

Support of Foothill Transportation Corridor (SR-241 Toll Road)

WHEREAS, The Garden Grove City Council recognizes the Foothill Transportation Corridor was placed on the Orange County Master Plan of Arterial Highways in 1981; and

WHEREAS, The Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency and the San Joaquin Hills Transportation Corridor Agency has successfully planned, financed, constructed and operates 51 miles of Toll Roads in Orange County; and

WHEREAS, The Foothill Transportation Corridor opened in 1998 providing high speed links for Garden Grove residents and businesses to reach South Orange County and the 91 Freeway; and

WHEREAS, The Transportation Corridor Agencies pay attention to environmental issues and work to balance the need for transportation options with the responsibility of being sensitive to the environment; and

WHEREAS, The location for the final 16 miles of Orange County's toll road system, which will extend the 241 Toll Road from where it ends at Oso Parkway to Interstate 5 near San Clemente, has been studied for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, The Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report was released on December 6, 2005, with a recommendation that the "Green" alignment was the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative because it would reduce traffic on Interstate 5, avoid taking homes and businesses, avoid the sensitive wetlands, and allow for safe wildlife movement to the Cleveland National Forest; and

WHEREAS, Foothill Transportation Corridor is in the county's Regional Transportation Improvement Plan adopted by the Southern California Association of Governments as well as in OCTA's Long Range Transportation Plan.

WHEREAS, the 241 Toll Road extension (Foothill-South) will relieve future traffic congestion on Interstate 5 in South Orange County; and

WHEREAS, The Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency certified the Foothill-South Final Environmental Impact Report Number 4 and chose the "Green" alignment as the Locally Preferred Alternative; and

WHEREAS, This is an important issue for the City of Garden Grove and all of Orange County due to the fact that should unplanned and unfunded projects need to be built to bring traffic relief to the overall transportation system should the Foothill-South not go forward, funding for other projects in and around Garden Grove may be constrained;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY OF GARDEN GROVE, that the City Council supports the completion of the 241 Toll Road with the “Green” alignment, which avoids homes and businesses, avoids sensitive native habitat and wetlands, and provides an alternative to Interstate 5 that addresses the future traffic needs in South Orange County.