



# Coastal Connections Conceptual Planning Study

## Community Open House

December 7, 2022

# Agenda

- Study purpose & overview
- Initial screening of potential concepts
- Design concepts
- Implementation considerations
- Next steps (*in this study & for future project development*)



# Study Purpose & Overview

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- Goal: Evaluate opportunities & constraints of potential pedestrian access improvements in the Del Mar coastal rail corridor
- Collaborative study with MOU between SANDAG, Del Mar & North County Transit District (NCTD)
- Funded by Caltrans planning grant
- Approx. 20 months: June 2021 – January 2023
- Concepts identified as mitigation in CA Coastal Commission Del Mar Bluffs Stabilization Phase 5 approval
- ***Conceptual planning only:*** Selection of specific design elements will depend on a variety of factors to be resolved collaboratively moving forward – including regulatory agency input & public feedback



# Study Area

- Coast Boulevard to North Torrey Pines Road/  
Torrey Pines State Beach
- 1.6 miles single-tracked

Southern Boundary  
North Torrey Pines Road/  
Torrey Pines State Beach  
(MP 245.7)

Northern Boundary  
Coast Boulevard (MP 244.1)



# Initial Screening of Potential Concepts

# Findings from Initial Screening

- Initial evaluation of entire corridor
- North–South trails:
  - *West Side*: Continuous facility infeasible
  - *East Side*: Seagrove Park to 4th Street
- Most feasible beach access locations:
  - 11th Street/Sea Orbit Lane
  - 7th/8th Streets
  - Torrey Pines State Beach area
- Good alignment among several criteria, including engineering, existing movements & consistency with earlier findings including *TRAC* study

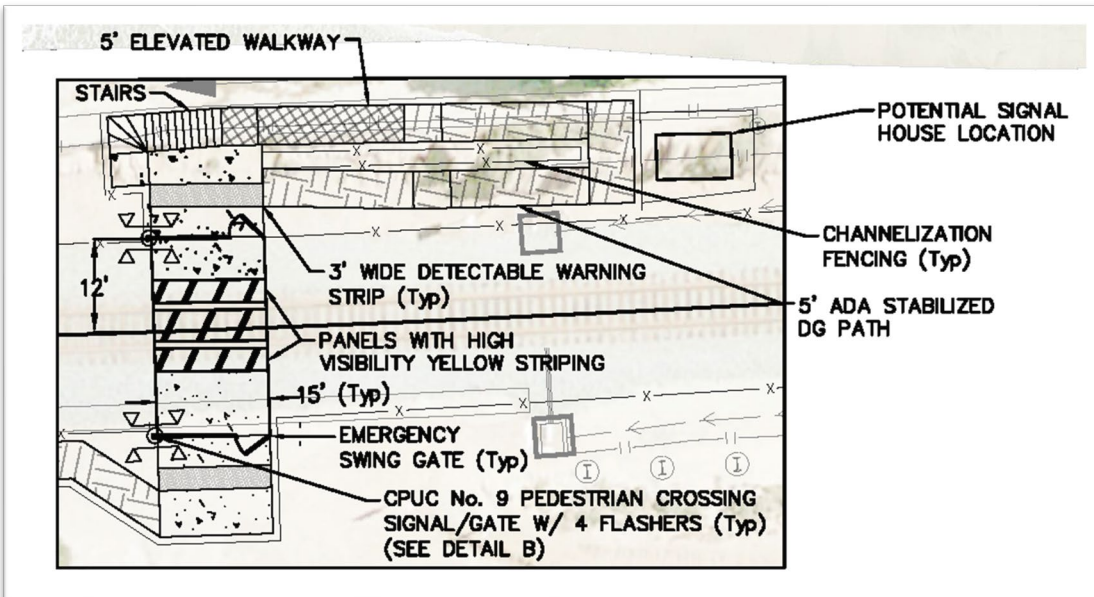
# Screening of Railroad Crossing Types

- At-grade crossings
- Undercrossings
- Overcrossings



# Screening of Crossing Types: At-Grade Crossings

- Requires discretionary approval by CPUC
- Noise impacts from audible warning systems &/or train horns
- Safety fencing & signal house
- *Advanced for further concept development*



# Screening of Crossing Types: Undercrossings

- Feasible from engineering perspective
- More development, walls & grading than other crossing types
- Eliminates noise impacts vs. at-grade crossings
- Least impact is 10' x 8' undercrossing
- *Advanced for further concept development*





# Screening of Crossing Types: Overcrossings

- Substantial visual impacts (>30ft above railroad plus >60ft bluff height)
- Larger structural elements than other crossings
- *Eliminated in initial screening due to visual impacts. Focus instead on at-grade & undercrossings*





# Design Concepts



# Design Concepts Selected for Advancement



## 11th Street:

- *Concept 2:* At-grade crossing, ramps & stairs to beach
- *Concept 3:* At-grade crossing, stairs to beach

## Seagrove Park to 4th Street:

- *Concept 1:* North–south trail (0.8 miles)

## 7th–8th Streets:

- *Concept 4:* At-grade crossing, ramps to beach
- *Concept 5:* At-grade crossing, stairs to beach
- *Concept 6:* Undercrossing, ramps to beach
- *Concept 7:* Undercrossing, stairs to beach



# Notable Concept Features

- Accessible connections to street ends
- Natural stairs: Graded with timber or rock; follow existing paths of travel
- Stabilized decomposed granite: Accessibility-compliant surfaces for ramps & paths





# Universal Benefits Provided by All Design Concepts

- All concepts reviewed to ensure benefits over existing conditions:
  - Pedestrian connectivity & coastal access
  - New accessible paths & view overlooks
  - Consistency with existing movement patterns
  - Consistency with prior facilities, studies & recommendations
  - Safety of railroad & bluffs
- Railroad crossings integrated with SANDAG planned seawalls
- All footprints within public right-of-way (NCTD & City of Del Mar)
- **Conceptual planning only:** Selection of specific design elements will depend on a variety of factors to be resolved collaboratively moving forward – including regulatory agency input & public feedback

# Implementation Considerations

# Right-of-Way & Maintenance Considerations

- All concepts require approval from NCTD & City of Del Mar to utilize rights-of-way
- Liability – to be agreed upon by all parties
- Ongoing maintenance – to be agreed upon by all parties



# CPUC Approval Requirements

- New at-grade crossings
  - Generally prohibited by CPUC General Order 75
  - Requires discretionary approval by CPUC
  - Recent approval in Santa Barbara County (Santa Claus Lane) could serve as model for Del Mar. Required grade separation study & concurrence of agencies including CCC & railroad
- CPUC safety fencing
  - Required near at-grade crossings to control access to railroad & direct pedestrians to at-grade crossings
  - Specific extent of fencing to be determined in future phase by stakeholders & regulatory agencies

# FRA Audible Safety Systems for At-Grade Crossings

- At-grade crossings FRA requires:
  - Audible warning systems at the crossing (lights & bells)
  - Train horns to be sounded at  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile when approaching
- Quiet zone:
  - May allow wayside horn at crossing instead of routine sounding of train horns – lessens potential noise impacts
  - Not strictly required for at-grade crossing approval
  - Can be pursued together with at-grade crossing (adds time & complexity to approval) or after implementation



# Accessibility Design Considerations

- All concepts provide substantial benefits over existing conditions:
  - Accessible north-south trail
  - Accessible connections to street ends
  - Accessible view overlooks at western bluff tops in all railroad crossings
- Multiple options for all crossing concepts (e.g. ramps & stairs)
- Balance accessibility with minimization of impacts to sensitive bluffs
- Project team to visit SANDAG Social Services Technical Advisory Council (SSTAC) in January 2023 for additional input
- Multi-agency collaboration to continue moving forward
- Some funding sources may require certain accessible design elements



# Next Steps

# Next Steps & Ways to Provide Feedback on This Study

<b>Del Mar City Council</b>	Monday, December 5, 4:30 p.m. <i>Del Mar Civic Center &amp; Online</i>
<b>Community Open House</b>	Wednesday, December 7, 6:00–8:00 p.m. <i>Del Mar Civic Center</i>
<b>Online Comment Period</b>	December 5, 2022 – January 31, 2023 <a href="https://KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/CoastalConnections">KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/CoastalConnections</a>
<b>SANDAG Social Services Technical Advisory Council (SSTAC)</b>	Tuesday, January 17, 2023 <i>SANDAG Board Room &amp; Online</i>
<b>Final Study Report</b>	February 2023



# Next Steps Following Coastal Connections Study

- Allocation of funding & grant applications
- Design:
  - Final concept selection
  - Grade separation study
  - Accessibility decisions
- Environmental review
- CCC approval
- CPUC approval of new crossings
- City & NCTD right-of-way approvals, including maintenance & liability agreements
- Construction

# Connect with Us:

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