

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



FROM: Supervisor John Tavaglione

SUBMITTAL DATE: April 1, 2008

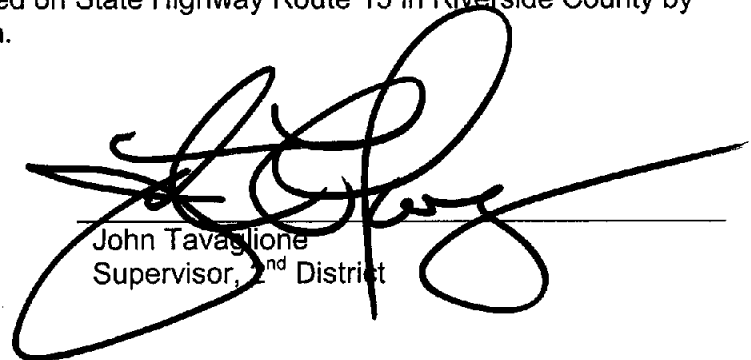
SUBJECT: Assembly Bill 1954 introduced by Assemblyman Kevin Jeffries to allow the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) authority to develop high-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes on Interstate 15 per the requirements of California's existing pilot program.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors support Assembly Bill 1954 and direct the Executive Office to work with the Board's Sacramento based representatives to further the Board's position.

BACKGROUND: AB 1954 makes changes to existing law, which authorizes a regional transportation agency, in cooperation with Caltrans, to apply to the Commission to develop and operate high-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes, including administration and operation of a value pricing program and exclusive or preferential lane facilities for public transit. The Commission reviews these applications and submits an eligible application to the Legislature for approval or rejection. Existing law requires legislative approval to be achieved by enactment of a statute. Existing law prohibits approval of an application on or after January 1, 2012.

This bill would authorize a value pricing and transit development demonstration program involving HOT lanes to be conducted, administered, and operated on State Highway Route 15 in Riverside County by the Riverside County Transportation Commission.

(continued)



John Tavaglione
Supervisor, 2nd District

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The specifics of RCTC's application are as follows:

- RCTC's application for HOT lanes on I-15 is the first in the state under the pilot program.
- RCTC's proposed project creates two new HOT lanes in the median of I-15 in Riverside County from the San Bernardino County line to SR-74 in Lake Elsinore.
 - However, RCTC seeks HOT lane authority all the way to the San Diego County line to eventually connect to SANDAG's I-15 managed lanes to create an interregional network.
 - I-15 HOT lanes will connect directly into the SR-91 corridor and the new extension of the SR-91 Express Lanes that RCTC is simultaneously pursuing.
- Current sales tax revenues for Riverside County's Measure A will only allow for the construction of one lane in each direction on I-15 by 2039; HOT lanes allow two additional lanes in each direction to be constructed more than a decade earlier, going above and beyond RCTC's commitment to the voters without raising taxes.
- I-15 HOT lanes provide new highway capacity, rather than converting existing lanes into toll lanes.
- Toll revenues will be used to finance the debt incurred by RCTC to design, build, and maintain the HOT lanes. Excess revenues will be used to make additional improvements to the freeway.
- I-15 HOT lanes will be owned and operated by a public entity: the RCTC.

AB 1954 will enable RCTC and Riverside County to move forward on this critical infrastructure improvement. Therefore, I request that my fellow board members join me in supporting AB 1954.