



# GENERAL PROJECT FAQs

## What is the project?

OCTA and Caltrans are adding a second carpool lane in each direction on I-5 between SR-55 and SR-57. The project will remove the concrete barrier between the carpool lane and regular lanes where possible and remove the I-5/Main Street carpool ramp and bridge. The carpool lanes will be restriped for continuous access, allowing motorists to enter and exit the carpool lanes in more locations.

## Why is the project necessary?

More than 380,000 motorists travel I-5 between SR-55 and SR-57 every day. By 2030, this figure is projected to increase to more than 400,000 vehicles daily. The existing carpool lanes do not have the capacity to handle current and projected travel demands. Adding a second carpool lane in each direction and restriping for continuous access will reduce congestion and travel delay.

## How much does the project cost?

The total project cost is estimated at \$41.5 million. The project is funded by OC GO (also known as Measure M, Orange County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements) and federal dollars.

## How long is construction?

Construction began in March 2019 and is expected to be completed in early 2021.

## How will construction affect me?


During construction, there will be intermittent nighttime lane closures and a 55-hour closure at the 17th street off-ramp. In addition, Main Street and the freeway will be closed for demolition of the I-5/Main Street carpool ramp structure. Construction, closure and detour information will be available prior to the start of activities. Residents who live adjacent to the project area may experience construction noise and dust.

## How will nighttime construction noise be addressed?

Noise levels will be monitored, and Caltrans' noise limit standards will be enforced. Residents may hear back-up alarms and noise from other construction activities. The alarms are required for employee safety purposes by state regulation on all construction equipment in use. The sound level must be audible for 200 feet and distinguishable from the surrounding noise.

## Why is the I-5/Main Street carpool structure being removed?

The carpool ramp and bridge must be removed to make room for the additional carpool lanes. Traffic studies have shown that the ramp has a low volume of users and a higher accident rate than the national average.

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## When will the demolition begin?

Demolition is anticipated to begin in early summer. The ramp is expected to be permanently closed in April 2019 to begin preliminary demolition activities.

## What closures should I expect during demolition?

All lanes on northbound I-5 will be closed from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. for up to 10 nights. General purpose lanes on southbound I-5 will remain open. These times are subject to change.

## What are the nearest detours?

Northbound I-5 motorists will be routed to northbound SR-55 and to westbound SR-22 then back onto I-5 or onto SR-57.

## How will Main Street be affected?

Main Street will remain open during construction to through traffic, though there will be intermittent lane closures. In early April, crews will set up traffic controls (e.g. restriping lanes and installing temporary concrete barriers) and adjust traffic signals prior to closing the ramp. This will create a work area for construction crews.

## How do I get to Main Street once the carpool ramp is closed?

*From southbound I-5:* Motorists may exit at Broadway, turn left on Santa Clara Avenue or Buffalo Avenue, then turn left or right to access Main Street. Or, motorists may exit Main Street South (right turn only).

*From northbound I-5:* Motorists may exit at Main Street (right turn only). Or, motorists may exit Main Street South/Mainplace Drive/Broadway, then turn right on Broadway, turn right on Mainplace Drive and turn right or left on Main Street.

## How can I stay informed?

- ⇒ Visit the project website: [www.octa.net/i5Central](http://www.octa.net/i5Central)
- ⇒ Sign up for weekly email construction alerts: [www.octa.net/i5Central](http://www.octa.net/i5Central)
- ⇒ Sign up to receive text alerts: Text **55222** to opt-in
- ⇒ Follow us on social media: Facebook at [facebook.com/oci5centralcounty](https://facebook.com/oci5centralcounty)  
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