

CHESTERFIELD DRIVE GRADE CROSSING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

FACT SHEET

Project Cost:

\$6 million

Status:

Completed May 2019



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration



North Coast Corridor
A better environment for the future



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The Project

SANDAG collaborated with the North County Transit District (NCTD), Caltrans, and the City of Encinitas to improve the Chesterfield Drive railroad crossing. This project improved safety and access at Chesterfield Drive for people walking, riding bikes, and driving. The project will construct sidewalk curb extensions, a multi-use Class I bikeway and pedestrian path, rail crossing signals and gates, and improved signage. The project was built concurrently with the San Elijo Lagoon Double Track Project, coordinating the construction schedules for both projects resulted in cost, schedule, and operational efficiencies.

The project included modernizing and enhancing the crossing warning system with the installation of new pedestrian and vehicle warning lights and gates. This increases awareness when a train is approaching the intersection. The project widened the existing medians to prevent motorists from driving around lowered automatic gate arms.

The existing sidewalk on the south side of Chesterfield Drive was removed and all pedestrians will cross the rail tracks via an improved Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible sidewalk on the north side. A reconfiguration of the right-hand turn from westbound Chesterfield Drive onto northbound Coast Highway 101 has improved safety for people walking and biking at the crossing.

Other improvements included installing electronic directional signs at key locations at the intersections of Coast Highway 101, Chesterfield Drive, and San Elijo Avenue. When a train approaches the intersection

these signs will notify drivers when it is safe to turn.

The Need

Chesterfield Drive is the only legal rail crossing for more than a mile in both directions. The previously existing configuration of the intersection created barriers to people walking and biking with isolated pedestrian islands, narrow sidewalks, steep inclines, and minimal lighting. Improvements to the Chesterfield Drive crossing improved pedestrian and bicycle accessibility.

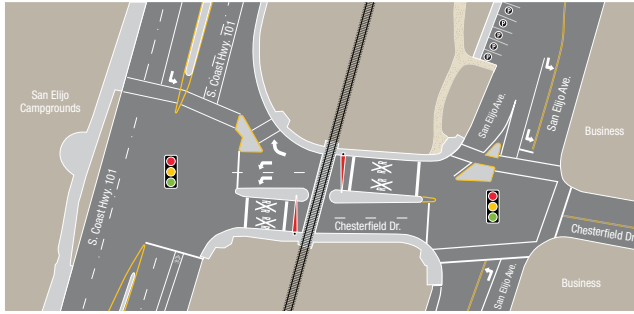
The Chesterfield Drive Rail Crossing Improvement Project was one component of the San Elijo Lagoon Double Track Project, which was also completed in May 2019. The project added 1.5 miles of new double track from Cardiff-by-the-Sea to the southern border of the San Elijo Lagoon and replaced the wooden trestle San Elijo Lagoon rail bridge with a modern, concrete bridge. The second track through Encinitas gives operators more than four miles of continuous double track. SANDAG and Caltrans coordinated the construction of the new rail bridge with the restoration of the San Elijo Lagoon and bridge improvements on Interstate 5 (I-5).

Corridor Strategy

Two-thirds of the county's LOSSAN rail corridor has been double tracked to date. Currently, SANDAG has fifteen LOSSAN rail transportation projects in various stages of planning, design, and construction. According to SANDAG's 2018 Infrastructure Development Plan for the LOSSAN Rail Corridor in San Diego County, the Agency plans to double track 94 percent of the LOSSAN rail corridor by 2035 provided

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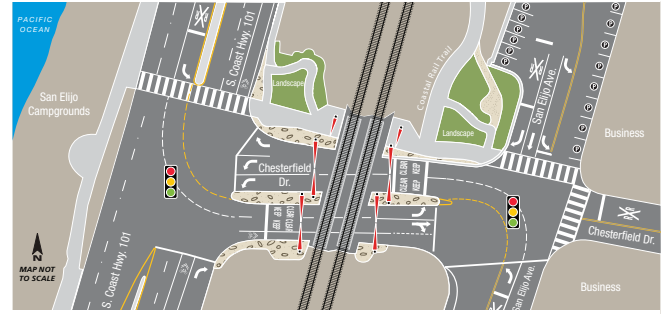
Before



Legend:

- Railroad Track
- Gate
- Sidewalk
- Walkway
- Parking
- Signalized Intersection
- Bike Lane

After



Legend:

- Railroad Track
- Gate
- Sidewalk / ADA Ramps
- Walkway
- Landscape
- Parking
- Signalized Intersection
- Bike Lane

funding is secured by that time. Double tracking allows trains traveling in opposite directions to pass without slowing down or stopping. Other infrastructure improvements include bridge and track replacements, new platforms, pedestrian crossings, and other modernization and operational enhancements.

Project Status

The Chesterfield Drive Rail Crossing Improvement Project was completed in May 2019.

Project Funding

The project was funded through a combination of federal, state, and local sources, including *TransNet*, the regional, voter-approved half-cent sales tax for transportation projects administered by SANDAG and a \$2.2 million grant from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for the project.

More information

Visit KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/SELDT, and KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/CoastalRailTrail.



The rail enhancements are part of a strategy to improve all modes of transportation within the congested I-5 North Coast Corridor (NCC). The NCC Program is a balanced set of transportation, environmental, and coastal access projects to improve the quality of life for residents,

create a stronger local and regional economy for the future, and enhance the coastal environment.