The Otay Mesa Port of Entry is the largest commercial crossing on the California-Mexico Border.
The Need: Every day more than 3,000 commercial vehicles cross at the Otay Mesa Commercial Port of Entry from Mexico. About the same number of trucks cross the border southbound.

Loaded trucks heading into Mexico are processed at the U.S. Customs Export Facility and represent around half of the southbound trucks. The other half are empty trucks.

Since October 2002, all commercial trucks entering Mexico, including empty trucks, are required to use the designated commercial vehicle route previously used only by loaded trucks.

This new policy has doubled the number of trucks using the commercial vehicle route. Long truck queues disrupt traffic circulation in the Otay Mesa area.

Project Costs: Caltrans and the City of San Diego have estimated the cost of the improvements to the southbound commercial vehicle route at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry at $16.6 million.

Project Status: The project approval and environmental document is anticipated to be completed in FY 2002/2003.

Complete design is scheduled for FY 2003/2004.

Construction is scheduled to begin FY 2003/2004.

Funding Status: A total of $1.7 million has been committed to this project by the City of San Diego ($1.1 million) and Caltrans ($600,000). An additional $15.2 million is needed to complete the improvements.

Summary: As the binational region continues to grow, forecasts suggest that both passenger and commercial vehicle crossings will more than double for all POEs along the California and Baja California border by 2020. The need for new or improved transportation facilities becomes ever more important. Addressing truck access to the busiest commercial border crossing along the California-Mexico border is vital to the San Diego region and California’s economic competitiveness.