

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



FROM: Supervisor Jeff Stone

SUBMITTAL DATE: November 29, 2005

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 2005-492
In Support Of Expediting Traffic Improvements to Interstate 215

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board of Supervisors join me in approving the attached Resolution, and direct the Transportation Department to work with Caltrans, the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), and our other regional partners in expediting needed improvements to I-215.

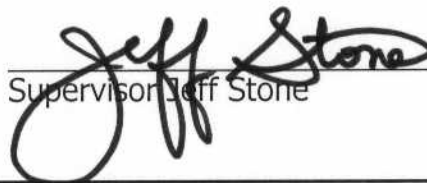
BACKGROUND:

I-215 is one of our key backbone transportation facilities in Riverside County, and it also carries regional through traffic from the San Diego and San Bernardino County regions.

The section of I-215 between the City of Temecula and the City of Perris currently carries over 85,000 vehicles per day and experiences growing congestion. This congestion is particularly severe in the areas between the interchange with I-15 north to approximately "D" Street in Perris, since the freeway is only four through lanes (two in each direction) through this bottleneck. This portion of I-215 was identified as the north/south intra-county CETAP corridor by RCTC.

Funding for widening on I-215 is identified in the Measure A Extension, approved by the voters in 2002. Caltrans, working cooperatively with RCTC, has started the necessary studies for the expansion of the freeway. The Project Study Report is expected to be completed in mid 2006 and then the Environmental and Design Phases would need to be done, which may take a few years to complete due to the scale of the project and the major coordination efforts that also involve the Federal Highway Administration and other agencies.

Given the immediate need for congestion relief on I-215, I would like to focus our efforts on seeing what can be done to relieve the bottleneck now. I would like the Transportation Department to work with Caltrans and RCTC to explore all options that may provide more immediate relief, such as striping a third through lane where possible, the use of the shoulder as an additional through lane during peak periods, and other potential ideas that may provide tangible traffic benefits.



Supervisor Jeff Stone

SUBMITTAL NO. 54 #1
JULY 2005

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-492

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
IN SUPPORT OF EXPEDITING
TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS TO INTERSTATE-215

WHEREAS, Interstate 215 is a key Regional Transportation Facility in Riverside County, that also serves the San Diego and San Bernardino areas; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to widen the entire stretch of Interstate 215 in Riverside County, which has been recognized by the public by including this as one of the facilities funded by the extension of Measure A, approved in 2002; and

WHEREAS, the Interstate 215 corridor carries over 85,000 vehicles per day in the section between the City of Temecula and the City of Perris; which experiences substantial congestion due to the "bottleneck" caused by having only four through lanes in total; and

WHEREAS, Caltrans, in coordination with the Riverside County Transportation Commission, has initiated the necessary Project Study Report for the widening of Interstate 215 between Interstate 15 and "D" Street in Perris; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for immediate relief, today, in advance of the timeframe necessary to deliver the Caltrans project;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside, State of California, in regular session assembled on November 29, 2005 that:

1. The Board of Supervisors designate Interstate 215 as a high priority Freeway Corridor in need of immediate improvement.

2. The County Transportation Department be directed to work with Caltrans, the Riverside County Transportation Commission, and our other Regional Partners to explore any feasible measure to provide immediate congestion relief for the section of Interstate 215 between Temecula and Perris.

3. That these measures include exploring re-striping to achieve additional lanes, use of the shoulder during peak hours, and any other feasible solutions that may be accomplished in the short term.

4. That the County work together with Caltrans, the Riverside County Transportation Commission, and our other regional partners to support the study efforts underway for improvements to Interstate 215.