



Highway 52 Coalition

Talking Points

Italicized inserts are for the SANDAG Board Meeting of 9-27-2019. Items in yellow may be best served for this meeting.

- Highway 52 is a critical transportation corridor for the entire region, not just for the City of Santee or the east county. *The Highway 52 Coalition supports the amendment proposed for item 15 on your agenda this morning.*
- Economic opportunities and quality of life benefits are being stifled without needed improvements along the 52.
- Improvements to the 52 corridor will better connect the region in both rural and urban areas, and will provide better access to educational institutions, healthcare and our military facilities, especially during times of emergency. *Rapid Transit connections can't even move forward now, as there is no way for the Transit bus to get through the existing freeway congestion. We need new construction now while transit plans are made for the future.*
- SANDAG plans for the first phase of improvements to Highway 52 to be completed by 2035, and the remaining improvements complete by 2050 – this is much too late!
- Improvements need to start now, and must be completed long before 2035.
- If we fix the 52, it will enhance the economic vitality of the region and support connections between San Diego communities and surrounding regions.
- We need to expand economic opportunities, bring innovative and high tech jobs, improve access to local airports and enhance cross border transportation and trade routes - - Fixing the 52 will help us do this. Congestion on the 52 impacts local streets on a daily basis, but more importantly would impact public safety during an emergency. Not only emergency evacuation route issues, but access to vehicles during an accident on the highway itself.
- Highway 52 impacts local and regional business daily. Disruptions to goods movement corridors, distribution routes with long delays, difficulties in employees getting to work, including services and staff to military bases are regular concerns.
- Improvements to Highway 52 will provide opportunities to reduce congestion for both passenger and commercial vehicles with emphasis on enhancing transportation for freight access, as well as access to military bases, job centers, healthcare and academic institutions, while also reducing environmental impacts on natural habitats. *This needs to happen now! Accelerated action will not only improve quality of life and economic vitality in the East County, but will also assist with improving clean air and public health for the region.*
- The Highway 52 Coalition will focus on promoting the following priorities for the Project:
 - Provide an important economic link in the San Diego region and beyond to benefit the jobs-housing balance in southern California

- Facilitate a transportation corridor for commuting employees in emerging and established businesses in innovative sectors, such as biomedical, telecommunications and defense industries
- Leverage the maximum amount possible from private sector, local, state and federal funding sources to support this unique and important infrastructure opportunity
- Expedite completion of the project by using opportunities to better coordinate necessary environmental reviews with the appropriate lead agency, and avoid redundancy while maximizing project dollars for construction
- Improve daily access for military personnel and support services, and more importantly, during times of high national alert
- Explore opportunities to incorporate new transportation innovations into the project, in addition to integrating infrastructure improvements for increased bike connectivity and mass transit for the region
- Reduce congestion for both passenger and commercial vehicles to benefit the economy and the local environment
- *Fixing the 52 with minimal construction costs will help us get to the kind of big, bold moves that SANDAG has envisioned for our region. The Capital Improvement Program should take advantage of leveraging funding sources. Over \$5 million has been put into this project by private sources to date. The Highway 52 Coalition is pushing for federal and state funds as well. It is time for SANDAG to assist with Transnet dollars.*
- *Santee and the region have come together to support SANDAG in making improvements to the 52. Now step up and help the efforts of those who have been helping themselves and the region. This is about East County coming together to support the 52, 94/125, the 67 and other areas so we can take advantage of future transit options that don't and can't currently exist without some immediate improvements.*