



I-805 South Corridor Enhancements Project FAQ

August 2018

What is the Interstate 805 (I-805) South Corridor Enhancement Projects?

A joint project between SANDAG and Caltrans, the I-805 South Corridor Enhancement Projects span more than three miles along I-805 from just north of East Naples Street in Chula Vista to State Route 54 (SR 54) in National City. A \$42 million effort, the I-805 South Corridor Enhancement Projects include the construction of sound wall segments, and bridge and safety improvements to the Sweetwater River Bridge. The improvements will help alleviate congestion, improve traffic flow, and enhance the quality of life for nearby residents along this segment of the I-805 corridor.

What type of enhancements are being made as part of this project?

Five sound wall segments will be constructed along I-805 that will abate freeway noise. Additional sound walls will be built in a later project phase as funding becomes available. Additionally, the Sweetwater River Bridge will be widened to increase the existing shoulder and lane widths. Further safety improvements will include upgraded roadway signs, lighting, metal beam guard rails, and concrete barriers.

How do the I-805 South Corridor Enhancement Projects relate to the I-805 South Express Lanes Project?

The I-805 South Corridor Enhancement Projects will build upon improvements recently constructed as part of the I-805 South Express Lanes Project. These include the high-occupancy vehicle (HOV)/carpool lanes between East Palomar Street in Chula Vista and State Route 94 in San Diego, the Direct Access Ramp (DAR), Transit Station and Park & Ride at East Palomar Street, and the auxiliary lanes between SR 54 and East Plaza Boulevard in National City. These enhancement projects will continue to increase corridor mobility for South County communities.

When will construction begin on the I-805 South Corridor Enhancement Projects?

Construction of the I-805 South Corridor Enhancement Projects is planned to begin in fall 2018. Five sound wall segments will be built along the I-805 as part of the project's first phase of construction. Completion is anticipated to be in 2021. The second phase of construction will include bridge and safety improvements to the Sweetwater River Bridge. These improvements are currently under design and construction is expected to begin in 2019.

Who decides where a sound wall will be built?

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires that Caltrans study traffic and construction noise impacts before beginning a project. Noise studies are coordinated with the environmental review process for a project. The results of the studies are used by Caltrans, in consultation with the FHWA, to determine where a sound wall should be built.

What factors determine the feasibility of a sound wall?

Various factors such as topography, access, local streets, underground utilities, other noise sources, and safety are looked at when determining if a sound wall is feasible. Additional factors taken into consideration include cost, ability to reduce noise, input from affected residents, and the structure's useful life. Sound walls must abate noise by at least five decibels to be considered.

How is this project being funded?

Project costs are approximately \$42 million. Funding for the projects is being provided by a combination of federal, state, and local programs, including *TransNet*, the regional half-cent sales tax for transportation administered by the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG).

