

North County Regional Corridor

I-15/SR 78 EXPRESS LANES DIRECT CONNECTORS PROJECT



Project Overview

Continued residential and economic growth along the east-west State Route 78 (SR 78) corridor in the cities of Escondido and San Marcos has placed strain on its connection to and from Interstate 15 (I-15), a major north-south managed Express Lanes system in San Diego County. New direct connectors between the existing I-15 Express Lanes and three miles of new Express Lanes on SR 78 are intended to improve connectivity and traffic flow on and between the two corridors, increase access to homes and jobs, and improve overall quality of life in north inland San Diego County.

The interchange improvements are being coordinated alongside the development of a Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP) which will look holistically at integrating and improving all modes of transportation in the north inland region, and aid in meeting specific greenhouse gas reduction goals, reducing vehicle trips, and minimizing the overall time people spend in the car.

This project is a partnership with Caltrans, SANDAG, and the City of San Marcos, focused on increasing local access while improving connectivity between the growing economic, educational, medical, and residential hubs in San Diego County.

Project Schedule



Project Details

The I-15/SR 78 Express Lanes Direct Connectors Project would:

- Build Express Lanes Direct Connectors between I-15 and SR 78.
- Extend three miles of Express Lanes in each direction on SR 78, between the interchange and San Marcos Boulevard.
- Add a westbound auxiliary lane between Nordahl Road and Woodland Parkway/Barham Drive.
- Relocate the eastbound SR 78 on-ramp from Barham Drive.
- Widen and realign Barham Drive from La Moree Road to Woodland Parkway.
- Widen the Woodland Parkway undercrossing.
- Construct a bike facility on Barham Drive/Woodland Parkway.

Project Benefits

The I-15/SR 78 Express Lanes Direct Connectors Project will benefit commuters, residents, and businesses by:

- Improving connectivity between I-15 and SR 78 and access to homes and jobs in North Inland San Diego County.
- Improving traffic flow on I-15 to minimize delays for critical north-south regional and interregional travel.
- Improving quality of life for all corridor residents by providing more travel options and reducing the amount of time spent in a car.



Project Status

The I-15/SR 78 Express Lanes Direct Connectors project is in the early stages of a three-year environmental review process. Caltrans and SANDAG intend to begin a formal public input process input via traditional and virtual engagement opportunities this fall, alongside the release of the Notice of Preparation (NOP). The Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is expected to be released for public review and comment in late 2022 and a Final EIR is anticipated in late 2023.

Please ensure to **sign-up** for project updates to stay up to date on upcoming project milestones and opportunities to provide feedback.



Project Cost

Estimated cost is \$450 million.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/SR78 | (888) 547-1161 | SR78@KeepSanDiegoMoving.com

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