



Construction Services

March 17, 2003

The Honorable Randy "Duke" Cunningham  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2350 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515-0550

**RE: Funding for I-5/SR 56 North Connectors**

Dear Congressman Cunningham:

On behalf of the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego and Imperial Counties, I am writing in support of federal funding for the missing north connectors at I-5 and SR 56.

The Diocese is in the process of constructing a new Catholic high school in the community of Pacific Highlands Ranch, adjacent to Carmel Valley. Known as Cathedral High School, this school will accommodate up to 2,000 students and will replace the University of San Diego High School located in Linda Vista.

Because Cathedral High School will draw students from the entire central San Diego region, we are concerned about traffic impacts in the surrounding community. As you know, the area around I-5 and SR 56 is currently heavily impacted by traffic. The completion and opening of SR 56 between I-5 and SR 56 will help, but we are concerned that there is currently no funding identified for the north connectors between I-5 and SR 56. Without these connectors, drivers could overwhelm the local streets in the community trying to navigate between I-5 and SR 56. This will not only cause traffic impacts and hinder the ability of our students to reach the campus, but also causes concerns about traffic safety in the surrounding community.

If the connectors are not constructed in a timely manner, it will prevent the construction of up to 6,500 units in the surrounding community. This will increase the number of people commuting to the community to access jobs – as well as the number of our students who will come from outside communities – further impacting traffic in the area.

The timely construction of the north connectors is critical to ensuring that the community will not be overwhelmed with traffic in the years to come. We appreciate any assistance you can provide in identifying funding for these vitally needed connectors.

Sincerely,

  
Joel King  
Director of Construction Services

cc: Cathedral HS File