

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



FROM: Supervisor Bob Buster and Supervisor Ashley

SUBMITTAL DATE: March 24, 2009

SUBJECT: Resolution of Support – Federal Prioritization of the I-15/I-215 Corridor

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors adopt the attached Resolution of Support for National Prioritization of the I-15/I-215 Corridor

BACKGROUND: The I-15 and I-215 corridors serve as the primary routes linking over 6 million residents in San Bernardino, Riverside, and San Diego Counties. These corridors also serve as the transportation backbone for goods movement to other Western states, representing over \$500 million in trade, and serve as a Homeland Security Corridor linking military installations. San Bernardino and Riverside Counties share a uniquely multi-modal I-15/I-215 transportation corridor that encompasses freeways, surface roads, expanding light rail, and bus service. The County of Riverside is working cooperatively with San Bernardino County, SanBAG, RCTC, and the Cities along the corridor to demonstrate the need for improvement to address impacts that cross County lines. Both Counties are adversely impacted by the choke points that exist along the I-15/215 corridor and seek to work together to improve and develop this vital connection.

Some of the most needed improvements include the I-15/I-215 interchange in Temecula and Murrieta, and the project to widen I-215 between the Cities of Riverside and San Bernardino. The residents of Riverside County have acknowledged the importance of this Corridor and other regional facilities through their support of the Measure "A" ½ cent sales tax to partially fund needed freeway improvements. However, there is a great need to receive substantial Federal and State dollars for these facilities of national significance to supplement the funding contribution of our residents, and coordinating our efforts with San Bernardino County to prioritize these at the Federal and State levels will assist in this endeavor.

We urge your support of this resolution.

BOB BUSTER
1st District Supervisor

MARION ASHLEY
5TH District Supervisor

CLERK'S OFFICE 03/25/09

Prev.Agn.ref

Dist.

AGENDA NO.

3.29

RESOLUTION NO. 2009- 138

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE SUPPORTING
FEDERAL PRIORITIZATION OF THE I-15/215 CORRIDOR**

WHEREAS Interstate 15/Interstate 215 (I-15/215) Corridor is the economic lifeline for much of the Western United States including California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Idaho and Montanas serving at the backbone for goods movement totaling more than \$500 million in trade on annual basis throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS I-15/215 also served as a major tourist corridor for nearly 11 million annual visitors to international attractions, recreational areas, national parks, preserves and historical communities and serving as a Homeland Security Corridor with access to major active military installations; and

WHEREAS more than a quarter million commuters ranging from the Victor Valley to the Temecula Valley rely on I-15 to access jobs and business opportunities in burgeoning employment centers in the Inland Empire, Los Angeles County, Orange County and San Diego Counties and is identified by the Federal Department of Transportation as a "Corridor of the Future;" and

WHEREAS I-215 works in concert with Interstate 15 as an additional national trade connection to the Inland Empire job centers of the San Bernardino Valley, Northwest Riverside County and the Temecula Valley with major connections for hundreds of thousands of jobs being created by the conversion of closed military bases that Interstate 215 was initially intended to support; and

WHEREAS many of the jobs created by the redevelopment of military installations along the I-215 corridor will rely on the continued expansion of capacity for goods movement along the corridor; and

WHEREAS I-215 has relied on local funding sources for major improvements through Downtown San Bernardino and at the 60/91/215 interchange in Riverside with the stretch of the I-215 between State Route 60 and Interstate 10 (I-10) is the most congested portion of the freeway during commute hours and the connections between I-15 and I-215 require significant investments to address transportation capacity needs; and

1 WHEREAS examples of this can be seen at the I-15/I-215 interchange in Devore which has been
2 overwhelmed by truck traffic and at the I-15/I-215 interchange in Temecula and Murrieta where there is a
3 need for a new French Valley Parkway Interchange; and

4 WHEREAS San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) and the Riverside County
5 Transportation Commission (RCTC) have recently approved plans to add a high occupancy vehicle lane
6 on I-215 between the 60/91/215 Interchange and I-10 known as the Bi-County I-215 Gap Closure Project;
7 and

8 WHEREAS this Gap Closure project is only a portion of the overall improvements that are needed
9 between State Route 60 and I-10; and

10 WHEREAS the economies of both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties are dependent on the
11 construction of new interchanges in Devore and Murrieta

12 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that on this 24th day of March, 2009,
13 that sustained federal, state and local investment on the entire Interstate 215 corridor between Murrieta
14 and San Bernardino is recognized by Riverside County as vital to the region's economic health and
15 future;

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a special emphasis be given on improvements at the I-15/I-
17 215 interchange in Devore, the bi-county needs of the I-215 corridor between State Route 60 and I-10
18 and the confluence of the I-15/I-215 in Murrieta due to importance of these projects on Homeland
19 Security, public safety, future employment and their importance to the business climate in the Inland
20 Empire and the Western United States and that the expansion of the entire I-215 corridor in San
21 Bernardino and Riverside Counties in concert with investments on Interstate 15 should be recognized as
22 National Corridor of Significance.
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