

# Rapid



## Project Overview

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After several years of planning and collaboration with South County communities, South Bay *Rapid* launched full service operations on January 27, 2019. The project is a \$139 million effort to provide travelers with a frequent and reliable transportation choice, including \$128 million in *TransNet* and \$11 million in state Cap-and-Trade funds. This new 26-mile *Rapid* route connects key employment and activity centers between the Otay Mesa Port of Entry and Downtown San Diego via eastern Chula Vista.

### Transit Guideway

At the heart of the project is the dedicated transit guideway—a nearly six-mile-long transit-only lane being constructed in the median of East Palomar Street and along Eastlake Parkway in Chula Vista. The transit guideway is equipped with state of the art transit signal priority technology that will reduce delays and improve service schedule adherence.

### ROUTE MAP



### Rapid Stations

South Bay *Rapid* services a dozen *Rapid* stations along the 26-mile route, including five in Downtown San Diego. Seven stations were constructed in eastern Chula Vista and Otay Mesa as part of this project. These stations include new modern shelters, level platforms for easier boarding, and upgraded amenities



including real-time next vehicle arrival information, landscaping, and enhanced paving and architectural treatments. All stations are located in the public right-of-way and have been designed to provide safe pedestrian access at intersections.



Simulation

Transit guideway bridge over South Bay Expressway

### Guideway Bridge

An elevated transit guideway bridge was constructed over a portion of the transit corridor between Magdalena Avenue and Town Center Drive, traversing the South Bay Expressway. The bridge allows *Rapid* vehicles, pedestrians, and bicycles to cross the South Bay Expressway while maintaining high-frequency, limited-stop service.

### Otay Mesa Transit Center

At the southern end of its route, *Rapid* terminates at the Otay Mesa Transit Center near the United States-Mexico Port of Entry. The Otay Mesa Transit Center serves as a welcoming gateway between the two countries and provides travelers with amenities such as ticket vending machines, a concession stand, and real-time next vehicle arrival signs. The facility includes dedicated transit access for *Rapid* vehicles and local buses, which will improve traffic flow and facilitate the movement of goods and people at the border crossing and in the surrounding Otay Mesa community.

## Rapid Service in South Bay

South Bay *Rapid*, route 225, will be operated by the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System. The estimated travel time between eastern Otay Ranch in Chula Vista and Downtown San Diego will be approximately 50 to 60 minutes during peak commuting hours.

### Project Funding

Funding for the project was provided by a combination of federal, state, and local programs. These programs include the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP), Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSCP), California's Cap-and-Trade Program, and *TransNet*, the regional half-cent sales tax for transportation administered by SANDAG.

### Future Corridor Improvements

Additional long-term improvements are planned for South County, including:

- Construction of three in-line (freeway-level) transit stations along Interstate 805 (I-805) at H Street in Chula Vista, East Plaza Boulevard in National City, and 47th Street in San Diego;
- Park & Ride lots at the H Street and East Plaza Boulevard in-line stations;
- Freeway-to-freeway direct HOV connector ramps between I-805 and State Route 94;
- Southbound freeway-to-freeway connector ramps between State Route 905, State Route 125, and State Route 11 (northbound connectors are complete); and
- A three-year Bus on Shoulder pilot project sponsored by the Federal Transit Administration that will allow the service to use freeway shoulders on Interstate 805 and State Route 94 to bypass congestion during peak periods under strict operating conditions.

Collectively, these improvements will provide increased access for people in San Diego, National City, and Chula Vista, and reduce travel times for most passengers. Construction of these improvements will be scheduled as funding becomes available.

☎ (888) 754-5062 ✉ [SouthBayRapid@KeepSanDiegoMoving.com](mailto:SouthBayRapid@KeepSanDiegoMoving.com)

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