



COUNCILMEMBER SHERRI S. LIGHTNER

CITY OF SAN DIEGO – COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

Press Release

For Immediate Release
December 17, 2010

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Lightner Urges SANDAG to Withhold Support for I-5 Freeway Widening

San Diego --- Councilmember Sherri Lightner today asked the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Board of Directors to withhold its immediate support for making I-5 freeway widening a part of the region's long-term transportation plans.

Lightner made her comments at a meeting where the SANDAG Board selected a preferred plan for the proposed network of future regional transit and highway improvements, known as the Revenue Constrained Transportation Network Scenario (RCTNS). The preferred plan selected for the RCTNS will eventually be incorporated into SANDAG's "2050 Regional Transportation Plan" (2050 RTP), which will guide regional transportation planning for the next 40 years.

The preferred plan for the RCTNS under consideration this morning is known as the Hybrid Scenario. It includes plans to widen I-5 by adding 6 more lanes: 1 general purpose lane and 2 managed lanes in each direction from State Route 56 to Carlsbad, for a total of 10 general purpose lanes and 4 managed lanes. This I-5 widening scenario is known as the "10 + 4" configuration.

"By including the 10 + 4 freeway widening in the 2050 RTP, you are giving Caltrans a de facto approval of an expensive and destructive alternative which will result in the taking of a significant amount of private property from property owners in San Diego...and will completely alter our communities' character," Lightner told the SANDAG Board.

"I stand with [my] communities in firm opposition to the inclusion in this Hybrid Scenario of the 10 + 4 freeway widening configuration...This widening is not consistent with the goals of the Community Plans and Local Coastal Programs in the Torrey Pines, Carmel Valley, and Torrey Hills communities," Lightner said.

Sherri Lightner is the Councilmember for Council District One of the City of San Diego, which includes the communities of Black Mountain Ranch, Carmel Valley, Del Mar Mesa, La Jolla, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Rancho Peñasquitos, Torrey Hills, Torrey Highlands, Torrey Pines, and University City. She took office December 8, 2008.

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