



## New Locomotives

NCTD has purchased five new Siemens Charger locomotives to replace the current locomotives that NCTD purchased when COASTER service began in 1995. The new locomotives provide improved efficiency and reliability, as well as lower emissions which support improved air quality. In addition, at the April 2019 Board meeting, the NCTD Board of Directors authorized the purchase of two additional Charger locomotives pending receipt of funding. SANDAG and NCTD staff, within the context of the 2050 Regional Plan, have developed a phased implementation of increased frequencies. NCTD staff has completed an analysis that indicates that COASTER service frequencies can be increased to 30-minute headways during the peak and 60-minute headways during the non-peak period with the procurement of two new trainsets. The first of the new locomotives is scheduled to arrive as early as August of 2020. ■



## Improving Speed Along the Corridor

When signal locations were originally configured along the tracks, trains heading north through the Encinitas COASTER Station were required to reduce speeds to 30 MPH per regulation due to the fact that the next signal was not visible by sight—being 1.6 miles away. This caused travel time delays for all trains passing through that portion of the track. To resolve this issue, NCTD’s Rail Division, with the assistance of a grant from TIRCP funding, recently led a project to add a new signal just to the north of the Encinitas Station. The addition of this signal will now allow trains to pass through the station at track speed and/or accelerate to track speed after stopping at the station. With this new signal, train travel times between Encinitas Station and Poinsettia Station will be reduced by a full minute. ■



## Positive Train Control

For the last eight years Positive Train Control (PTC) has been a major project for NCTD. In December 2018, NCTD became one of only four railroads in the nation to meet the federal requirements of full PTC implementation for COASTER trains and its tenant railroads: **Amtrak**, **Metrolink**, **BNSF**, and **Pacific Sun**. Now that PTC is fully implemented, NCTD’s focus on PTC is now directed towards system maintenance and reliability. Just like other pieces of infrastructure, PTC requires ongoing maintenance and updates to ensure proper system functionality and interoperability with tenant railroads. This ongoing upkeep will support safety for customers and railroad employees for years to come. ■

### UPDATE

## On-Time Performance

**On-Time Performance (OTP)**  
(FY2019 Q1-3 July 2018-March 2019)

Mode	Ridership	OTP/OTP Goal
COASTER	1,038,622	90%/95%

\* COASTER is considered on-time up to 5 minutes behind schedule.





## San Diego County Fair (May 31-July 4)

For only \$1 more than a regular adult admission ticket to the Fair, customers can purchase a \$21 Fair Tripper combo ticket. This ticket includes round-trip COASTER, SPRINTER, BREEZE, and FLEX fare, plus a one-day admission to the Fair for one adult. For children ages 6-12, and seniors ages 60+, a \$13 Youth/Senior Fair Tripper is available with the same benefits! Children 5 and under always ride free on NCTD services.

Fair Tripper combo tickets can be purchased from NCTD ticket vending machines (located at COASTER and SPRINTER stations) under the Current Promotions option. Riders can also buy Fair Tripper tickets in advance or on the day of travel via the NCTD mobile ticketing app, Compass Cloud. Current NCTD pass holders can get a \$4 discount on same-day adult, senior, or child Fair admission by showing their valid transit pass/ticket at the West Gate box office.

## Independence Day Schedule (July 4)

COASTER and all NCTD services will offer a Saturday service schedule on July 4.

## Pony Express Ticket (July 17-September 2)

To help guests relax on their trip and save money, NCTD continues to offer the "Pony Express" ticket this year—a \$12 ticket that covers your round-trip fare on the COASTER, SPRINTER, and/or BREEZE, and Stretch-Run admission to the Del Mar Races for one day. The Pony Express ticket can be purchased at NCTD ticket vending machines, or online on the mobile app Compass Cloud. This ticket is not valid on Opening Day.

## 2019 Comic-Con International: San Diego (July 17-21)

Comic-Con goers and other visitors to downtown San Diego can take the COASTER there! Passengers can purchase a RegionPlus Day Pass for \$12 at ticket vending machines located at COASTER and SPRINTER stations, or via NCTD's mobile app Compass Cloud. These passes cover all-day usage of the COASTER, SPRINTER, BREEZE, as well as MTS Trolley and buses. In addition, a special non-regularly scheduled train early morning on Saturday, July 20, and Sunday, July 21 will be available.

## Amtrak Rail2Rail Blackout Dates (July 17-21)

NCTD COASTER passengers should be aware of the Amtrak Rail2Rail blackout dates for the opening week of the Del Mar Races, and during Comic-Con. During July 17-21, COASTER fare will not be accepted on Amtrak trains. ■

## Updates on NCTD and SANDAG Projects



**San Diego Grade Crossings:** A critical state of good repair project is underway in downtown San Diego to replace the crossing road panels and track at six railroad crossings. The six crossings were identified as needing repair based on a 25-year useful life cycle. These crossings all have outdated rubber plates that will be replaced with concrete plates for better durability and a smoother ride for our passengers. The crossings at Taylor, Palm, and Sassafraz Streets are now complete. The remaining crossings at Noell, Beach, and Hawthorne Streets are scheduled for completion in October 2019. When complete, the new crossings will provide improved ride quality for vehicles at the crossings and trains on the tracks.

**San Elijo Lagoon Double Track:** This project added 1.3 miles of double track and replaced a 77-year old wooden trestle bridge that was at the end of its useful life. The project was completed

and opened for service in January 2019.

**Mid-Coast Corridor:** This project will expand transportation capacity in the corridor to accommodate existing and future travel demand as NCTD increases service frequency. In addition to extending the MTS Trolley line, the project provides NCTD with double track for over 14 miles between Control Point Miramar (near the 805 overpass in Sorrento Valley) and Santa Fe Depot (downtown San Diego). To date, approximately ten miles of double track have been completed, with full completion scheduled for late 2021.

**Poinsettia Station:** This project, slated for completion in 2020, creates a pedestrian underpass, which will eliminate at-grade pedestrian crossings at each end of the station, and installs an intertrack fence. This will add efficiency by enabling trains to pass by on the second track while a train is at the station boarding or de-boarding passengers. ■

