



PCTPA I-80/SR 65

Interchange Project Benefits



Why do we need to improve the I-80/SR 65 interchange?

All modern economies are dependent upon transportation to move people and goods to and from other economies. In Placer County, State Route 65 and Interstate 80 are two major transportation conduits providing goods and people movement as well as local business access. It is estimated that I-80 carries \$4.7 million dollars an hour in goods movement, while the SR 65 corridor is the region's home to a burgeoning commercial and professional business district. Designed more than 30 years ago, the I 80/SR 65 interchange is now a bottleneck impeding the flow of traffic on both corridors. While traffic within the area is congested especially during peak hours, it is going to get a lot worse. Placer County Transportation Planning Agency (PCTPA) is working on modernizing the interchange to improve both travelers' safety and traffic flow for the region and protecting the region's economic future.

Experiencing traffic congestion on a daily basis can dramatically impact the quality of life in Placer County. Sitting in traffic is stressful and means less personal time to enjoy life. Daily traffic congestion creates unpredictable commutes since you are never sure how long your drive to and from work will take you. The resulting reduction in traffic congestion with the I-80/SR 65 interchange project will improve the reliability of driver commutes.

Without improvements to the I-80/SR 65 interchange, the average evening commute from I-80 at Riverside Avenue/Auburn Boulevard to SR 65 at Blue Oaks Boulevard is expected to more than triple within eight years, from 9 minutes to 35 minutes. Upon project completion, the same evening commute will take about 7 minutes.

Today, congestion on eastbound I-80 during the evening commute backs up from SR 65 more than 1 mile to Eureka Road and in six years this backup is anticipated to extend 3 miles to past Douglas Boulevard. The proposed modern interchange design will eliminate congestion on I-80. In addition, with the improved traffic flow in the project area, the number of congestion-related accidents will decrease, which is expected to result in overall improved safety.

Even with existing and additional growth in traffic, by 2040 the I-80/SR 65 Interchange project will save travelers in south Placer County three minutes during the morning and evening peak periods compared to today. The benefit of these improvements for the local economy is estimated at \$77 million annually in time savings.

The I-80/SR 65 Interchange Improvements project benefits include:

- ✓ reduce traffic congestion
- ✓ reduce traffic related accidents thereby improving overall safety
- ✓ improve local traffic flow and regional commutes
- ✓ relieve existing traffic chokepoint at SR 65 and I-80
- ✓ minimize traffic backups
- ✓ improve capacity