



San Juan Creek Bridge Replacement Project

CAC Bicycle and Pedestrian Active Transportation Subcommittee
March 19, 2024



Project Overview

- Construct a new bridge over San Juan Creek, west of existing bridge
 - Enhance rail safety
 - Reduce maintenance needs
- Project cost: \$65.6 million
- Construction scheduled to begin in Spring 2024



Construction Activities

- Construct new bridge
- Construct retaining walls
- Install tracks
- Relocate utilities and modify railroad signals
- Install substructures for a potential future rail bridge
- Demolish existing bridge



Construction Impacts

- San Juan Creek Trail/Vereda Bikeway 30-month closure
- Noise and vibration
- Train horns



San Juan Creek Trail Detour

- Trail closed and detour signs will be installed
- Detour route
 - 1.2 miles, most direct detour
 - Uses Camino Capistrano, Del Obispo Street and Trabuco Creek Trail
 - Designated Class I and Class II bike lanes



Public Engagement Strategies and Outreach

- Fact Sheet and FAQs
- Detour map
- Key stakeholder briefings
- Construction postcard
- Targeted flyers and signage
- Email construction alerts
- Project webpage
- Project information booths
- Community pop-up events



SAN JUAN CREEK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), in coordination with Metrolink, is replacing the 100-year-old railroad bridge over San Juan Creek in the City of San Juan Capistrano to meet current design and bridge load standards.

A new, three-span girder bridge will be constructed east of the existing bridge. The existing bridge will be demolished, and a new foundation and substructure will be installed for a potential future bridge. There are no plans to construct a second bridge but because there may be a need, a foundation and substructure for a bridge will be constructed. The bridge serves Metrolink and Amtrak Pacific Surfliner passenger trains as well as freight trains.

The total Project cost is estimated at \$65.6 million. The Project is funded by Measure M local sales tax dollars for transportation improvements administered by OCTA (also known as OC Go), as well as state and federal funds.

PROJECT STATUS

The Project was environmentally cleared in 2018 and design was completed in 2022. Construction is anticipated to begin in early 2024 and is expected to be completed in 2026.

SAN JUAN CREEK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the San Juan Creek Bridge Replacement Project?

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), in coordination with Metrolink, is replacing the railroad bridge over San Juan Creek in the City of San Juan Capistrano to enhance safety, reduce maintenance needs and meet current design and bridge load standards. Built in 1917, the bridge has reached the end of its useful life. A new three-span girder bridge will be constructed east of the existing bridge, and a new foundation and substructure will be constructed for a potential future rail bridge. The bridge serves Metrolink and Amtrak Pacific Surfliner passenger trains as well as freight trains.

How much does the Project cost and how is it funded?

The total Project cost is estimated at \$65.6 million. The Project is funded by Measure M local sales tax dollars for transportation improvements administered by OCTA (also known as OC Go), as well as state and federal funds.

When will construction begin?

Construction is expected to begin in early 2024 and is expected to be completed in 2026.

Why is a second bridge foundation being constructed?

There are no plans for a second bridge but because there may be a need, a foundation and substructure for a bridge will be constructed. San Juan Creek is home to environmentally sensitive wildlife and habitat and the area is difficult to access for construction, so if a future need arises for a second bridge the supporting infrastructure is in place.

What can I expect during construction?

Construction will generally occur on weekends, however, weekend and night work may be required for some activities. Work will be primarily in the creek and within railroad right of way. As with any construction project, the public and businesses adjacent to the Project area may experience noise, vibrations and light from construction operations.

How will construction affect the Quiet Zone?

A Quiet Zone is a designated segment of track where routine sounding of train horns while approaching public crossings is not required. The Quiet Zone designation in this area will remain in effect. However, there is expected to be an increase in the sounding of train horns because Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) guidelines require all trains to sound their horns when workers are present, in emergency situations, or when there are trespassers on or around railroad tracks. This Federal mandate applies to construction zones. As a result, for the safety of construction workers, train crews and passengers, train horns will sound when they pass through the area and construction is actively occurring.

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The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), in coordination with Metrolink, will replace the railroad bridge over San Juan Creek in the City of San Juan Capistrano to meet current design and bridge load standards.

Improvements require a segment of the San Juan Creek Trail to be closed for up to 30 months. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2024 and is expected to be completed in 2026.

Sign up to receive construction alerts at octa.net/SJCBridge
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