOURCE: Federal

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Fact Sheet as of 02/2025



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PROJECT OVERVIEW

The I-5 Improvement Project from the San Diego County Line to the Avenida Pico interchange proposes to reduce traffic congestion and provide inter-county connectivity between Orange County and San Diego County. The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 12, are proposing improvements to 4.8 miles of I-5 in the City of San Clemente from south of the San Diego County line to Avenida Pico (Project).

The primary purpose of the Project is to maximize efficiency of the freeway mainline by increasing person and vehicle throughput on the I-5 corridor from the San Diego County line to Avenida Pico.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- Increase vehicle occupancy and vehicle throughput
- Improve mobility and trip reliability
- Provide inter-county and regional system connectivity
- Provide improvements to accommodate projected regional growth
- Incorporate environmentally sustainable design elements by developing efficient transportation improvements
- Improve multimodal efficiency and provide advanced technology to meet the current and future transportation demands

PROPOSED PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: No Build

- The No Build Alternative proposes no improvements to I-5, maintaining the existing four general-purpose lanes throughout the project limits in the northbound and southbound directions. The freeway facility would remain as is, with the exception of other proposed projects that are either under development or currently under construction.

Alternative 2: Build Alternative

- Alternative 2 proposes to add an HOV lane on I-5 in the northbound and southbound directions within the project limits. The Build Alternative would implement ramp improvements where feasible and auxiliary lanes throughout the corridor, widen existing bridges, and replace two existing overhead crossings. The project would also include Transportation System Management/Transportation Demand Management (TSM/TDM) features.

ANTICIPATED PROJECT SCHEDULE

Public Circulation of Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) – Mid-2025

Public Hearing Meetings – Mid-2025

Final EIR/EA Approval by Caltrans and Project Approval – Early 2026

Schedule subject to change