



Construction to begin on \$65 million freeway-level transit project

By **JAMES PALEN**, The Daily Transcript
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A groundbreaking ceremony is set to be held Wednesday on a \$65 million project to bring transit stations along state Route 15 that will eventually serve the Metropolitan Transit System's Rapid bus lines in dedicated lanes within the freeway's existing median.

The Mid-City Centerline Project will build San Diego's first ever freeway-level transit stations at the University Avenue and El Cajon Boulevard junctions along the freeway. Once the stations are complete, Rapid transit services will run in northbound and southbound transit-only lanes.

According to the San Diego Association of Governments, which is coordinating the project with MTS and Caltrans, the dedicated lanes will provide faster and more reliable travel through the SR-15/Interstate 15 corridor, one of the region's key transportation corridors. The 15 freeway is a state route south of Interstate 8 and an interstate from north of I-8.

SANDAG reports funding for the project came from the Federal Transit Administration and from TransNet, the regional half-cent sales tax for transportation.