



SAN DIEGO TELECOM COUNCIL

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February 21, 2003

The Honorable Randy "Duke" Cunningham  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2350 Rayburn Building  
Washington DC 20515-0550

**Subject: Funding for SR-56/I-5 Connectors**

Dear Congressman Cunningham:

To meet the needs of the growing telecommunications industry in San Diego County, especially those located along the Interstate 5 (I-5), Interstate 805 (I-805), and Interstate 15 (I-15) corridors, our region needs to complete several critical freeway improvements during the next decade.

The anticipated completion of State Route 56 next year will help reduce traffic congestion on our major north-south freeways in north San Diego County. However, funds have not yet been identified to build the west-to-north and south-to-east connectors between SR-56 and I-5. Without these two missing links, traffic will be diverted to local streets, adding to the congestion on our freeways as well as in the Carmel Valley community.

The San Diego Association of Governments recently issued its draft MOBILITY 2030 Regional Transportation Plan which includes smart-growth land use scenarios that will benefit both the business sector and residential communities. MOBILITY 2030 includes funding for the two missing connectors, but the earliest completion date would be 2010, and the completion date could slip to as late as 2020. If the connectors are not completed by 2008, the business and residential growth in this part of north San Diego County will be forced to move to other San Diego communities, the unincorporated county, south Riverside County, or even Tijuana.

The employees of many of our members rely heavily on I-5, I-805 and I-15 for travel to work and other destinations. It is critical that funding for the missing freeway connectors be secured to ensure the businesses in our region remain competitive and productive.

As our Congressional representative, we hope you will continue to encourage federal funding support for these vital transportation projects in the transportation appropriation legislation in 2003.

Thank you for your continued efforts on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Martha G. Dennis, Ph.D.  
President, The San Diego Telecom Council