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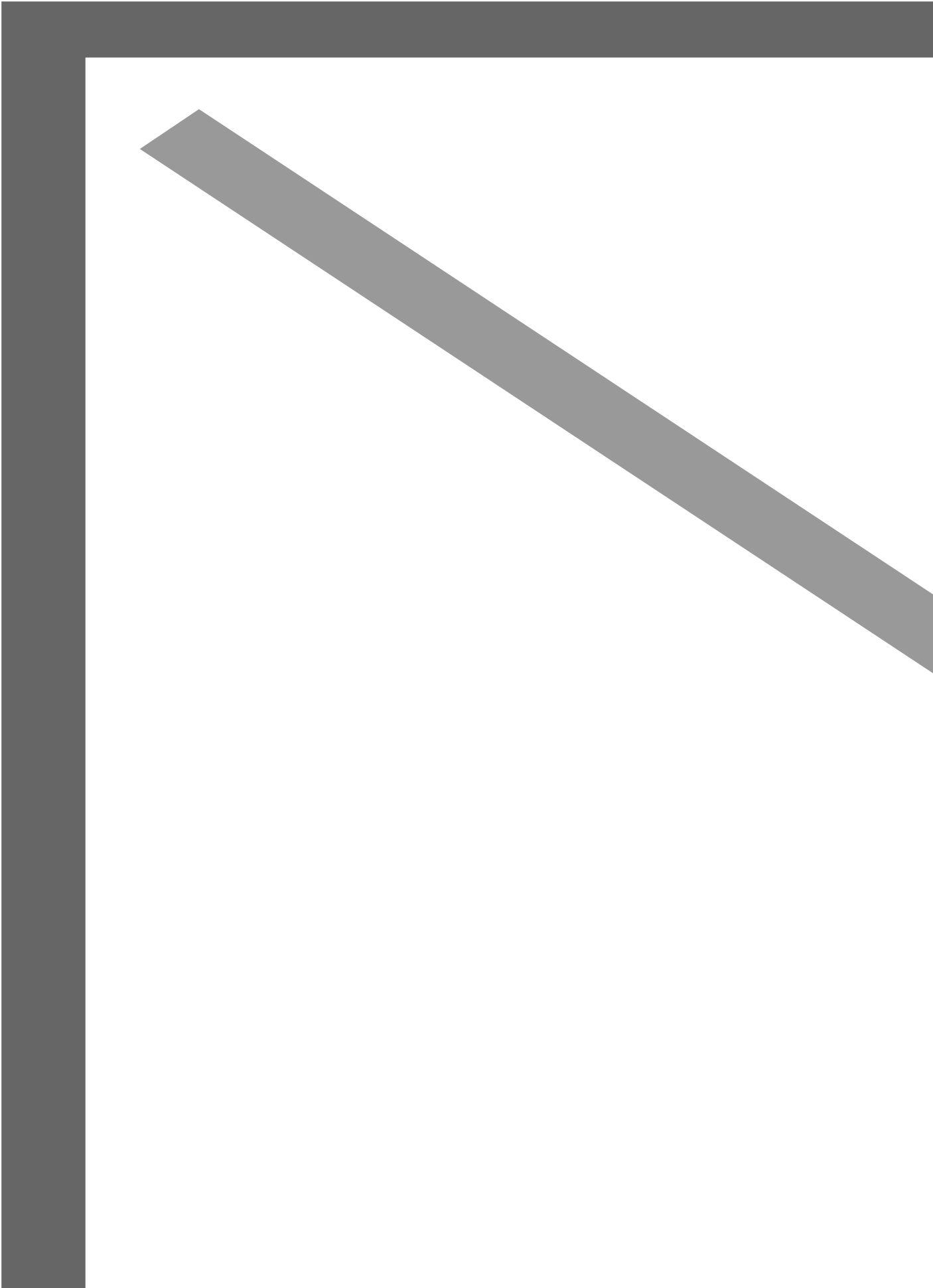
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Wednesday, January 30, 2019



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## *New Transit Service and Transit Center near Otay Mesa Port of Entry Enhances Cross-Border Connectivity*

SANDAG, the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS), and Caltrans District 11, together with the cities of Chula Vista and San Diego celebrated the launch of the new South Bay *Rapid* service between South San Diego County and Downtown San Diego and the opening of the Otay Mesa Transit Center today"

"The opening of the Otay Mesa Transit Center and full launch of the South Bay *Rapid* are part of broader efforts to enhance regional mobility and foster growth in binational trade," said Poway Mayor Steve Vaus, SANDAG Board of Directors Chair. "Together with our agency partners, we are working to build upon these efforts through new active transportation improvements like the Border to Bayshore Bikeway and the State Route 11/Otay Mesa East Port of Entry project, which will create a fast, efficient, new state-of-the-art port of entry and secure border crossings for all who travel on both sides of the border."

Full service began yesterday on the new South Bay *Rapid* route (Route 225). There are 12 stops along the 26-mile route, which operates between the Otay Mesa Transit Center in south San Diego and Downtown San Diego via eastern Chula Vista. South Bay *Rapid* operates seven days a week from 4:30 a.m. until 11 p.m.

"The start of South Bay *Rapid* service brings a new and reliable transportation option, connecting South San Diego County communities with major employment and entertainment centers throughout the region," said San Diego City Council President Georgette Gómez, chair of the MTS Board of Directors. "The Otay Mesa Transit Center further enhances these transit connections and provides a critical transit link for our binational mega-region."

The opening of the Otay Mesa Transit Center and launch of South Bay *Rapid* service builds upon recent border transportation improvements, such as the expansion of the San Ysidro Port of Entry and Cross Border Xpress.

"This new transit center will serve as a gateway between the United States and Mexico," said SANDAG Borders Committee Chair and Imperial Beach Mayor Serge Dedina. "Our community

welcomes the addition of the South Bay *Rapid* route to the regional *Rapid* transit network, which will link South County residents to the greater San Diego region.”

All of these improvements along the United States/Mexico border help support the binational region’s interconnected economy, as well as San Diego County’s environmental and climate action efforts.

In addition to Mayors Vaus and Dedina and Council President Gómez, Mayor Kevin Faulconer and Councilmember Vivian Moreno from the City of San Diego, Mayor Mary Casillas Salas from the City of Chula Vista, Director Cory Binns from Caltrans District 11, Ambassador Marcela Celorio from the Consul General of Mexico, and Alejandra Mier y Teran, executive director of the Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce, also were on hand to commemorate the milestone and greet morning commuters.

South Bay *Rapid* operates daily. For more information on schedules and fares, please visit [rapidmts.com](http://rapidmts.com).

## **DOWNLOAD PHOTOS AND VIDEO FROM EVENT**

### **About SANDAG:**

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) is the San Diego region’s primary public planning, transportation, and research agency, providing the public forum for regional policy decisions about growth, transportation planning and construction, environmental management, housing, open space, energy, public safety, and binational topics. SANDAG is governed by a Board of Directors composed of mayors, council members, and supervisors from each of the region’s 18 cities and the county government.

### **About MTS:**

MTS operates 95 bus routes and three Trolley lines on 53 miles of double-tracked railway. Every weekday 300,000 passenger trips are taken on MTS bus and Trolley services in 10 cities and the county. In fiscal year 2017, MTS served more than 88 million riders. For more information on how you can use public transportation and save money, go to [www.sdmts.com](http://www.sdmts.com)

## **About Caltrans:**

Caltrans District 11 serves one of the most geographically and culturally diverse areas in the country and includes San Diego and Imperial counties. It spans the entire California-Mexico Border from the Pacific coast to Arizona and reaches north from the international border to Orange and Riverside counties.

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