



# Metrolink Lake Elsinore-Corona Commuter Rail Spur

**California – Congressional District 49  
Representative Darrell E. Issa**

## REQUEST: NONE

With the passage of Proposition 1A last November, California voters said “yes” to a high speed rail system to meet the commuter needs of the 21st century. Closer to home, the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) has studied the feasibility of a future Metrolink commuter line along the I-15, which the City of Lake Elsinore supports conceptually, though we have no project request at this time.

## PROJECT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The RCTC has completed a preliminary study on rail alternatives along the I-15. While the study concluded that project costs are currently projected to be too high for the project



**Transit reduces congestion**—in comparison, a Rutgers University study shows adding freeway capacity isn't always practical.

to be fully financed by public funds, it did suggest that demographic trends may make the project financially feasible in the future.

The report also stated that RCTC has been approached regarding the potential of public/private partnerships to develop new commuter rail services on the I-15 corridor. In that scenario, private developers would help fund or donate right-of-way and contribute to the overall capital costs. One such concept could reduce implementation costs for one of the options studied by RCTC as much as \$113.2 million.



Commutes are taking longer and burn excess fuel. Of California's top five congested areas, Los Angeles, San Diego and Riverside-San Bernardino rank 1, 3 and 7<sup>th</sup>, respectively. New transit projects can make a difference. *Source: 2007 Urban Mobility Report, Texas Transportation Institute*



**“... a shorter extension from Lake Elsinore north has almost as much ridership and trip time savings, but it has less than half the implementation costs and costs per passenger and almost twice the fare box recovery compared to [service from Temecula North].”** *Source: I-15 Commuter Rail Feasibility Study Executive Summary, RCTC 2005*



## SITUATION ANALYSIS

Southwest Riverside County has become a magnet for Californians seeking a high quality of life at an affordable price. Many residents of Lake Elsinore and other cities along the Interstate 15 corridor work in Orange County, as well as the cities of Corona and Riverside. As a result, the I-15 corridor is choked with commuter traffic during peak travel times. The corridor’s traffic will worsen with explosive population growth projected for the region.

A light-rail system extending from Lake Elsinore to Corona with connections to established mass transit services will be an integral part of the solution to the region’s traffic woes. The system will be available to serve all residents of the southwest California corridor northerly through Riverside County areas and Southern Corona.

Most congestion relief proposals rely on expansion of freeway capacity. We support these proposals but recognize that alternative transportation systems must also be built in order to meet demand. Light rail is a proven mode of mass transit as seen in larger cities, but is equally effective reaching into the suburbs, as demonstrated by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.



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