



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
COUNCILMAN  
SCOTT H. PETERS

FIRST DISTRICT

January 28, 2003

Congressman Randy "Duke" Cunningham  
2350 Rayburn Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cunningham:

I am writing in support of federal funding for the missing north connectors at Interstate 5 and State Route 56. As you know, this project is in my City Council District as well as in your congressional district. I don't need to tell you that traffic congestion is perhaps the biggest problem faced by the communities in north San Diego City and County. It impacts everyone living in the area and threatens the economic well being of our region.

Mayor Murphy, Councilman Brian Maienschein and I serve together on the City of San Diego's Freeway Congestion Strike Team. This task force has spent many hours studying the causes of freeway congestion in the region. We have focused on the completion of SR 56 as the highest transportation priority in the region.

The connectors represent an important piece of unfinished business, however. They should have been designed and constructed many years ago. They weren't and we are now must play catch up. There is a lot at stake. If the connectors aren't built, traffic trying to find a way to and from the north between SR 56 and I-5 will have no choice but to make do on a local street system that is ill suited to accommodate it. The community and I are very concerned about how the resultant congestion will negatively impact their quality of life.

In addition, as I am sure you know, we need the connectors in order to accommodate traffic generated by planned development in the SR 56 corridor. A significant amount of the planned development in the corridor cannot legally proceed until the connectors are in place and operational. As many as 6,500 housing units could be delayed, thus forcing 17,000 new residents to find housing in more distant locations – all this at a time of severe housing shortage in our region.

SANDAG has recognized the need for these connectors by designating them as the number one priority among all missing freeway-to-freeway connectors in the region.

I want to thank you for your consideration of our request. If I can help you, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Scott H. Peters



SHP:cmc