

Fiber Optic Installation and Border Wait Time Systems Project

January 2022

Project Overview

The Fiber Optic Installation and Border Wait Time Systems project will install Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) infrastructure at six California land ports of entry. Additionally, 16 miles of fiber optic cable will be installed along Interstate 5 (I-5), Interstate I-805 (SR 805), State Route 11 (SR 11), and State Route 905 (SR 905) to connect and support existing ITS elements. The new fiber optic lines and border wait time systems will support operations at the future Otay Mesa East Port of Entry and allow California border crossings to function as a single unit by providing travelers with real-time traffic information at key decision points. This information will allow travelers to determine the best route for their commute and general transportation needs, helping to reduce congestion, improve traffic flow, and create more predictable and reliable wait times.

As part of this transportation network, air quality monitors are also being installed and operated by a non-governmental organization (San Diego State University) to track emissions and air quality impacts of border waits, helping to further statewide and regional environmental goals.



Purpose and Need

Currently, travelers crossing the border between Tijuana and San Diego experience average wait times of 3 hours or more at peak travel times. Idling trucks and vehicles are detrimental to the region's air quality, and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. Without additional port of entry enhancements, the estimated United States – Mexico economic loss will continue to grow to \$5.07 billion and more than 97,000 jobs by 2025. The addition of fiber optic and Border Wait Time Systems will intelligently link traffic operations at all regional land ports of entry, providing travelers with real-time information about border wait times, toll rates, special lane conditions, and incidents. This will create a complete and intelligent roadway network, helping to reduce congestion and emissions, improve traffic flow, and fuel economic growth for both the U.S. and Mexico.

Project Schedule and Funding Status

Construction Start Date: July 2021

Anticipated Completion: January 2023

Funding Sources

State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP)

Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP) Senate Bill 1 (SB1)

Project Cost \$39 million

Fact

This project will connect all land ports of entry in California between the U.S. and Mexico as an integrated system, which will help mitigate billions of dollars in economic losses that result from border crossing delay.

SANDAG

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Project Goals



Enhance transportation safety and mobility



Improve travel time predictability

Connect neighboring regions under one integrated system

Project Features

ITS technology advances transportation safety and increases mobility by integrating advanced communications technologies into transportation infrastructure and vehicles. ITS encompasses a broad range of wireless and traditional communications-based information and electronic technologies including Electronic Toll Collection, Traffic Signal Coordination, Traveler Information Systems, and more. The border wait time system, powered by ITS technology, will provide reliable and real-time travel information, allowing motorists to determine their best travel route. By doing so, the systems will improve will improve air quality by reducing the number of idling vehicles and subsequent carbon dioxide emissions and fuel economic growth.

About SR 11/Otay Mesa East Port of Entry Project

The project is a joint venture between Caltrans and SANDAG, in collaboration with state and federal partners in the U.S. and Mexico, to create a 21st century port of entry that will enhance regional mobility, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, fuel economic growth, and bolster binational trade. Roadway and connecter ramp construction currently underway will ultimately provide a direct connection to a state-of-the-art U.S. Land Port of Entry and a California Highway Patrol Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Facility, helping to enable fast, predictable, and secure border crossings. To receive ongoing email updates about the project and what to expect during construction, please visit KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/SR11.

For more information:

KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/SR11

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