NTH 9 Bridges Fact Sheet

Project Nominating Agency

San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA)

Project Scope

The Route 66 Resiliency Improvement Project aims to reconstruct nine bridges across the U.S. Route 66. These bridges connect rural corridors that interstate commerce and national security depend upon. These bridges were built between 1929 and 1931, giving them the title of National Historic Trail. They are essential to railway access, the U.S. Marine Corps, and the Air Combat Center. However, their length of 20 feet or less deems them ineligible for replacement under the current available funds. As such, we are asking for $14,200,000 to rebuild, renovate, and make these bridges climate resilient.

Climate Resiliency

The nine new concrete bridges will be much more climate resilient than the current infrastructure. They will be able to withstand increased flash flooding, wildfires, seismic activity, and other intense climate phenomena that will only become more common as climate change gets more intense. It is projected that they will last for over 75 years, reducing the emissions released when making bridge-supporting material. They will also provide an alternative route to the 1-40 freeway, reducing traffic and idling emissions.

Added Benefits

- The new bridges will provide stable and safe access for residents across the surrounding regions, enhancing access to jobs, schools, healthcare, and other essential services. These areas are often subjected to flash flooding and wildfires and having reliable infrastructure is a necessity, not a luxury.
- Advanced engineering techniques will eliminate the current weight restrictions, making it a more reliable passage for those who are unable to take the larger I-40.
- The new concrete bridges will enhance economic opportunities and the movement of goods within the area. Tourists will be able to access community amenities and large trucks will be able to deliver supplies, commercial products, and agricultural outputs.
- They will make it possible for ambulances to avoid gridlocked highways and will reduce emissions from idling traffic. Over a span of 30 years, it is expected that these new bridges will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 3,000 tons of carbon dioxide.

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Aerial view: wooden bridge along National Trails highway that is under 20 feet

Schedule

February 2025: Completion of environmental documents

April 2025 2025: All necessary environmental permits will have been secured, the final design phase will be completed, and necessary Right-of-way will be acquired

June 2025: The project will be advertised for construction and construction, including the demolition of the current bridge, will begin

Costs

We are asking for $14,200,000 million to make this project a reality.

The total cost is expected to be $27,000,000 million.

This $14,200,000 million will cover the cost for these 9 bridges on the National Trails Highway.

Threats

Geotechnical analysis requires site specific field investigations, lab testing, and engineering analyses

Utility relocations require coordination with multiple utility companies

Land acquisition needs, right-of-way, and temporary construction easements

Surface conditions, groundwater, and corrosion