

# State Route 241 / State Route 91 Express Lanes Connector

## PROJECT SCOPE

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), Riverside County Transportation Authority (RCTC) and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) are proposing to deliver a direct connector from the State Route (SR) 241 Toll Road to 91 Freeway Express Lanes in partnership with Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agencies (TCA). The direct, median-to-median tolled connector would serve traffic in both directions to relieve traffic congestion, alleviate bottlenecks and improve traffic in and around the Orange and Riverside County. The project is seeking grant funds of \$125 million.

The main component of the SR-241 to SR-91 Express Lanes Connector Project is to construct a direct tolled junction linking the SR-241 Toll Road to the 91 Express Lanes in the north to east and west to south directions. The Project will also add a lane and shoulder in each direction on SR-241 between the new connector and Windy Ridge Wildlife Undercrossing; widening of eastbound 91 to accommodate the new connector and its transition; advance signage; and other necessary improvements.

## ABOUT THE JUNCTION AREA



- Demand exceeds capacity on the NB SR-241 access to the EB SR-91 and on the WB SR-91 access to the SB SR-241, causing a queue as long as 3.4 miles.
- Travel speeds on SR-91 in the area are 10-23 miles per hour in the EB direction in the PM peak.
- The difference between actual throughput traffic volumes and volumes waiting to enter the system is approximately 33% in the EB direction in the PM peak period and 17% in the WB direction in the AM peak.
- NB vehicles on the SR-241 Toll Road cannot directly access the EB SR-91 Express Lanes. WB SR-91 Express Lanes motorists cannot access southbound SR-241.
- High number of collisions due to added congestion.
- HOV 3+ and Express Lanes users unnecessarily add traffic volumes to the main lanes, degrading the level of service for both tolled and general traffic.
- HOV 3+ users will seamlessly connect between two tolled facilities enhancing their travel experience.
- The projected increases in population and employment are expected to exacerbate the pressure on the transportation system only more.

## AT A GLANCE

### PROJECT TYPE

Highway Construction

### TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET

\$250 million

Seeking Grant Funds:

SCCP \$100 million, LPP-C \$25 million

### REGIONAL CONNECTION

Counties: Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino

Cities: Yorba Linda, Orange, Tustin, and many more

### PROJECT TIMEFRAME

Environmental Document: February 2020

Design Completion: December 2021

Construction Completion: August 2025

Project Closeout: December 2025

## PROJECT BENEFITS

### IMPROVE TRAVEL TIME

The Project increases average speeds in the Project Area and will decrease the average delay per vehicle by up to 20%

### INCREASE TRAFFIC THROUGHPUT

The Project increases traffic volumes served by about 2% more vehicles, considerably leveraging the overall efficiency of the system.

### ENHANCE REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY

The Project enhances connectivity between two major toll systems, providing inter-county connectivity, improving access to jobs and housing, and supporting economic development.

### IMPROVE SAFETY

The Project reduces collisions and improves safety through improved traffic flow.

### REGIONAL BENEFIT TO AIR QUALITY

The Project improves air quality by reducing stop-and-go traffic and traffic delay in the area, maintain the attractiveness of toll facilities, and providing additional capacity for HOVs and buses.

### ADDRESS DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

Riverside and Orange Counties are home to approximately 1 million people living in 170 disadvantaged communities. This represents 18% of the two counties' population that will experience the project benefits



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