

Update on Transportation Agencies

This past week we reached out to many of our transportation agencies. We want to make sure that we are staying in communication and to find out how our agencies are dealing with COVID -19. How it may affect the workflow, projects, and if there are any changes to regulations or policy that could affect the construction industry and how we could help? Here are some responses.

Metrolink - Thank you for reaching out. The reduction in service does provide relief on the capital side due to approx. 52 fewer trains each weekday operating on our lines – we are seeing opportunities for increased efficiencies in the completion of the construction projects working on and around the railroad.

The essential service designation not only pertains to continued commuter rail operations but also allows us to continue with public works construction & work to maintain the railroad in a state of good repair. As we continue to complete construction projects, we have worked with our contractors and third-party partners to implement measures to help address the spread of COVID-19.

In partnership with our contractors, we are optimistic that we will continue to expedite the completion of projects capitalizing on the reduction in train traffic, ensuring the railroad remains in a state of good repair. This is also an opportunity where we could benefit from the assistance of SCPFJ. As Congress considers future relief packages, infrastructure is critical. We have identified a \$1.2 Billion list of shovel-ready projects (primarily state of good repair) that is estimated to generate more than 60,000 jobs. When our delegation starts focusing on an infrastructure package, it would be great to get SCPFJ's support.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Stephanie Wiggins
CEO, Metrolink

RCTC - Just because our world is changing, doesn't mean we stop moving forward. The Riverside County Transportation Commission is moving forward with a commitment to safety, fiscal responsibility, and economic recovery.

Economic recovery. Highway construction projects around Riverside County remain in full swing. Construction workers remain on the job (safely) and our new economy will soon have new infrastructure to get people, goods, and services to where they need to go. You may have seen the impressive work of crews on the 60 Truck Lanes as they build a safer passage through the Badlands. The I-15 Express Lanes remain on-target for opening later this year. Last month, RCTC awarded a construction contract to a Riverside-based company to reconstruct the I-15/Railroad Canyon Road interchange in Lake Elsinore. A new northward bridge connecting the 91 Express Lanes to the 15 Express Lanes for the residents of Norco, Eastvale, and Jurupa Valley will begin construction soon. In the coming months RCTC will take the next steps towards construction of a new interchange at I-215 and Placentia Avenue in Perris and a new westbound lane on the 91 between Green River Road and the 241. RCTC will forcefully advocate for the state and federal governments to invest in more infrastructure and provide regulatory relief so that we can rebuild our economy.

I also want you to know that RCTC will not propose a ballot measure to fund transportation projects this year. The Traffic Relief Plan for Riverside County is a landmark effort that declares our ambitions for a better transportation system. Thousands of Riverside County residents participated in developing the Traffic Relief Plan and I am grateful for your input. While the projects proposed in the Traffic Relief Plan cannot be built without new funding, we believe that voters will be reluctant to approve a new sales tax this year with the two-thirds margin necessary for passage.

Change will continue. RCTC will adapt, innovate, and prepare for the future. We will maintain our commitment to safety, fiscal responsibility, and economic recovery. I ask for your support as we move forward, and I welcome your feedback. Most importantly, please lead by example and follow the direction and advice of our County Public Health Officer, the Governor, the CDC, and other health authorities so we can get back to business and stay in good health.

Ben J. Benoit
Chair
Riverside County Transportation Commission



During a recent conversation with Senator Hertzberg he had this to share with SCPFJ.

"As the California Senate Majority Leader, I know that a key ingredient of revitalizing our economic engine for California will be the hard-working men and women in our construction industry. I know my colleagues and I look forward to working with them as the Legislature evaluates how new construction projects in California can help spur our economic engine."

Senator Robert Hertzberg