



Coastal Connections Conceptual Planning Study

Del Mar City Council 
April 17, 2023

Agenda

- Study Purpose & Overview
- Design Concepts
- Public Outreach Summary
- Next Steps

Study Purpose & Overview

Coastal Connections Study Purpose & Overview

- ***Conceptual planning only:*** Selection of specific design elements will depend on a variety of factors to be resolved collaboratively moving forward – including regulatory agency input and public feedback
- Goal: Evaluate opportunities and constraints of potential pedestrian access improvements in the Del Mar coastal rail corridor
- Collaborative study with MOU between SANDAG, Del Mar, and NCTD
- Funded by Caltrans planning grant
- Approx. 20 months: June 2021 – March 2023
- Concepts identified as mitigation in CCC Del Mar Bluffs Stabilization Phase 5 approval

Study Area

- Coast Boulevard to North Torrey Pines Road/
Torrey Pines State Beach
- 1.6 miles single-tracked

Southern Boundary
North Torrey Pines Road/
Torrey Pines State Beach
(MP 245.7)

Northern Boundary
Coast Boulevard (MP 244.1)

Coastal Connections Study Process

Jul 2021 – Dec 2021

Existing
Conditions &
Feasibility
Assessments

Jan 2022 – Jun 2022

Identification &
Screening of
Potential
Improvements

Jul 2022 – Dec 2022

Selection of 7
Draft Concepts
for Development
& Evaluation

Dec 2022 – Mar 2023

Public
Outreach and
Final Report

Findings from Initial Screening

- Initial evaluation of entire project area
- North–South trails:
 - *West Side*: Continuous facility infeasible
 - *East Side*: Seagrove Park to 4th Street feasible
- Most feasible beach access locations:
 - 11th Street/Sea Orbit Lane
 - 7th/8th Streets
 - Torrey Pines State Beach area
- Good alignment among several criteria, including engineering, existing movements and consistency with earlier findings including *TRAC* study

Universal Benefits Provided by All Design Concepts

- All concepts reviewed to ensure benefits over existing conditions:
 - Pedestrian connectivity and coastal access
 - New accessible paths and view overlooks
 - Consistency with existing movement patterns
 - Consistency with prior facilities, studies, and recommendations
 - Safety of railroad and bluffs
- Railroad crossings integrated with SANDAG planned seawalls
- All footprints within public right-of-way (NCTD and City of Del Mar)
- **Conceptual planning only:** Selection of specific design elements will depend on a variety of factors to be resolved collaboratively moving forward – including regulatory agency input & public feedback

Design Concepts

Design Concepts Studied

11th Street:

- *Concept 2:* At-grade crossing, ramps & stairs to beach
- *Concept 3:* At-grade crossing, stairs to beach

Seagrove Park to 4th Street:

- *Concept 1:* North – South Trail (0.8 miles)

7th – 8th Streets:

- *Concept 4:* At-grade crossing, ramps to beach
- *Concept 5:* At-grade crossing, stairs to beach
- *Concept 6:* Undercrossing, ramps to beach
- *Concept 7:* Undercrossing, stairs to beach

Public Outreach Summary

Public Outreach Timeline



Summary of Outreach Results

- 135 total responses
- Comments collected online and in person
- Key Topics Mentioned:



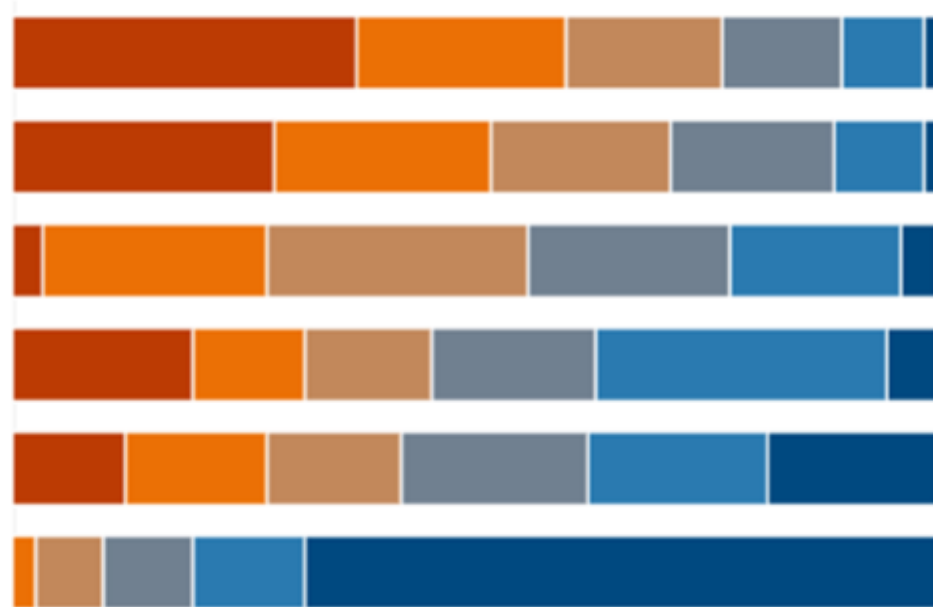
Summary of Outreach Results

Rankings – Components of Design

Rank Options

- 1 Improved pedestrian access
- 2 Preservation of bluffs
- 3 Minimization of visual impacts
- 4 Minimization of noise impacts
- 5 Railroad corridor safety
- 6 Minimization of cost

First choice ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Last choice



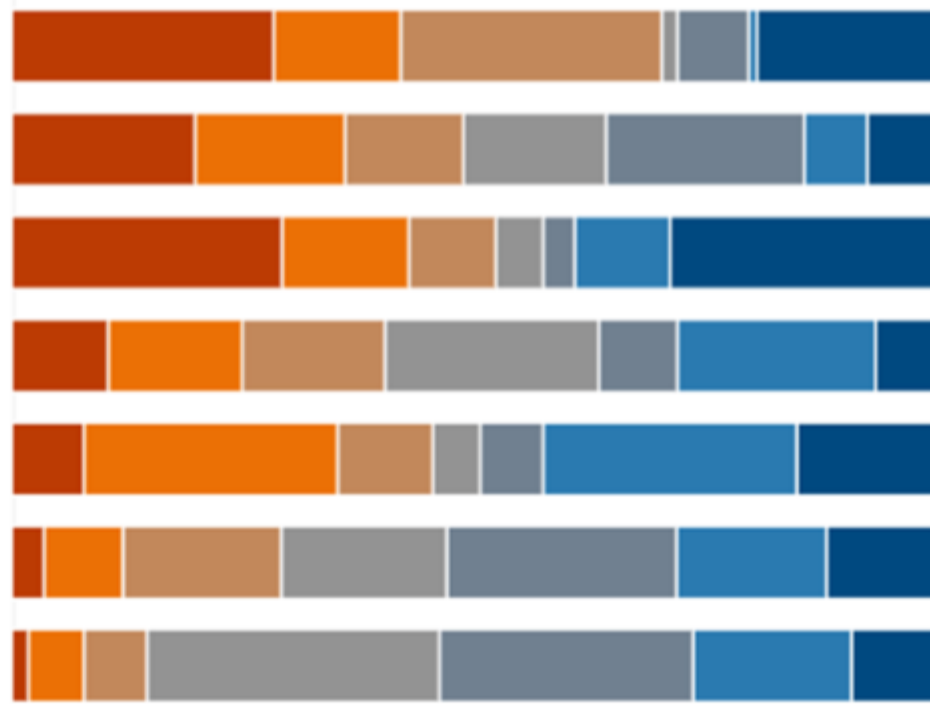
Summary of Outreach Results

Rankings – Draft Concepts

Rank Options

- 1 North-South Trail (1)
- 2 11th At-Grade, Stairs (3)
- 3 7th-8th Undercrossing, Stairs (7)
- 4 11th At-Grade, Ramps & Stairs (2)
- 5 7th-8th Undercrossing, Ramps (6)
- 6 7th-8th At-Grade, Stairs (5)
- 7 7th-8th At-Grade, Ramps (4)

First choice ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Last choice



Key Topics and Themes

- Support for North – South Trail was consistent throughout
- Initial support for at-grade crossings
 - Throughout the outreach period we heard growing concerns for potential impacts of at-grade alternatives including noise
 - Support for the undercrossing alternative grew throughout the comment period
- Alternate ideas and proposals received during comment period
 - North – South Trail alignments
 - Overcrossing near 10th Street
 - At-grade crossing with gate system

Next Steps

Preferred Concepts Based on Community Input

- Agreement needed between City of Del Mar, NCTD, and SANDAG on alternatives to bring forward to environmental clearance and preliminary engineering
- Preferred concepts need to include (per DMB5 Coastal Commission Certification):
 - A North/South trail from Seagrove Park to 4th Street
 - One CPUC approved railroad crossing near 7th Street or 11th Street
 - One accessway to the beach
- All concepts will require approval from NCTD & City of Del Mar to utilize rights-of-way

Concept 1:

North – South Trail

Concept 1: North – South Trail

- Seagrove Park to 4th St (0.8 miles)
- Accessible
- Connections to every street end (no alleys)

Concept 2:

At-Grade Crossings at 11th Street

Concept 2: At-grade crossing at 11th St, ramps & stairs to beach

- Artificial fill on western bluffs north of 11th St provides ample space for stairs and/or ramps
- Aligns with existing movement patterns
- Integrated with SANDAG planned seawalls
- Noise impacts from audible warning systems and train horns

Concept 6:

Undercrossing at 7th – 8th Streets

- Feasible from engineering perspective
- More development, walls & grading than other crossing types
- Eliminates noise impacts compared to at-grade crossings
- Aligns with existing movement patterns
- Integrated with SANDAG planned seawalls

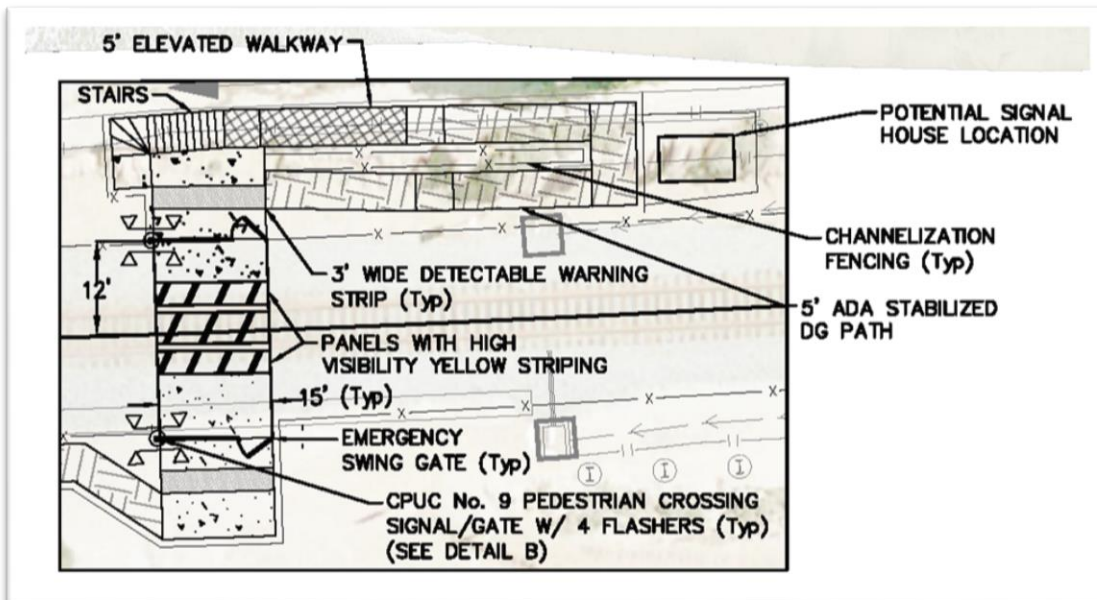
Concept 6: Undercrossing at 7th-8th St, ramps to beach

Accessibility Design Considerations

- All concepts provide substantial benefits over existing conditions:
 - Accessible North – South Trail
 - Accessible connections to street ends
 - Accessible view overlooks at western bluff tops in all railroad crossings
- Multiple options for all crossing concepts (e.g., ramps & stairs)
- Balance accessibility with minimization of impacts to sensitive bluffs
- Project team visited the SANDAG Social Services Technical Advisory Council (SSTAC) in January 2023 for additional input
- Multi-agency collaboration to continue moving forward
- Some funding sources may require certain accessible design elements

At-Grade Crossings

- Requires discretionary approval by CPUC
- Noise impacts from audible warning systems and/or train horns
- Safety fencing and signal house



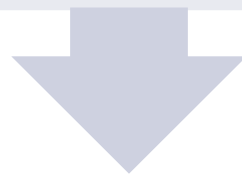
Next Steps Following Coastal Connections Study

- Allocation of funding and grant applications
- Design:
 - Final concept selection
 - Grade separation and safety study
 - Accessibility decisions
- Environmental review
- CCC approval
- CPUC approval of new crossings
- City & NCTD right-of-way approvals, including maintenance & liability agreements
- Construction



Next Steps Following Coastal Connections Study

Milestone	Estimated Timeline & Notes
Conceptual Planning Study	Complete
Preliminary Design	
Identification of Project Funding	In Progress
Selection of Preferred Projects	In Progress
Grade Separation and Safety Study	3-6 Months
Accessibility Decision	3-6 Months
Preliminary Design (30%)	6-12 Months
Community & Stakeholder Outreach	6-12 Months (concurrent with PE activities)



Next Steps Following Coastal Connections Study

(Continued)



Milestone	Estimated Timeline & Notes
Environmental and Agency Reviews	
CEQA/NEPA Reviews	6-12 months, concurrent with PE activities
CCC Approval of Draft Design	Concurrent with CEQA/NEPA, plus 3-6 months
CPUC Approval of Draft Design	6-12 months, concurrent with environmental & agency reviews (Formal CPUC process at 60% design)
City of Del Mar Approval of Draft Design	6-12 months, concurrent with environmental & agency reviews Includes maintenance and liability agreements
NCTD Approval of Draft Design	6-12 months, concurrent with environmental & agency reviews Includes maintenance and liability agreements
Final Design	6-12 Months following PE, environmental & agency reviews
Permit Issuance	3-6 months, concurrent with Final Design
Construction	2-3 years following final design and permits

Connect with Us:

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The SANDAG logo is displayed in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters 'S', 'A', 'N', 'D', 'A', and 'G' are rendered in a vibrant pink color, while the letter 'D' is a bright blue. The letters are slightly shadowed and have a subtle gradient, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The background of the logo is a dark blue with a faint, abstract pattern of light blue and white lines, suggesting a modern, technological or infrastructure theme.