

Proposed Fairway-60 Freeway Railroad Project in Design Phase

The Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority has engineers at work on preliminary designs for a proposed grade separation project at Fairway Drive and the 60 freeway.

- By Melanie C. Johnson / Walnut Patch
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Fairway crossing near 60 freewayCredit Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority

CITY OF INDUSTRY - Engineers for the Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority are at work on preliminary designs for the Fairway Drive Grade Separation Project.

The initial design plans are expected to be completed in early 2012 for the project slated for Fairway near the 60 freeway, according to officials. Estimated cost of the project, currently in the engineering stages, is \$81 million.

The project calls for Fairway to be lowered under the existing Union Pacific Railroad and Metrolink tracks in the City of Industry and in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County, according to the Authority.

Once the project moves to the construction phase, crews will build a four-lane roadway underpass, retaining walls, and a new railroad bridge with two existing tracks and a possible additional track for freight trains in the future. Business Parkway and Walnut Drive North will be lowered where they meet Fairway Drive.

Officials with the Alameda Corridor-East estimate that the project will reduce traffic congestion by around 27.6 vehicle hours of delay each day due to the lowered gates at the crossing. A total of 41 trains per day go through the crossing per day, according to the agency's data.

Around 24,800 vehicles each day travel Fairway Drive, and that number is expected to increase to 34,500 by 2035.

“The project will eliminate delays for emergency responders and the potential for crossing collisions, with one crossing collision recorded over the last 10 years,” Authority officials stated in a newsletter. “The project will also reduce emissions and eliminate locomotive horn and crossing bell noise at the crossing.”

The Fairway project at the 60 freeway is separate from another proposed \$67.9 million plan to build an overpass at Fairway and Valley Boulevard. In August, the Walnut City Council voted to support a feasibility study the Authority plans to do on the proposal for Fairway and Valley.

The council discussed potential noise and aesthetic issues related to the project. Paul Hubler, an Alameda Corridor-East spokesman, said that the agency would likely draft an Environmental Impact Report to address those sorts of issues.

"The ACE Construction Authority is willing to work with the city to determine the potential noise and aesthetic impacts," he said.