



News Release



Date: July 26, 2022

District: [District 11](#)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caltrans, SANDAG Complete Roadway Connection to International Ports of Entry

New connector closes gap in highway network, improving mobility and creating seamless connections for San Diego border region

SAN DIEGO – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) announced today the completion of the new southbound State Route (SR) 125 to the westbound SR 905 freeway connector in Otay Mesa. The \$28.9 million infrastructure project was made possible by more than \$16 million in funding from Senate Bill (SB) 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017.

The connector is a vital link in the south San Diego County roadway network designed to improve mobility and create seamless connections for residents and travelers between nearby communities and the Otay Mesa and San Ysidro ports of entry with Mexico.

“The opening of the new connector marks a pivotal step forward in improving the movement of people and goods throughout our binational mega-region,” said Caltrans District 11 Director Gustavo Dallarda. “With a new direct westbound connection from East County, we will help alleviate traffic congestion and travel delays that in turn will improve border region mobility.”

The new connector will strengthen East San Diego County and East Chula Vista’s linkage to the border region, reducing travel times, and improving corridor mobility and binational accessibility.

“The completion of this final link to our future third port-of-entry marks an important milestone for improving connections in our binational region,” said SANDAG Chair and Encinitas Mayor Catherine Blakespear. “This project demonstrates the transformational impact of SANDAG’s Regional Plan and will slash border wait times, support the economy, and combat harmful greenhouse gas emissions on both sides of the border.”

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“Developing a comprehensive roadway network with direct connections for travelers commuting in every direction is critical to maintaining the efficient movement of people and goods between the U.S. and Mexico,” said Clarissa Falcon, California Transportation Commissioner. “The new connector helps achieve our vision of a border corridor that is interconnected with the entire region, promoting transportation equity and economic growth for both nations.”

In addition to increased connectivity, the opening of the connector marks the completion of the SR 125, SR 905, and SR 11 highway network. The SR 11 project, a dedicated roadway to access the future Otay Mesa East Port of Entry, is slated to break ground next month.

Once the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry begins operations, SR 11 will operate as a variable tolled facility, providing travelers the ability to get to the border more quickly by paying a fee. The goal is to operate the new port of entry with an average 20-minute wait time between arriving and reaching primary inspection.

“The completion of SR 11 will be a monumental step forward in the development of the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry,” said Chula Vista Mayor Mary Salas. “Today, we are one step closer to realizing an innovative new border crossing that will reduce wait times, foster trade growth, and strengthen our binational economy.”

The project sponsors – SANDAG and Caltrans – continue to work closely with local, state, and federal agencies in both the United States and Mexico to coordinate on the development of the future Otay Mesa East-Mesa de Otay II Port of Entry, with the goal of opening in 2024.

“It’s incredible to see what can be achieved when both of our countries come together on a united front,” said Congressman Juan Vargas, “The Otay Mesa East Port of Entry will help achieve the bold new vision for transforming the way people and goods move throughout our region by improving regional mobility, bolstering binational trade, and fueling economic growth for both the U.S. and Mexico.”

About the State Route 11 Otay Mesa East Port of Entry project

The SR 11 Otay Mesa East Port of Entry project is a joint venture between SANDAG and Caltrans in collaboration with state and federal partners in the U.S. and Mexico to create a 21st-century border crossing for the San Diego-Baja California mega-region that will enhance regional mobility and fuel economic growth and binational trade.

The proposed border improvements will provide fast, predictable, and secure border crossings by constructing a four-lane, tolled road connecting directly to a state-of-the-art Customs and Border Protection Land Port of Entry and a California Highway Patrol Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Facility.

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Additional improvements include:

- A new border wait-time detection system
- Advanced traveler information to improve route planning
- An optimized port of entry capacity to decrease congestion and wait times

About SB 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017

SB 1 provides \$5 billion in transportation funding annually shared equally between the state and local agencies. Road projects progress through construction phases more quickly based on the availability of SB 1 funds, including projects that are partially funded by SB 1. For more information about other transportation projects funded by SB 1, visit RebuildingCA.ca.gov.

About Caltrans

Caltrans' mission is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. District 11 in San Diego and Imperial counties serves one of the country's most geographically and culturally diverse areas, spanning the entire California-Mexico Border from the Pacific coast to Arizona and reaches north from the international border to Orange and Riverside counties.

Follow @SDCaltrans on Twitter at twitter.com/SDCaltrans and visit Caltrans San Diego on Facebook at facebook.com/SDCaltrans for news related to state transportation in San Diego and Imperial counties.

About SANDAG

SANDAG is the [regional agency](#) that connects people, places, and innovative ideas by implementing solutions with our unique and diverse communities. We are committed to creating a San Diego region where every person who visits, works, and lives can thrive.

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