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NEWS RELEASE

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CALTRANS TO HOST VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR I-15/SR 78 MANAGED LANES DIRECT CONNECTORS PROJECT

Virtual Public Meeting to be Held via Zoom on Thursday, October 29

SAN DIEGO – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in partnership with the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and the City of San Marcos, is hosting a virtual public scoping meeting on the Interstate 15 (I-15)/State Route 78 (SR 78) Managed Lanes Direct Connectors project this Thursday, October 29 between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

The public can access the link to the virtual public meeting, which will be hosted via Zoom, by visiting the project website KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/SR78. The agencies also launched a virtual engagement hub dedicated to soliciting public feedback on the project. The new virtual engagement hub can be accessed from the project website and includes features such as an interactive project map and online comment submission.

“We are seeking the public’s input for this critically important step in the development of this project,” said Caltrans District Director Gustavo Dallarda. “Public input early in this process will help Caltrans, SANDAG, the City of San Marcos and the cities of Oceanside, Vista and Escondido to develop a project that provides a reliable transportation option that reduces travel times, encourages multi-occupant vehicle usage, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Our agencies are also excited by the opportunity to lean into new digital tools that solicit public feedback in a way we have never done before.”

The virtual public scoping meeting is taking place during the minimum 30-day public scoping period that began on Monday, October 19 when Caltrans released the project Notice of Preparation (NOP). The public scoping period will continue until Friday, November 20. The release of the NOP provided notice to the public that Caltrans intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), that project environmental studies are underway, and that the public scoping period has commenced.

During the scoping period, the public is invited to provide feedback on project elements as well as propose additional study areas Caltrans should consider when developing the scope of the project Draft Environmental Document (DED).



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In addition to attending the virtual public meeting, or in lieu of attending, the public may also submit comments in several other ways:

- **Online:** KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/SR78
- **Email:** SR78@KeepSanDiegoMoving.com
- **Hotline:** (888) 547-1161
- **Mail your comment:**

Ellen Renker
c/o Caltrans District 11
4050 Taylor Street (MS 242)
San Diego, CA 92110

“As Caltrans and SANDAG work together to plan for our region’s transportation future, we recognize how vitally important it is to engage all county residents in the earliest stages of project planning,” said SANDAG Chair and Mayor of Poway Steve Vaus. “Our agencies are committed to building a world class transportation system and our success is dependent on creating broad and equitable opportunities to provide public feedback and gathering all perspectives, and ideas from the largest, most diverse audience possible.”

The proposed project will feature new Managed Lane direct connectors between the existing I-15 Express Lanes and three miles of new Managed Lanes on SR 78. Managed Lanes are a tool that help to manage congestion by prioritizing carpool, vanpool and transit, and may allow solo drivers if they are willing to pay a fee as an alternative to traveling in the regular lanes. Additionally, the project will relocate the eastbound on-ramp from Barham Drive further west in the City of San Marcos, widen and realign Barham Drive between CSU San Marcos and SR 78, widen the Woodland Parkway undercrossing at SR 78 and construct other operational improvements to improve access and connectivity between the City of San Marcos and SR 78.

The public will have the opportunity to review and comment on the project DED in summer 2022, and the Final Environmental Document (FED) in summer 2023. The DED is currently anticipated as an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Assessment (EA). An EIR is required under The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and an EA is required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The \$450 million project is expected to complete design in 2024, and pending funding, begin construction in 2025.



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About Caltrans

Caltrans District 11 serves one of the most geographically and culturally diverse areas in the country and includes San Diego and Imperial counties. It spans the entire California-Mexico Border from the Pacific coast to Arizona and reaches north from the international border to Orange and Riverside counties.

Follow @SDCaltrans on Twitter at twitter.com/SDCaltrans and visit Caltrans San Diego on Facebook at facebook.com/CaltransDistrict11 for news related to state transportation in San Diego and Imperial counties.

About SANDAG

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) is the San Diego region's primary public planning, transportation, and research agency, providing the public forum for regional policy decisions about growth, transportation planning and construction, environmental management, housing, open space, energy, public safety, and binational topics. SANDAG is governed by a Board of Directors composed of mayors, council members, and supervisors from each of the region's 18 cities and the county government.

To protect the health and safety of staff, partners, and the general public, **SANDAG offices are closed to the public.** Our team is working remotely during this time to provide essential services, and to continue progress on critical regional projects. SANDAG will continue to monitor the development of COVID-19 in the region and follow guidance from the [San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency](#).

Follow us on social media for current information regarding SANDAG's projects and services:

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