



October 27, 2021

San Diego City Hall
202 C Street
San Diego, CA 92101
Via Email

RE: Climate Action Campaign Opposition to the Widening of El Cajon Boulevard

Honorable Mayor Gloria and Councilmember Elo-Rivera,

Climate Action Campaign (CAC) is a watchdog organization based in San Diego and Orange County with a simple mission: stop the climate crisis through effective policy action.

On behalf of CAC, I am writing in strong opposition to the widening of El Cajon Boulevard at Fairmount with the installation of a right hand turn lane. We are disappointed that this project is moving forward, as it does not reflect the City's goals for climate, safety, mobility, and equity.

Road expansions do not reduce congestion. Years of conclusive research on induced demand have shown that more lane-miles only yield more vehicle miles travelled (VMT), more traffic, and more greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.¹

The most up to date climate science states that we must achieve Zero Carbon as soon as possible, and no later than 2045, to stave off the most devastating impacts of the climate crisis. Transportation accounts for more greenhouse gas emissions than any other sector in the City of San Diego, so slashing transportation emissions is essential to securing a sustainable, equitable future.

The City of San Diego's 2015 Climate Action Plan set ambitious mode shift targets for the percentage of commuters travelling by bike, walk, and transit by 2035. By widening El Cajon Boulevard, the City will instead further entrench auto-dependency, inducing more fossil fuel car travel and worsening the climate crisis. Additionally, this stretch is one of San Diego's most dangerous corridors, especially for the road's most vulnerable users.

¹ "The Congestion Con," Transportation for America, March 2020, <http://t4america.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Congestion-Report-2020-FINAL.pdf>.



El Cajon Boulevard has the potential to become a model, world-class climate corridor with shade trees, a bus-only lane, safe pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and improved access to local businesses.

To achieve a climate-resilient, climate just City, road-widening projects such as these must be stopped. Thank you, and we look forward to partnering with your offices on this and future mobility projects.

Sincerely,

Noah Harris
Policy Advocate
Climate Action Campaign