OVERVIEW:

The Riverside County Transportation Commission, in partnership with Caltrans, will be conducting preliminary engineering and environmental studies to support an Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the proposed Interstate 15 Express Lanes Project Southern Extension. RCTC is leading development of the project.

The proposed project would extend the I-15 Express Lanes currently under construction south between Cajalco Road in Corona and State Route 74 (Central Avenue) in Lake Elsinore. The 14.5-mile segment would extend from Corona, through the unincorporated Riverside County community of Temescal Valley, and into Lake Elsinore. The project proposes adding two Express Lanes in both directions within the I-15 median.

The California Transportation Commission approved $50 million in state funding for this phase of work. The EIS/EIR phase will take approximately five years, due to the complexity of the project corridor, which crosses multiple jurisdictions, widens 14 bridges, and may affect numerous waterways.

Once built, the project would expand the region’s express lanes network and provide a new transportation option for motorists in southwestern Riverside County.

Pending project approval, RCTC expects to use a design-build approach to expedite project delivery. Construction could start as early as 2025, and the new lanes could open in 2028, if RCTC is able to secure funding. The total project cost is estimated to be $544 million. RCTC is exploring federal, state, and local sources, including future toll revenues, for funding.

For more project information, visit rctc.org/15ExpLanesSouth.