

PRESS RELEASE CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CECILIA GALLARDO-DALY, ACTING CITY MANAGER

Contact:

Jennifer Savage, Assistant to the City Manager (949) 361-6186, savagej@san-clemente.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of San Clemente to Host Listening Session Regarding the I-5 Improvement Project from the County Line to Avenida Pico Interchange

October 12, 2022...San Clemente, California...In cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) is proposing to increase person and vehicle throughput between Orange County and San Diego County through the I-5 Improvement Project. This project would add a high-occupancy vehicle lane in both directions along 4.8 miles of the I-5 in San Clemente from the County Line to Avenida Pico Interchange.

In addition to maximizing efficiency of the freeway mainline, the I-5 Improvement Project is also intended to improve mobility and trip reliability, address current and future transportation demands through advanced technology and provide inter-county and regional system connectivity.

The project is currently in the <u>preliminary engineering and environmental review process</u>, which takes several years to complete. Following the project's initiation, OCTA and Caltrans hosted two public scoping meetings between July and August 2022 to provide information to agencies and the public regarding the proposed project and to obtain feedback that needs to be addressed in the environmental document.

The environmental process is anticipated to be completed in Winter 2024, and construction is anticipated to begin in 2030. The design and construction phases will be completed based on the availability of funding:

Mid-2023 – Publish Draft Project Report/Environmental Document and Conduct Public Hearing

Late 2023 – Publish Final Project Report and Environmental Document

Mid-2026 – Begin Design (Plans, Specifications, and Estimates)

Late 2030 – Begin Construction

To ensure residents are aware of the project and how they can participate in the environmental process, the City is hosting a listening session on Thursday, October 20 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

The City will provide an overview of the project, go over the anticipated timeline and share how residents can get involved and provide feedback. Community members are encouraged to attend and register for project updates through OCTA's website.

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