

74 Widening Project on Ortega Hwy



Fact Sheet

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project would widen existing lanes to provide 12-foot standard lanes, widen outside shoulders to four feet, and add two-foot-wide median and 1-foot wide shoulder ground-in rumble strips on State Route 74 (SR-74, Ortega Highway), from Orange County Line [Post Mile (PM) 0.0] to Monte Vista Street (PM 5.8), near Lake Elsinore in Riverside County. The total width of the pavement is proposed to be 34 feet. Widening the shoulders would require constructing retaining walls with concrete barriers, cutting the rock slopes, and installing fill slopes.



PROJECT NEED

The purpose of this project is to improve the safety performance and reduce collision on Ortega Highway from the Orange/Riverside County Lin (PM 0.0) to Monte Vista St (PM 5.8) in Riverside County. All work is anticipated to be complete by Fall 2025, weather dependent. Caltrans, District 8 is advising the traveling public to anticipate heavy delays and seek other available routes such as State Route 91 during these work periods.

TRAFFIC IMPACT

Due to the narrow highway and the need for widening and additional features, delays throughout the project area are anticipated. Traffic during day and night operations will be controlled via flagging operations. Full 55-hr closures of the route will occur later on in the project timeline. This schedule will be forthcoming.

Project Schedule

In order to keep this work on schedule and completed in a timely manner, Caltrans District 8's contractor will be working various times of the day and night.

Day hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Night work will occur from 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Additional weekend work may be required with crews working 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. with occasional 55-hour weekend closures.

All work is anticipated to be complete by Fall of 2025.

Project Contact

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Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this project needed?

This segment is a two lane mountainous conventional highway with the terrain in this area and the alignment having numerous curves. Double yellow lines with rumble strips separates east and west directions. This segment was identified in the 2010 two-and-three lane safety monitoring report and met the required criteria. Based on the investigative report for the investigation period, the number of collisions were reported and identified as run off the road type collisions.

How much is this costing? How long will it last?

The project is approximately \$60 million and is anticipated to be complete in Spring of 2025.

When will work occur?

Work hours will be Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and again 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. During the nighttime work hours, the route may be fully closed from the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. with limited, or no access, to the public and residents to ensure project safety.

Weekend hours will be from 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. as needed to expedite the project. Occasional 55-hour weekend full-closures will occur due to the nature of operations. More information will become available when to anticipate these closures.

How is traffic being controlled?

Those with limited access to the construction zone will be instructed to wait for the pilot car traveling in the direction they are wanting to go. Please, do not go onto the road without being escorted by the pilot car, as you may run into oncoming traffic. This is a one-way traffic control operation.

Do I have access of the road during closures?

During the nightly road closures, Monday through Friday from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m., only residents within the closure limits will have access of the highway under special circumstance. Everyone outside of the closure limits is required to use a detour route. Some nightly closures will require no access, a schedule will be forthcoming when this occurs.

During a 55-hr weekend closure, commuters will only have access of the road to a certain point. For example, if the contractor is working near the OC/Riverside County line, motorists may use SR-74 to go down towards Lake Elsinore and go around. They will not be allowed to drive through to Orange County. The alternative route during this closure will be to use the I-15 to SR-91 to get to Orange county and vice versa..

What happens during an emergency?

If you are having a life-threatening emergency, call 911.

An emergency responder plan is in place and continuously updated. Depending on the emergency, emergency personnel are given access to the needed area.

How can I receive project information?

You can go to the project website and sign up to receive alerts from Public Affairs at: <https://sr-74-ortega-highway-widening.constantcontactsites.com/>
The website will be updated accordingly.

