



**MAYOR KEVIN L. FAULCONER
CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

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NEWS RELEASE

Faulconer Jumpstarts Service for SANDAG's Mid-City RAPID 215 Transit Line

New \$44 Million Mid-City Transit Line to Begin Carrying Passengers on Sunday

San Diego, CA – Continuing his pledge to help improve public infrastructure in San Diego, Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer today joined SANDAG, members of the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) and other local officials to mark the completion of the Mid-City Rapid Project that will provide a faster, more efficient and comfortable way for residents to travel.

Mayor Faulconer said, “*Rapid 215* is a much-needed improvement for one of San Diego’s key transit corridors. As many of you know, I’ve put a renewed emphasis on neighborhood repairs and improving the City’s infrastructure to help create *One San Diego*. We have a lot of work to do in the coming years, but I believe we are finally heading in the right direction to help provide better public infrastructure and opportunities for all.”

SANDAG Chair and Santee Councilmember Jack Dale said, “*Rapid 215* represents another milestone in fulfilling a long-standing promise made to voters under the *TransNet* half-cent sales tax to improve transit service. It’s also a testament to the tremendous progress we are making to create a region-wide *Rapid* transit network. We launched our first *Rapid* line in June, and we are adding two this month. We expect to break ground on a fourth *Rapid* project next year.”

MTS Board Chair Harry Mathis said, “Our region should be proud that we have planned ahead and are bringing on line a new level of service that helps connect people more effectively and helps us achieve regional mobility and air quality goals. The key to getting people out of their cars is to have public transportation with high levels of frequency and fast service, all day long and every day of the week.”

The new \$44 million transit line, *Rapid 215*, will begin service on Sunday, October 12th and provide service everyday and all day. A fleet of 18 new, natural gas-powered vehicles will serve the 10 mile route from San Diego State to Downtown San Diego and operate every 10 minutes during peak travel periods. The new transit line includes special lanes dedicated for buses built in the center of Park Boulevard between University Avenue and El Cajon Boulevard.

The finished project also includes nine pairs of new stations with customized shelters, new curb ramps, sidewalks, next vehicle arrival signs and curb pop-outs that will allow transit vehicles to easily merge back into traffic. *Rapid 215* is part of a growing network of high-frequency, limited-stop services that SANDAG is building in partnership with MTS and other local agencies.

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