WELCOME/REGISTRATION

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS
6 – 8 p.m.

Learn about the proposed project, ask questions and provide input on scope of studies

An online open house is also available at

rctc.org/15expsouth
from October 21 to November 22, 2019

The online format allows you to view the same information that is being presented at tonight’s public open house and provide input.

1. Open house format; no formal presentation
2. Spanish interpretation available
3. Please sign up to receive future project information
PROJECT HISTORY

2007: Caltrans approves 45-mile study of entire I-15 corridor (Route 60 to Murrieta)

2008: RCTC and Caltrans begin planning studies

2009: RCTC receives tolling authority on I-15 from San Bernardino to San Diego county lines

2014: RCTC and Caltrans begin studies on I-15 from Route 60 to Cajalco Road

2014: Construction begins for I-15 Express Lanes Project

2016: RCTC and Caltrans approve environmental document for I-15 Express Lanes

2018: RCTC secures funding for I-15 Express Lanes Project Southern Extension (ELPSE) environmental studies

2018: Construction begins for I-15 Express Lanes Project

Today: Environmental studies for I-15 ELPSE begin
PURPOSE OF PROPOSED PROJECT

Improve traffic operations and travel times

Expand travel choice through carpooling and mass transit

Increase travel time reliability

Manage long-term congestion

Provide a cost-effective mobility solution

Expand and maintain compatibility with the regional express lanes network
Riverside County population was just under 1.8 million in 2012 and is projected to reach more than 2.4 million by 2040.

Riverside County population growth in 2018 ranked first in California and fifth in the nation.
TRAFFIC TRENDS

Today, 141,000 vehicles per day travel the corridor, which can handle only 120,000 vehicles per day.

2040 forecast: 225,000 vehicles per day.
CURRENT AND PROPOSED CONDITIONS

CURRENT CONDITION

CALTRANS RIGHT OF WAY

70' MEDIAN

35' 35' 35' 35'

NORTH

SOUTH

PROPOSED CONDITION

CALTRANS RIGHT OF WAY

35' 35' 35' 35'

NORTH

EXISTING SHOULDER

SOUTH
Express lanes provide a viable option to manage congestion along the I-15 corridor and are in demand by Riverside County residents.

**Average Toll**
$3.75

**Express lane trips in Riverside County from mid-2018 to mid-2019**
15,000,000

**New accounts added weekly**
+300

**Active transponders for 91 Express Lanes**
+225,000

**New accounts added from mid-2018 to mid-2019**
+16,000
**HOW DO EXPRESS LANES WORK?**

**DYNAMIC TOLLING**
- Express lanes help manage traffic flow
- Toll rates based on congestion level
- Goal to maintain free-flowing traffic

Number of toll roads and tolled express lane facilities across 34 states

330

FasTrak® is an electronic toll collection system used in California

**RCTC’S INTEROPERABLE SYSTEM**
- No toll booths; all tolls collected electronically
- All vehicles need a valid FasTrak® account and transponder
- Drivers can use their transponder on any tolled system in California
ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS

PROCESS OVERVIEW

Lead agencies must identify and minimize potential significant environmental impacts and invite the public to participate.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) & National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Lead: Caltrans

Project Sponsor: RCTC

Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
Notice of Preparation
Scoping (We Are Here)
Administrative Draft
Draft EIR
State Clearinghouse
Public & Agency Review
Preparation of Response to Comments
Review of Response by Commenting Agencies
Final EIR
Agency Decisions/Findings, Statement of Overriding Considerations, Mitigation Monitoring

Environmental Assessment (EA)
Start Environmental Process (We Are Here)
Administrative Draft
Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)
Public & Agency Review
Preparation of Response to Comments
EA/Finding of No Significant Impact
Notice of Statute of Limitation on Claims in Federal Register

Public Participation
AREAS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSES

- Aesthetics/Visual
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Community Impact Assessment
- Cultural Resources
- Cumulative Impacts
- Energy Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality

- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Paleontological Resources
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Traffic/Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire

RESOURCE AREAS
Project anticipated to be built within existing Caltrans right of way

All potential right of way needs will be studied
Noise data will be gathered and the need for a noise barrier will be evaluated based on the following feasible and reasonableness criteria:

- **FEASIBLE**
  - Does the future noise level approach or exceed noise criteria?

- **FEASIBLE**
  - Would a noise barrier reduce noise by 5 decibels?

- **REASONABLE**
  - Would a noise barrier reduce noise at one or more properties by 7 decibels?

- **REASONABLE**
  - Is a noise barrier within the cost allowance?

- **REASONABLE**
  - Did the impacted property owners vote yes for a noise wall?
ENVIRONMENTAL PHASE

$29 million from Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality funding for project environmental phase

CONSTRUCTION PHASE

If this project is approved, RCTC will explore federal, state, Measure A, toll and other sources to fund future project phases. Measure A is Riverside County’s voter-approved, half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements
**ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE**

**May 2019:** Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Process begins

**October 21 – November 22, 2019:** 30-day Public Scoping Period

**December 2019 – 2021:** Technical Studies and Analysis, Development of Draft Environmental Document, Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement

**2022:** 45-day Draft Environmental Document Public Review and Comment Period

**2024:** Potential Final Environmental Document, pending approval
PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENTS

We welcome your comments! Please provide input during our 30-day public scoping period, October 21 to November 22, 2019.

SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS USING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING METHODS

State your comments to the court reporter

Email comments to 15expsouth@dot.ca.gov or visit rctc.org/15expsouth and click “Submit Comment”

Mail written comments to:
Shawn Oriaz, California Department of Transportation, District 8 – Environmental Studies “C,” 464 W. 4th Street, MS-827
San Bernardino, CA 92401-1400

Fill out a comment card and submit it tonight or by mail before November 22
STAY CONNECTED

WE VALUE YOUR INPUT

Register to receive project updates, including notification of the circulation of the Draft Environmental Document. At that time, we will seek additional public comments.

rctc.org/15expsouth