B. FACT SHEET

Project Scope

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is proposing to build direct transit-only connectors from Interstate 805 (I-805) to the Interstate 15 (I-15) freeway in partnership with the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). The direct transit-only connectors would allow a seamless transition for the Rapid transit bus system between the I-805/I-15. The project would also relieve traffic congestion and promote public transportation utilization in San Diego County. This project seeks $75 million for construction.

The proposed connectors will directly serve two main transit stations (the University Avenue and I-15 Transit Plaza, and the Boulevard Transit Plaza at El Cajon Boulevard) and over 10 different local and Rapid bus routes that connect to these stations. The proposed Rapid service that would operate on these connectors would be able to bypass congestion on the I-805 and I-15 connections. Although the project is part of a larger vision, its impact will be felt immediately upon completion.

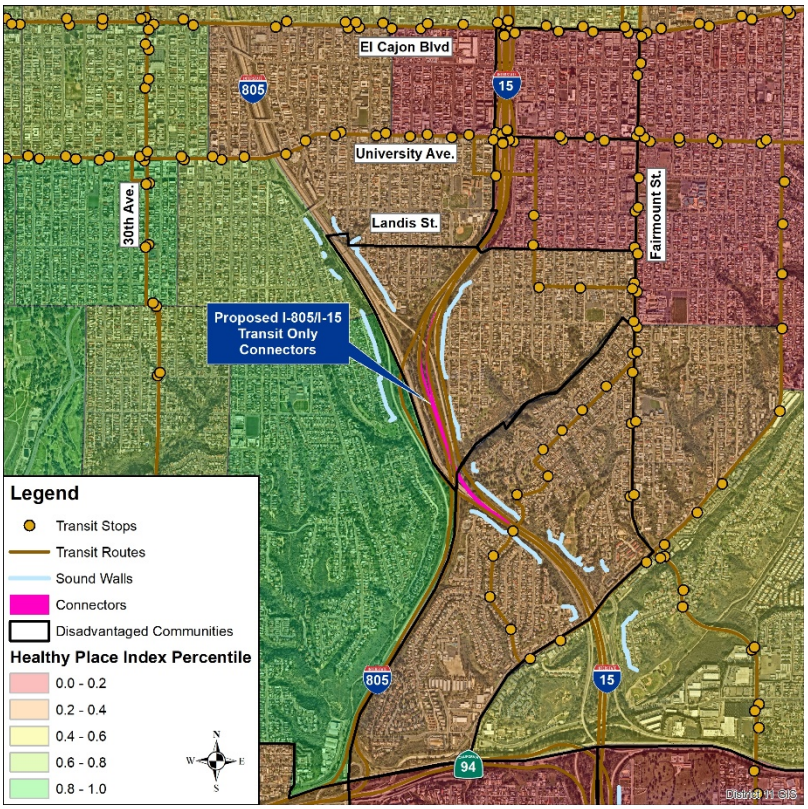

Figure 1. Project Overview

Project Cost

The total construction estimate for this project is $366 million. The costs are further broken down into $73 million in construction support and $293 million in construction capital. Caltrans is requesting grant funds of $75 million for construction.

Project Schedule

The Environmental Impact Report for the project has been completed and the remaining 50% of the design phase is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2022. Construction would start in 2025 and would be complete in 2030.

Project Benefits

The project will encourage the public to shift from personal vehicles to a transit centered lifestyle. In conjunction with other planned corridor projects, the project would result in:

- A decrease of 13,654 hours of Daily Vehicle Hours of Delay.
- An increase of 62,821 Person Hours of Travel Saved.
- A decrease of 1,076 hours of Daily Truck Hours of Delay.
- An improved design that would increase safety by facilitating the separation of transit lanes traffic with general purpose traffic.
- A 15% increase in residents that can access employment centers within 30 minutes, and similar gain in access to higher education centers.
- A general reduction in Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and improved air quality.

Brief Narrative

Under Senate Bill 535 the project location is a disadvantaged community with a California Healthy Place Index score in the lowest 17th percentile. The low California Healthy Place Index score was based on the area's transportation conditions, healthcare access, social conditions, economic status, and healthy housing conditions. This project strives to identify additional measures that would expand alternative modes of transportation at a local level and would improve the quality of life for those traveling, living, and working in the area along the corridor. The I-805 and I-15 are primary north-south links between South Bay communities and employment centers in central and northern San Diego. The I-805 and the I-15 are major freeways for everyone that lives, works, and visits San Diego. This interchange experiences high levels of congestion during peak periods causing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to drastically increase, while air quality declines. This project will implement strategies like transit only connectors to provide additional mobility options for trips of varying lengths and purposes. The easier access to public transportation will encourage carpooling, decrease congestion, and reduce GHG emissions. The project also has potential to improve safety by reducing the number of conflict points as it will allow a seamless transition between the two freeways. Proposed sound walls throughout the project area will ensure residents are not disturbed with the noise coming from the freeways during construction.

Reduces Vehicle Miles Traveled

Increases Transit Connections/Access

Reduces Green House Gas Emissions

Transit Only Connectors

Reduces Travel Times