

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-172

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ESCONDIDO, CALIFORNIA, STATING ITS OBJECTION TO THE REMOVAL OR REPURPOSING OF ANY TRAVEL LANES FOR PURPOSES OF ACCOMMODATING STATE OR NCTD CLIMATE GOALS

WHEREAS, the City of Escondido City Council has a duty to ensure the residents of Escondido are fairly represented to the State of California and the region of San Diego County *vis-a-vis* the North County Transit District (NCTD); and

WHEREAS, NCTD is a decision-making body within the region, empowered by the State of California to govern certain limited aspects of travel and traffic patterns and is comprised of elected officials from each incorporated city in the San Diego County Supervisor District 5 area; and

WHEREAS, the mission of NCTD is, “to operate an environmentally sustainable and fiscally responsible transit network that provides seamless mobility for all while achieving organizational and operational excellence;” and to fulfill its mission, NCTD must recognize and respect the unique needs of each city and desires of each local governing body; and

WHEREAS, the residents, businesses and other visitors to Escondido benefit from using our local roadways; and

WHEREAS, Escondido residents and businesses pay sales taxes and other state and local taxes when purchasing fuel for their vehicles. These fuel-related taxes are intended to maintain roads in a good state of repair; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the City of Escondido have needs and responsibilities that must be met through safe, seamless and efficient travel and should not be burdened with limited access to roads paid for by gas taxes and other fees collected from every driver; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has prioritized climate goals to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions throughout the state and recognizes it is reasonable for new development to achieve a fair share of per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and GHG emissions reductions necessary to achieve statewide climate goals and to continue to work towards additional VMT and GHG emissions reductions through other measures; and

WHEREAS, NCTD is responsible for meeting the state's climate goals and proposes to remove an eastbound and westbound lane from East Valley Parkway in the City of Escondido from El Norte to the Transit Center for the purpose of reducing VMTs; and

WHEREAS, this change poses an undue burden on the residents of Escondido who are trying to engage in necessary daily activities including employment and education, as well as contributing to the local economy by shopping at local businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Escondido, California, as follows:

1. The above recitations are true.
2. That the City Council of the City of Escondido is the local governing body for the City and it does and should have control and authority over all roadway systems in its jurisdiction.
3. That the City Council of the City of Escondido stands with our residents, businesses and visitors to freely move about the City without the removal or repurposing of ANY existing roadway traffic lanes including, but not limited to, the east- and westbound lanes of Valley Parkway in the City of Escondido.