

## DRAFT SAMPLE LETTER OF SUPPORT

### **RE: SR-52 Highway Improvements**

To Whom it may Concern,

On behalf of the City of Santee and the Highway 52 Coalition, I respectfully ask for your support of the Phase I improvements to the Highway 52 Project. We are seeking \$26 million in federal funds for Phase I improvements out of a total estimated project cost of \$43 million.

These improvements represent the first step in breathing new life into one of the most important regional corridors in San Diego County, by increasing passenger and goods movement mobility through roadway capacity, and enhancing transportation access to military bases, job centers, healthcare and academic institutions. Improvements will expedite international and interstate goods movement between California, Baja California and Arizona. The project, in addition, will boost capacity of emergency evacuation routes in case of natural disasters such as wildland fires floods and earthquakes. The project will promote multi-modal and shared transportation opportunities centered on the safe and effective integration of emerging transportation technologies. Finally, environmental quality will be enhanced with an efficient reduction to idling vehicles and expanded mass transit and goods movement routes.

When SR-52 was first completed from La Jolla Parkway at Interstate 5 in La Jolla, San Diego to SR-67 in Santee, it established a critical east-west transportation corridor that has shaped the region's economy, housing and employment sectors and people's quality of life. Today, this regional transportation link to the I-5, I-805, SR-163, I-15, SR-125 and SR-67 is a victim of its own success. Drivers from Ramona, Poway, Alpine, Lakeside, El Cajon, San Diego, Chula Vista and National City use SR-52, joining tens of thousands of additional commuters, tying the whole corridor in a Gordian Knot. According to the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), nearly three-quarters of the estimated 196,000 employed East County residents commute outside the area to work.

The first phase of the project includes the construction of an additional Westbound Lane from Mast Boulevard in Santee to the I-15 freeway; the buildout of one additional Westbound Onramp Lane from Mast Boulevard; widening of two bridges; the addition of one Auxiliary Eastbound Lane from I-15 to Santo Road; the relocation of the Bicycle Path from the northside to the southside of 52; and the construction of one Auxiliary Eastbound Lane from Mast Boulevard toward SR-125.

The time to fix the 52 is now – our region simply cannot afford the luxury of standing by for 15 to 30 years as our transportation and economic lifeline shuts down. Your support in this endeavor is critical to our success.

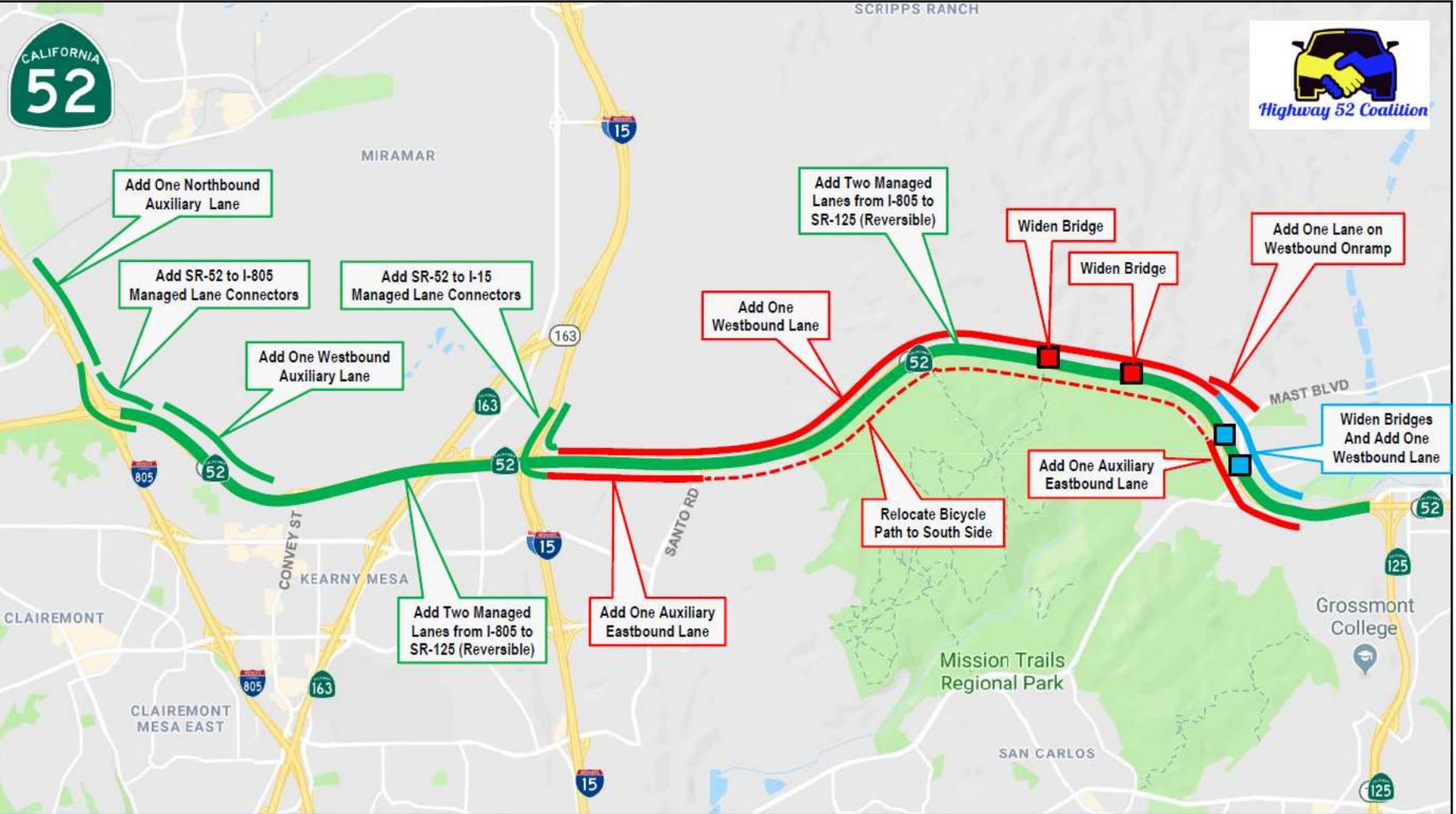
Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Attachment: SR 52 Improvements Project Map

# STATE ROUTE 52 IMPROVEMENTS PHASING

SCRIPPS RANCH



- Phase 1 Improvements
- Phase 2 Improvements
- Phase 3 Improvements