

SENATE BILL SB-61

Introduced by Senator Kelly Seyarto (R-32)

An act relating to Interstate 15 corridor connectivity.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB-61, Kelly Seyarto (R-32). Interstate 15 corridor connectivity.

Existing law doesn't prioritize transportation funding for projects that close gaps between previously built highway lane segments. This bill prioritizes those gap closing projects and funds an extension to I-15's unfinished express lanes.

Vote: Majority. Appropriations/fiscal: yes. Local program: no.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE-2026 SIMULATION SESSION

SENATE BILL

NO. ____

Introduced by Senator Seyarto

September 15, 2026

An act to amend Section 2391 of, and to add Section 2391.5 to, the Streets and Highways Code, relating to transportation, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB ____, as introduced, Seyarto. Interstate 15 corridor connectivity: Solutions for Congested Corridors Program.

Existing law, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, establishes the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP) and requires the California Transportation Commission (Commission) to allocate program funding to projects, nominated by regional transportation planning agencies, county transportation commissions, or the Department of Transportation (department), that are designed to achieve a balanced set of transportation, environmental, and community-access improvements that reduce congestion in highly traveled corridors, consistent with a comprehensive corridor plan. Existing law does not direct the Commission to give priority consideration to projects that close a gap between two managed lane segments that are already built or already fully funded.

This bill would amend existing law to require the Commission, in scoring SCCP nominations, to give additional priority consideration to a project that completes a continuous managed lane facility by closing such a gap, particularly where the gap crosses a county or regional boundary. The bill would also add a new section directing the department, in consultation with the Riverside County Transportation Commission and the San Diego Association of Governments, to prepare a project study report evaluating the extension of managed lanes on Interstate 15 from the San Diego County line, through the Cities of Temecula and Murrieta, to the existing or planned managed lane segment near State Route 74 in the City

of Lake Elsinore. The bill would appropriate \$8,000,000 from the State Highway Account to the department for this purpose, making this an appropriation bill. The Department of Transportation would be the agency responsible for implementation, in consultation with the named regional agencies.

Vote: majority Appropriation: yes Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 2391 of the Streets and Highways Code is amended to read:

2391. (a) Funding available under the program shall be allocated by the Commission to projects designed to achieve a balanced set of transportation, environmental, and community-access objectives that reduce congestion in highly traveled corridors throughout the state, consistent with a comprehensive corridor plan submitted by the nominating agency.

(b) In evaluating and scoring a project nominated under this chapter, the Commission shall give additional priority consideration to a project that completes a continuous managed lane facility by closing a gap between two or more managed lane segments that are either operational or have been allocated full construction funding, particularly where the gap crosses a county or regional boundary.

SEC. 2. Section 2391.5 is added to the Streets and Highways Code, to read:

2391.5. (a) The department, in consultation with the Riverside County Transportation Commission and the San Diego Association of Governments, shall prepare a project study report evaluating the extension of managed lanes on Interstate 15 from the San Diego County line, through the Cities of Temecula and Murrieta, to the existing or planned managed lane segment near State Route 74 in the City of Lake Elsinore.

(b) The project study report required by this section shall be completed no later than January 1, 2029, and shall be submitted to the Commission and to the Legislature upon completion.

(c) The sum of eight million dollars (\$8,000,000) is hereby appropriated from the State Highway Account to the department for the purposes of this section, to be available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2029.

SEC. 3. Legislative intent.

It is the intent of the Legislature that this act supplement, and not substitute for, the ordinary Solutions for Congested Corridors Program nomination and allocation process, and that nothing in this act be construed to guarantee a future funding allocation for construction of the corridor segment described in Section 2391.5.