

Transportation

# POINSETTIA STATION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

## FACT SHEET

**Current Budget:**

\$33.7 million

**Status:**

Pre-Construction

**Est. Completion:**

2020



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration



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**The Project**

The project will renovate the Poinsettia Station, located in the City of Carlsbad, to improve traveler wait times, provide easier access, reduce train delays, enhance pedestrian safety, and upgrade station amenities. Improvements include lengthening and elevating passenger platforms, installing a fence between the tracks, replacing the existing at-grade rail crossings with a grade-separated undercrossing, and relocating existing tracks.

The new platform will be lengthened to 1,000 feet to accommodate longer trains, which can serve increased numbers of passengers. Raising the station platform to 15" will facilitate level boarding, allowing passengers to board quickly and easily. SANDAG and North County Transit District (NCTD) have been working closely with the Federal Railroad Administration to meet all federal platform height guidelines.

The undercrossing will feature stairways and ramps on both sides of the tracks. These features will be designed to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and will facilitate crossings for bicyclists

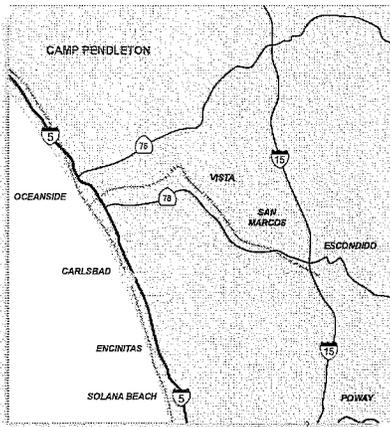
and pedestrians. The inter-track fence also will prevent pedestrians from crossing the tracks. Station enhancements will include new shelters, signage, and updated lighting.

**The Need**

Currently, NCTD COASTER and select Amtrak Pacific Surfliner trains provide service at the Poinsettia COASTER Station. Because of the existing at-grade pedestrian crossings, federal operating rules require that an approaching train must stop and wait outside of the station if another train is already loading and unloading passengers. The new pedestrian grade-separated crossing and inter-track fence will remove this delay and allow two trains to use the station concurrently, reducing wait times for travelers.

This project is a critical part of the 351-mile Los Angeles-San Luis Obispo-San Diego (LOSSAN) rail corridor, which serves as a vital link for passenger and freight movements in San Diego County. The LOSSAN corridor is the second busiest intercity passenger rail line in the United States. Additionally, the corridor is the only viable freight rail link between San Diego and the rest of the nation.

*(Continued on reverse)*



The San Diego rail corridor was built more than 125 years ago. It is used daily by more than 50 trains including NCTD COASTER commuter trains, Amtrak Pacific Surfliner intercity trains, and BNSF Railway freight trains.

#### **Corridor Strategy**

This project will improve a critical part of the LOSSAN rail corridor that serves as a vital link for passenger and freight movements in San Diego County. SANDAG is planning and constructing approximately \$1 billion in projects along the LOSSAN Corridor San Diego segment, including a primary effort to double track the corridor from Orange County to Downtown San Diego. To date, two-thirds of the county's LOSSAN rail corridor is double tracked, with more than 20 projects in design or under construction. By 2050, more than 99 percent of the corridor is anticipated to be double tracked. 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 undercrossings, and other safety and operational enhancements.

#### **Project Budget**

SANDAG has allocated \$33.7 million for this project. \$13.6 million comes from Federal Transit Administration Regional Surface Transportation Program funds, \$4 million comes from state funding, and \$16.1 million comes from the regional *TransNet* half-cent sales tax for transportation administered by SANDAG.

#### **Project Status**

Construction is anticipated to begin in spring 2018. The project is scheduled to be completed by 2020 to accommodate future planned train service levels.

#### **For More Information**

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