

State Route 76 Corridor Frequently Asked Questions Series

Welcome back to your informational series about the State Route 76 (SR-76) Corridor. This series answers frequently asked questions about improvements to travel, safety and the environment along the corridor. This month's question is:

Creating Safe Paths for Wildlife Via Animal Undercrossings



Question:

How are the SR-76 corridor improvements helping wildlife movement and safety, and habitat connectivity?

Answer:

Strategies to promote habitat and wildlife connectivity along SR-76 include:

- ▶ Creating animal undercrossings along the corridor to keep wildlife populations connected across the highway
- ▶ Installing directional fencing to guide wildlife safely in and around the river corridor
- ▶ Securing 1,600 acres of property through the *TransNet* Environmental Mitigation Program to protect, preserve, and restore habitat areas adjacent to SR-76 between Interstate 5 and Interstate 15

Orange Directional Fencing Protects Wildlife and Natural Resources



While highways are vital to move people and goods, their construction can cause disturbances to the wildlife's natural habitat. The project team is committed to minimizing impacts to the wildlife and habitat in the area during construction whenever possible by:

- ▶ Establishing a construction schedule that suspends certain types of work during breeding season of protected wildlife
- ▶ Having a biologist on the team to monitor specific animal species and ensure their protection
- ▶ Installing temporary orange fencing to keep wildlife, such as the arroyo toad, from entering the project site. This visual barrier also keeps construction forces out of sensitive habitat areas

In the area that encompasses the SR-76 Corridor, it is necessary to protect the wildlife as much as possible, both during and after construction, in order to maintain its vibrant rural character. By going above and beyond the required mitigation requirements, this project will provide a net ecological benefit to the San Luis Rey River Valley.

Thank you for your continuing interest and patience during construction while we work to provide you with more reliable travel choices, improve the communities and natural resources, and sustain economic growth.

Allan Kosup,
Corridor Director