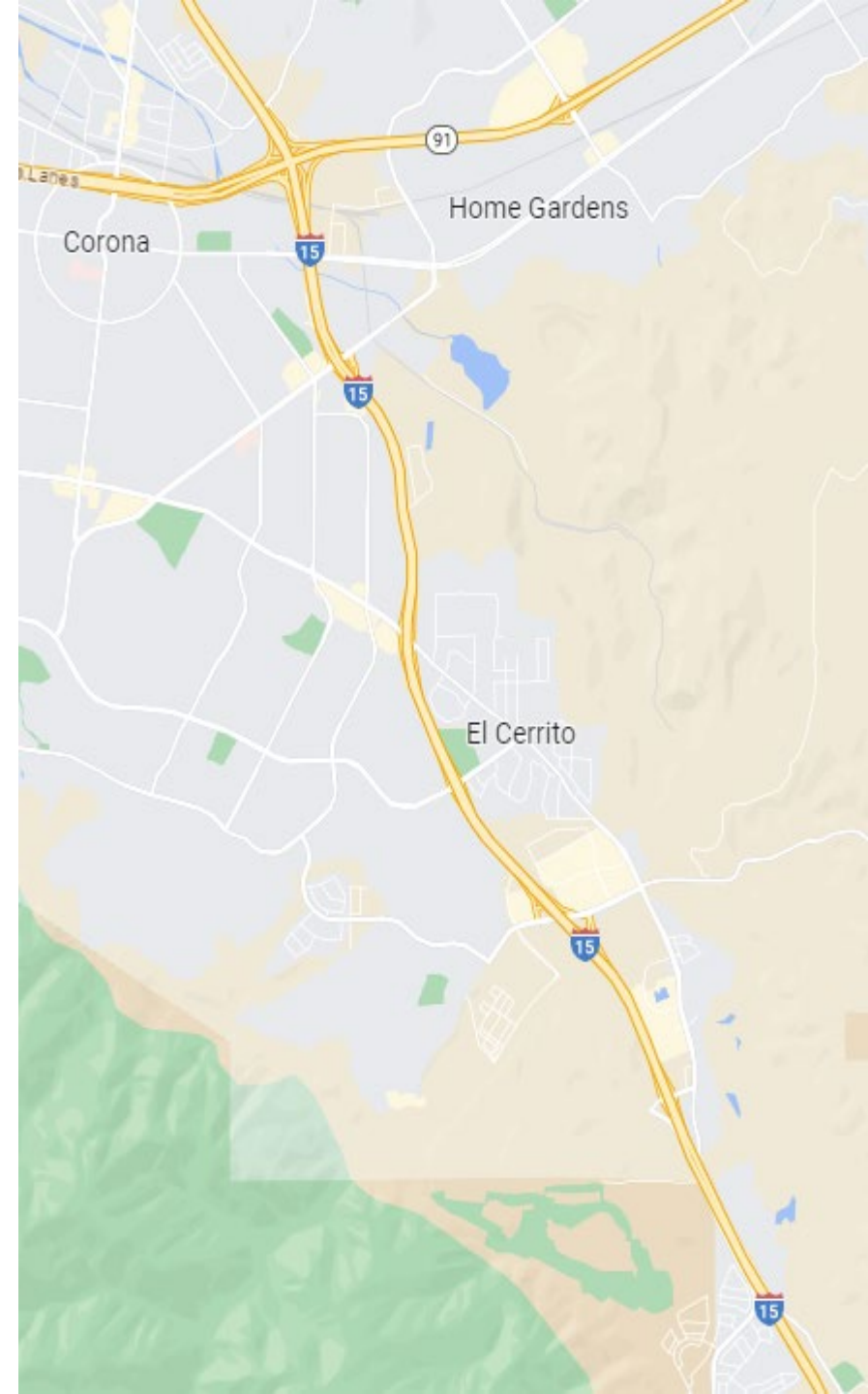


Council Member Speake Request – Development of an I-15 Corridor Lobbying Group

Savat Khamphou
Public Works Director
August 21, 2024

The Ask...

That the City Council provide feedback on the proposed format of an I-15 corridor lobbying group or direct staff to no longer pursue this request.



Background

- Future agenda item request from Council Member Wes Speake to:
 - Form a lobbying group of cities to support improvements to the I-15
 - Get Caltrans to formally recognize the effort and initiate a project
 - Go after regional, State, and federal funding
 - Complete the projects

Background

- At its Fall Policy Workshop on October 12, 2023
 - Council gave direction to begin working on a lobbying group
 - Bring back to Council what it would look like

I-15 Lobbying Group Proposal

- City staff to schedule a meeting with elected representatives of communities along the I-15 corridor in Riverside County to be chaired by City of Corona Council Member
- Discuss projects and funding needs for projects on the I-15 corridor
- Write a joint letter to State and Federal elected representatives to lobby for future projects and funding opportunities for the I-15 corridor



Riverside County Transportation Commission (I-15 projects in Corona)

- Interim Corridor Operations Project, use of shoulder lane for auxiliary lane, total project cost of \$5 million, construction completed in 2022
- I-15/SR 91 Express Lane Connector \$270 million – Opened late 2023
- Corridor Operations Project – between Cajalco to Weirick
total project cost of \$21 million, construction complete in 2027
- I-15 Express Lane Southern Extension – between Cajalco to SR-74,
total project cost of \$650 million, construction to begin in 2026
- Feasibility study of smart freeway pilot project
- Included a I-15 rail project in RCTC's Traffic Relief Plan



Caltrans projects on I-15 in Corona

- Re-stripe southbound I-15 at Cajalco to eliminate lane drop (EA 1N690)
Cost estimate of \$1.1 million with construction to begin fall 2024
- Southbound deceleration lane from Old Temescal to Ontario (EA 1N610)
Cost estimate of \$7.6 million, with construction to begin fall 2026
- Northbound auxiliary lane from Magnolia to SR-91 (EA 1P790)
Cost estimate of \$10.2 million with construction to begin spring 2027
- Staff continue to partner with Caltrans to advocate for projects



Federal, State, and Regional grants

- Eighty (\$80) million in new competitive grants since January 2021
 - Federal: demonstration and discretionary from FHWA, FAA, and FHA
 - State grants: beautification, maintenance, and safety from Caltrans, OTS, HBP
 - Regional: roadways, storm drain, and ped safety from RCTC, RCFC, WRCOG
 - \$28 million since October 2023*
- 2 years of supplemental staff through the I-REN program
- Not inclusive of formulaic grants (ARPA, Measure A, SB1-RMRA)
- Staff continue to go after future grants (SMART, ATP, BIP, RCE, RAISE)
- Partner with RCTC and WRCOG fund regional projects in Corona

Projects	Federal	State	RCTC	WRCOG	RCFC & WCD
McKinley Grade Separation			\$19.89 (\$10 in new funding)*	\$11.22*	
Ontario Widening at I-15	\$8.00		\$7.94	\$6.16	
Green Alleys		\$5.00			
Magnolia Bridge Widening	\$4.00				
WRCWRA Reclaimed Waterline					\$3.93
Magnolia Drain Line 9A					\$3.71*
Radio Rd RR-Xing Safety Improvements	\$3.34				
Ontario Widening at Lincoln Avenue				\$2.30	
Joy Street Storm Drain					\$1.43*
Victoria Avenue Storm Drain					\$1.43*
Chase and Smith Sidewalks			\$0.43		
Bicycle Master Plan Update			\$0.40		
Bridge Preventive Maintenance Plan		\$0.14			
Local Road Safety Plan		\$0.13			
Sub-Total (in millions)	\$15.34	\$5.27	\$28.66	\$19.68	\$10.50
GRAND TOTAL (in millions)	\$79.45				

Options

City Council Options

Option #1

Direct City staff to form an I-15 lobbying group with the following agencies: *Temecula, Lake Elsinore, Murrieta, Wildomar, Riverside County, Norco, Eastvale, Jurupa Valley*

PROS

- City of Corona can lead the discussion
- May influence Caltrans and RCTC to take initiatives on I-15 improvements

CONS

- Significant amount of staff time and effort to form the lobbying group
- May be difficult to get commitment or consensus from other agencies
- Other agencies may not have the resources (staff, funds, etc.) to participate
- Funding could go to other cities or areas instead of Corona

Option #2 (recommended)

Continue to advocate for Corona via state and federal lobbyists, annual meetings with federal/state representatives, and partnerships with Caltrans, RCTC WRCOG

PROS

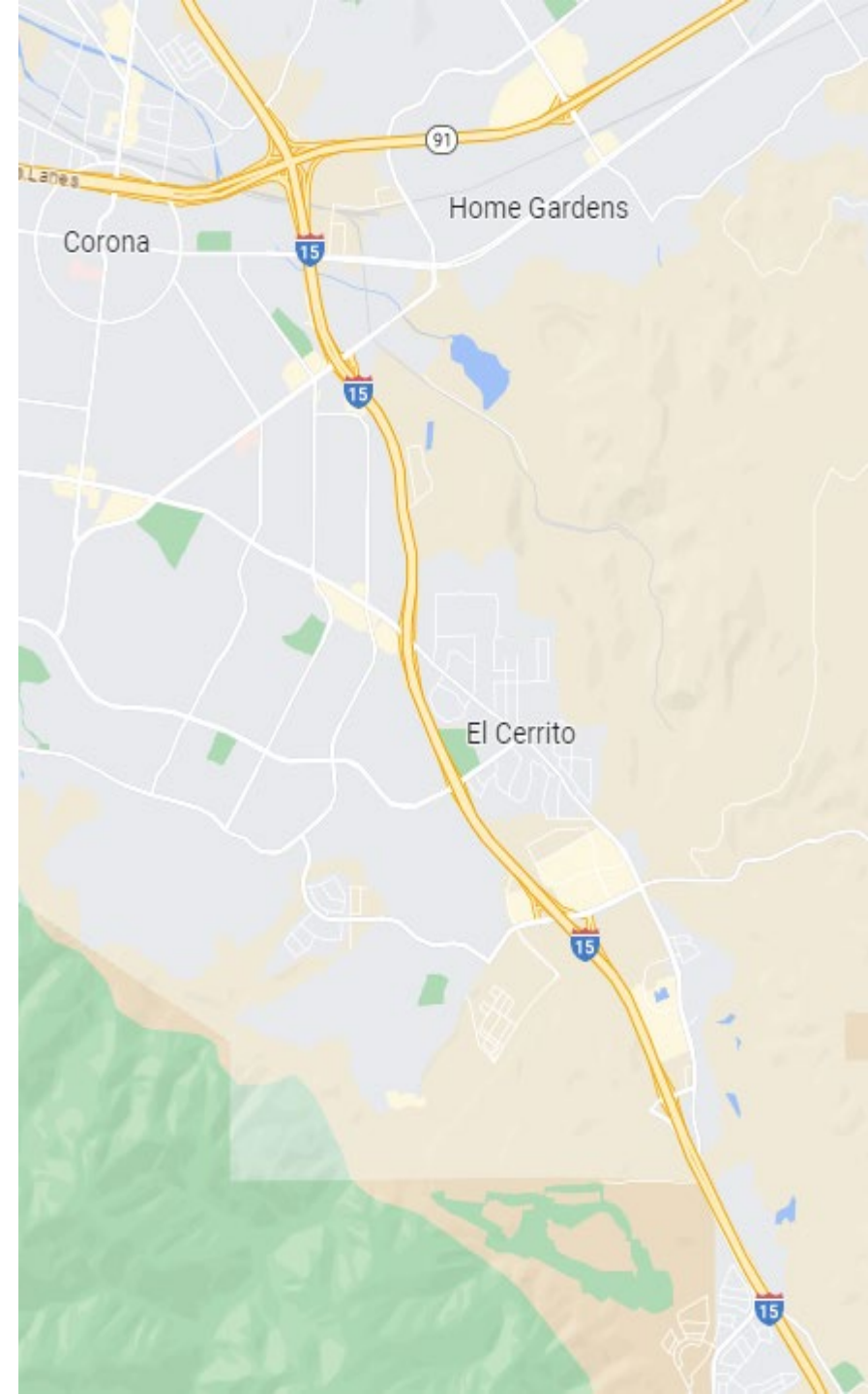
- Continued partnership and advocacy with Caltrans, RCTC & WRCOG for funding opportunities
- RCTC accelerated construction of the I-15 SB auxiliary lane from Cajalco to Weirick
- Caltrans initiated 3 projects on I-15: removal of lane drop, a deceleration lane, and auxiliary lane

CONS

- There is less strength in numbers for legislative or grant requests

The Ask...

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Thank you.

