



**CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT GEORGETTE GÓMEZ  
COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTOPHER WARD**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: January 24, 2019  
TO: Mayor Kevin Faulconer  
FROM: Council President Georgette Gómez and Councilmember Chris Ward  
SUBJECT: Pilot Program for Bus-Only Lane on El Cajon Boulevard

---

Improving our transit routes and increasing ridership is essential to meet our Climate Action Plan goals. In 2009, the San Diego region's first urban Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) began operating along El Cajon Boulevard, connecting Downtown to San Diego State University (SDSU). Originally designed to operate in dedicated bus lanes with signal prioritization, those plans did not move forward, leaving buses to run alongside vehicular traffic with limited signal prioritization.

The corridor is home to *Rapid 215* and Route 1, which together carry 10,000 people per day. Bus-only lanes are a key component of a high-quality BRT network, improving bus travel speeds and reliability by reducing delay caused by other traffic. Our offices support creating a pilot program for bus-only lanes on El Cajon Boulevard from Park Boulevard to Fairmount Avenue, spanning approximately 2.7 miles. This is a first step in improving the efficiency of the BRT routes and eventually extending the bus-only lanes to SDSU.

The Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) and El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association strongly support this effort. The aim is to create a pilot program to study ridership, reliability, and trip speed data along this corridor. MTS has agreed to conduct a study to evaluate the efficacy of this pilot program and is looking for collaboration from the City on design and funding.

Our offices request that Transportation Engineering Operations staff work with MTS to study the feasibility of a bus-only lane in each direction, maximize signal prioritization operations, and prepare cost estimates and work plans for restriping and additional signage for this pilot program.

We look forward to collaborating with your office in making this pilot program a success.

CC: Jessica Lawrence, Director of Council Affairs, Office of the Mayor  
Lee Friedman, Infrastructure Policy Manager, Office of the Mayor  
Adrian Granda, Public Policy Manager, Office of the Mayor  
Sharon Cooney, Chief of Staff, Metropolitan Transit System  
Robyn Wapner, Senior Legislative Analyst, San Diego Association of Governments