



City of Encinitas

## Segment C

### FAQ – General questions

#### 1. What is the primary purpose of this project?

The Leucadia Streetscape project includes a number of coastal improvements aimed at preserving and revitalizing 2.5 miles of North Coast Highway 101, and provides improved accessibility to the area, whether in a car, on a bike or on foot. The upcoming Segment C improvements include many important safety, transportation and sustainability enhancements, as well as improved drainage infrastructure.

#### 2. Where is the project located?

The entire Leucadia Streetscape project spans between A Street and La Costa Avenue on North Coast Highway 101, and this specific segment of work (Segment C West) is focused on roadway and drainage improvements between Jupiter Street and La Costa Avenue. Construction will begin in January 2024 and is anticipated to be completed in Summer 2025. Leucadia Streetscape Segment C project updates can be found on the [City's Streetscape project website](#).

#### 3. What types of new benefits and improvements will be included in the construction of Segment C West of the Leucadia Streetscape project?

Project benefits and amenities include:

- Adding parking on the west and east sides of North Coast Highway 101
- Creating two new city traffic roundabouts at Grandview Street and Jupiter Street
- Storm drain infrastructure improvements to reduce flooding
- Restriping of traffic lanes
- Creating a dedicated green bike lane throughout the corridor
- Installing median improvements, including landscaping and enhanced irrigation
- Creating wider sidewalks
- Adding street lighting
- Enhancing safety and mobility in the rail corridor
- Building new and improved crosswalks
- Adding a new pedestrian crossing signal at Avocado Street

#### **4. When will construction for this project begin?**

Blue Pacific Engineering and Construction was awarded a contract by the Encinitas City Council on September 13, 2023. Construction will begin in January 2024.

#### **5. When will the project be complete?**

The City anticipates completing Segment C West of the Leucadia Streetscape project in Summer 2025.

#### **6. What are the goals of this project?**

- Reduce frequency and intensity of flooding
- Add parking, landscaping, and traffic calming measures
- Enhance safety and mobility
- Increase access to the coast and area businesses
- Preserve and revitalize North Coast Highway 101

#### **7. What is the scope and budget for the Segment C West phase of the project?**

The Leucadia Streetscape Segment C project costs including drainage are \$32 million and \$23 million of it will be constructed in 2024-25 based on available funds. Funding is sourced from a combination of loans and grants.

#### **8. What is the vision behind the Leucadia Streetscape project?**

The vision of the Leucadia Streetscape project is to celebrate and showcase the City's arts and culture, history, community charm and character through re-establishing the historic tree canopy, providing gathering spaces for our residents, improving accessibility and connectivity in Leucadia, and creating better access for our businesses.

#### **9. What are the cycling improvements?**

As part of the Leucadia Streetscape Segment C project, there will be a new green buffered dedicated bike lane on North Coast Highway 101. There will no longer be a shared vehicle/bike lane, except in roundabouts, where cyclists will have the option to use the sidewalk or full lane, just like a vehicle.

#### **10. How will the drainage improvements improve travel along North Coast Highway 101?**

The new drainage improvements will extend from Jupiter Street to La Costa Avenue. The drainage improvements will reduce the amount of flooding residents experience along North Coast Highway 101. Additionally, the drainage system will decrease stormwater on roads, which will make travel safer when it's raining.

### **11. What is the background on the project?**

The Leucadia Streetscape project is the result of more than a decade of work by City staff and engagement with the community to ensure the project will both revitalize the area and preserve its history and charm.

### **12. Will the plan cause more traffic congestion?**

This project will maintain the current North Coast Highway 101 configuration with a single, dedicated auto travel lane and buffered bike lane in each direction. Roundabouts at key intersections will reduce friction between vehicles, bikes and pedestrians, and reduce the time vehicles on North Coast Highway 101 spend stopped waiting at traffic signals. Vehicles will also be traveling at slower speeds which will improve the area's overall safety, as well as discourage unnecessary cut-through traffic.

### **13. How will the Leucadia Streetscape project enhance safety?**

Leucadia Streetscape will improve safety on North Coast Highway 101 by:

- Reducing anticipated accidents for all modes of transportation
- Designing the roadway more efficiently with wider sidewalks for pedestrians and dedicated, buffered bike lanes to separate roadway users. Increased network of sidewalks and crosswalks at the Grandview and Jupiter Street roundabouts and at Bishops Gate Road, plus, a new pedestrian signalized crossing, to stop traffic and allow pedestrians to cross safely at Avocado Street
- Installing historic-style street lighting to support nighttime pedestrian use, crossing and activities
- Introducing wide, well-marked, buffered bike lanes to increase safety and support bicycle riding for all abilities, resulting in fewer motorist distractions and bike-car conflicts

*According to the Federal Highway Administration: "Roundabouts improve safety with 90% reduction in fatalities, 76% reduction in industry crashes, 35% reduction in all crashes"*

### **14. How will the Leucadia Streetscape project enhance quality of life in Encinitas?**

The Streetscape project will:

- Transform the highway into a linear park, similar to the Solana Beach Rail Trail, with recreational opportunities, heritage trees, and botanic enhancements throughout

- Improve access to North Coast Highway 101 businesses and the beach, whether you're in a car, on a bike or on foot
- Improve bus stops for users of public transit with covered shelters, seating and safe North Coast Highway 101 crossings
- Increase network of sidewalks and crosswalks, and provide easy access to new parking areas on the rail corridor
- Provide new opportunities for public art installations, community seating, and historic markers
- Create much-needed updates to the rail corridor with native, drought tolerant landscaping, and new storm drain infrastructure to decrease ponding.

*80% of Leucadia residents surveyed want to walk or bike to North Coast Highway 101 businesses and the beach.*

#### **15. How will the Leucadia Streetscape project enhance economic development in Encinitas?**

- It is a natural extension of downtown Encinitas Streetscape completed in 2003.
- The plan will create positive community-based economic development within Leucadia.
- Property values are forecasted to increase and promote investment in quality projects.
- Considerable TOT (tourist occupancy tax) increase is anticipated, as a return on investment.
- Welcomes high-quality projects that add to community character and economic vitality.

*Downtown Encinitas experienced a 300% increase in sales tax revenue following their downtown streetscape improvements: furthermore, validating the potential success of these plans.*

#### **16. How will the Leucadia Streetscape project impact the environment in Encinitas?**

- Restores the historical tree canopy along North Coast Highway 101 with nearly 1,000 new trees from A Street to La Costa Avenue, creating a negative carbon offset with the “linear park” design
- Reduces carbon emissions as a result of traffic-calming measures and increased mobility for residents and visitors to the area, whether in a car, on a bike or on foot
- Accomplishes many of the City’s ambitious Climate Action Plan goals with a single project
- Helps address Leucadia’s long-standing drainage issues, while providing treatment for stormwater runoff
- Adds drought tolerant landscaping

#### **17. Will emergency response times increase due to the Leucadia Streetscape?**

The Encinitas Fire Department has required that emergency response times be properly addressed in the project's Environmental Impact Report and is confident that the road's proposed width offers ample clearance for emergency vehicles.

The new dedicated bike lane and park assist lane provide additional clearance for cars to pull over for emergency vehicles. Currently on North Coast Highway 101 during high volume traffic, emergency vehicles can be restricted by gridlock.

**18. Does the Leucadia Streetscape project restrict beach access?**

The project is anticipated to improve access to the beach by creating safer ways to cross North Coast Highway 101.

**19. Once the project is complete, will there be a new speed limit?**

Speed limits are set by motorists and the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed. The process for updating posted speed limits includes a new engineering and traffic survey taken by the City of Encinitas to understand the new traffic behavior. Traffic behavior may change due to project road improvements. After a new traffic survey is complete, a new speed limit may be suggested to City Council for approval.

**20. How can I stay informed about the project throughout construction?**

- Phone: 760.512.3800
- Website: [www.encinitasca.gov/streetscape](http://www.encinitasca.gov/streetscape)
- Email: [streetscape@encinitasca.gov](mailto:streetscape@encinitasca.gov)
- Signup: To sign up for project alerts, email the project team at the address above