

OCEANSIDE TRANSIT CENTER Platform Improvement Project

HISTORY IN THE MAKING – MOVING RAIL FORWARD

Welcome to the Oceanside Transit Center (OTC) Platform Improvement Project's first newsletter. What began 125 years ago as a small rail stop in a new coastal city has grown to become a major transit hub on the nation's second busiest intercity passenger rail line.

The City of Oceanside grew up around the station, which in turn, grew to meet local and regional transportation demand. In 1983, the station was rebuilt in its current location. Today, more than 1.2 million passengers a year travel through the multi-modal transit center to board North County Transit District (NCTD) COASTER commuter trains, SPRINTER light rail trains, BREEZE buses and LIFT services, as well as Amtrak Pacific Surfliner, Metrolink commuter trains, and buses from the Riverside Transit Authority and private services such as Greyhound and Crucero. Freight trains operated by BNSF Railway also pass through the station.



Photo: Oceanside Historical Society

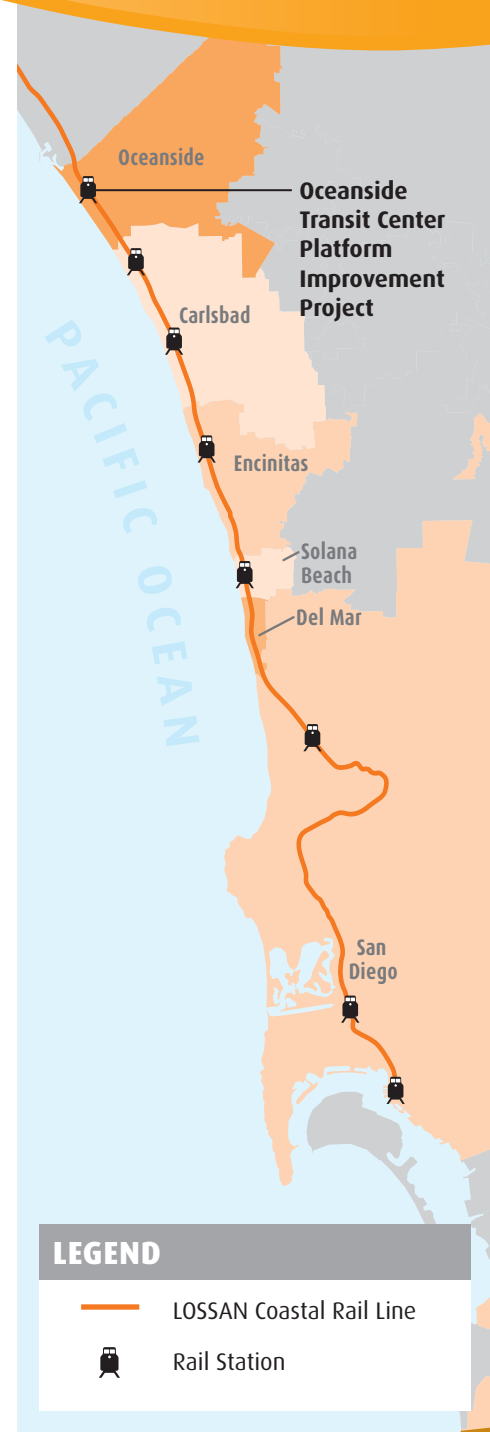
A celebration at the original Oceanside Train Station, circa 1900.

To meet future demand for passenger and freight rail services along the corridor, the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) is partnering with NCTD to build specific improvements to the track and boarding platforms at this station. Today, only two trains can board passengers at the same time. Other trains must wait outside the station until one of the two main tracks has cleared. The Platform Improvement Project will:

- allow COASTER, Metrolink and Amtrak Pacific Surfliner trains to board passengers at the same time by adding a new, 1,000-foot-long boarding platform and third track in the center of the railroad right-of-way south of the existing platforms;
- allow passing trains to move through the station when two trains are boarding, reducing idling outside of the station and improving travel times;
- provide new benches, shelter canopies, trash receptacles, real-time transit information displays, directional signs, and safety lighting on the new platform; and
- modify existing platforms to accommodate the improvements, as needed.

Currently, the final engineering work is being completed by SANDAG and construction is anticipated to begin in 2014.

SANDAG and NCTD are committed to keeping you informed of our progress and encourage you to learn more about this project by attending an informational open house on Thursday, June 27th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Oceanside Public Library.



This project will allow passengers to board COASTER, Metrolink and Amtrak trains at the same time.

Platform Improvement Project

Opening More Doors to Transit

One of the main goals of the OTC Platform Improvement Project is to open more doors to transit so that three trains can board passengers at the same time. By extending the existing third passing track or "siding" from Wisconsin Avenue northward into the station and adding a new platform, COASTER and Metrolink trains will be able to board passengers on the new track. This will allow Amtrak Pacific Surfliner and freight trains operated by BNSF Railway to run on the two existing main tracks.

More concurrent boarding will help accommodate future rail demand, provide more frequent service, improve on-time arrivals, and reduce travel times for riders.

In the coming years, SANDAG has approximately \$800 million in planned improvements for the San Diego County section of the Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) corridor, including a large-scale effort to double track the corridor from Orange County to Downtown San Diego. To date, half of the county's LOSSAN rail corridor is double tracked, with approximately 20 rail improvement projects in design or under construction. More than 97 percent of the corridor is expected to be double tracked by 2050. Other infrastructure improvements include bridge and track replacements, new station platforms, grade-separated pedestrian crossings, bluff stabilization, and other safety and operational enhancements.



Shown below are this station's improvements that will allow concurrent passenger boardings on the COASTER, Metrolink, and Amtrak Pacific Surfliner:

- A new, 1,000-foot-long boarding platform will be constructed south of the existing rail platforms
- A third track will be added from the station to Wisconsin Avenue

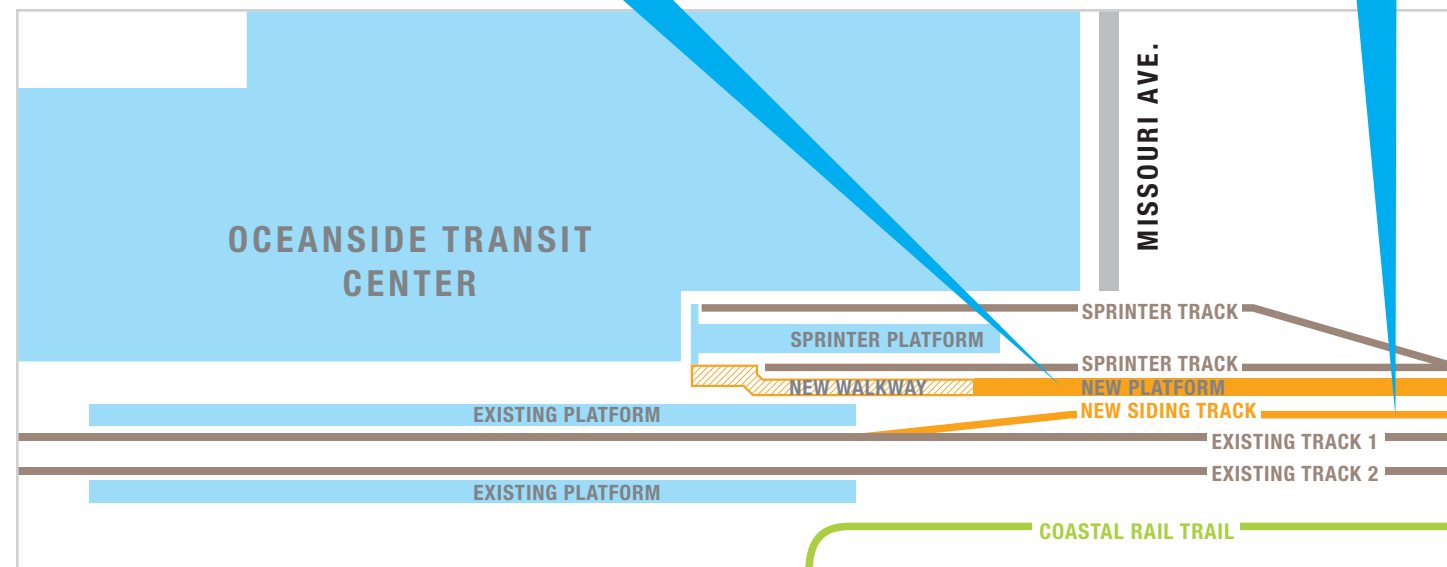
NEW SOUTHERN PLATFORM

The new platform and siding track will be located in the center of the rail right-of-way between the SPRINTER and existing main tracks.



NEW SIDING TRACK

The new siding track will tie into the existing rail line just north of Wisconsin Avenue and allow for trains to pass while other trains are boarding.



The North Coast Corridor Program includes rail, highway, environmental, and coastal access improvements.

Update for Oceanside: More Improvements On the Way

The track and platform improvement project at OTC is just one of many transportation projects that are happening in the Oceanside area:

North Coast Corridor (NCC) Program: The OTC Platform Improvement Project is part of a \$6.5 billion, 40-year investment in rail, highway, environmental, and coastal access improvements planned for the North Coast Corridor, which spans 27 miles from Oceanside to La Jolla. The program is a result of more than 10 years of collaboration between SANDAG, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and rail and local jurisdictional partners in an effort to create a better environment for our region's future. This past March, SANDAG and Caltrans released the North Coast Corridor Public Works Plan/Transportation Resource Enhancement Program for public review and comment. The plan is available at: KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/NCC.

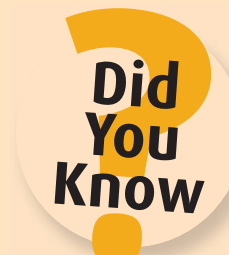
Coastal Rail Trail: This phase of the Oceanside Coastal Rail Trail will create a Class I bicycle trail in the NCTD railroad right-of-way that parallels Meyers Street between Oceanside Boulevard and Wisconsin Avenue. Improvements include new paving, fencing, landscaping, lighting, and drainage. The trail will connect to a recently completed bike path north of the project site. Construction will begin in June 2013 and end this fall. To obtain more information, visit: KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/RegionalBikeProjects/oceanside-coastal-trail.

Mission Avenue: In an effort to make downtown Oceanside more pedestrian-friendly, the City of Oceanside is leading an effort to improve Mission Avenue by narrowing the street from four lanes to two and making the street one-way westbound. The \$3 million project was aided by a \$1.5 million grant from SANDAG and will feature wider sidewalks, angled parking, outdoor seating, and new bike racks. Construction is slated to begin in the fall and continue through mid-2014.

Quiet Zone: The City of Oceanside is leading the effort to implement a future Quiet Zone, which seeks to reduce the required use of train horns at each rail crossing. To facilitate this initiative, the OTC Platform Improvement Project will lengthen the eastern median on Wisconsin Avenue, which could help the City to achieve a Quiet Zone at this crossing in the future.



The medians at Wisconsin Avenue will be lengthened by the OTC Platform Improvement and Coastal Rail Trail projects, which will support a future Quiet Zone in the area.



When the California Southern Railroad was first built in 1882, the Oceanside stop was called "San Luis Rey." After the rail line reached the dusty wooden platform that served area travelers, it headed northeast to San Bernardino via Fallbrook and Temecula. That line would soon be abandoned due to flooding and other natural disasters. The line was then expanded north to Los Angeles in 1888 as the "Surf Line." The rail line is attributed to opening up San Diego County's coastline for expansion and tourism, launching the growth of Oceanside.

You're Invited!

OCEANSIDE TRANSIT CENTER PLATFORM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT INFORMATIONAL OPEN HOUSE

You're invited to join us at an informational open house to learn more about the upcoming Oceanside Transit Center (OTC) Platform Improvement Project. SANDAG and NCTD team members will provide information and answer your questions about the planned platform extension, track improvements, and new platform amenities.

WHEN:

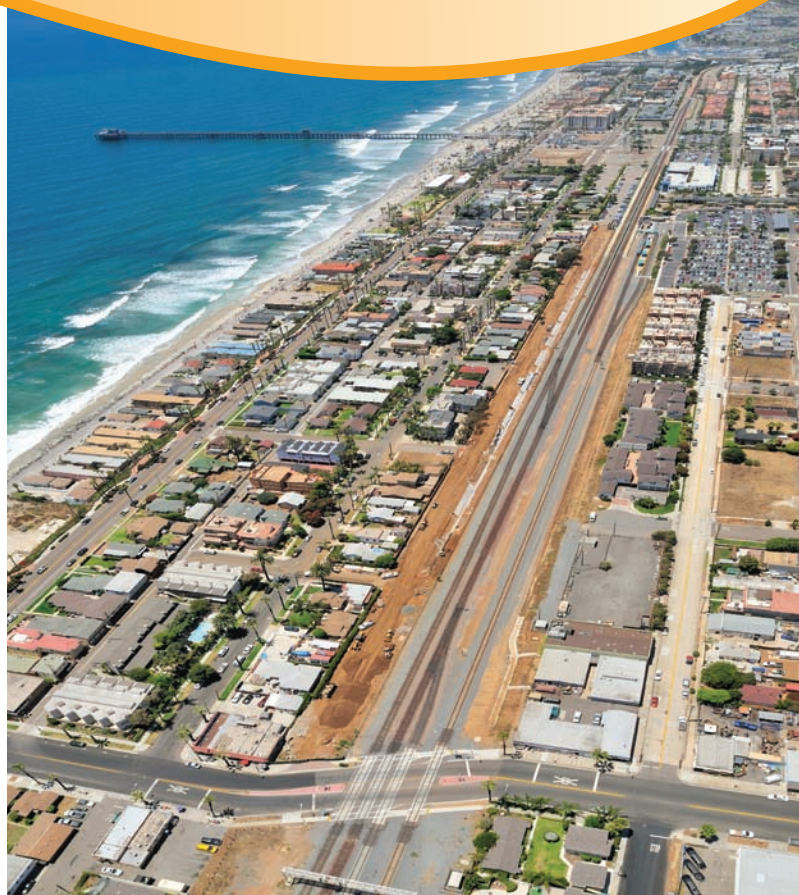
Thursday, June 27; 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

WHERE:

Oceanside Public Library Community Room
330 N. Coast Highway, Oceanside, CA 92054

To receive the latest information about the improvements at this station, sign up for project updates at: KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/OTC.

Traducción al español disponible a solicitud.



401 B Street, Suite 800 • San Diego, CA 92101



For more information call
(858) 549-RAIL (7245) or visit:
KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/OTC