

# ***NEWS***

*From the Office of*

## **Brad Mitzelfelt**

Supervisor, First District  
San Bernardino County

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### **Funding for Critical East-West Corridor in Victor Valley Identified**

SAN BERNARDINO – A funding plan to complete a new east-west corridor in the Victor Valley was presented today to Victor Valley officials as a way to connect the planned Yucca Loma Bridge in Apple Valley to the La Mesa/Nisqualli Interchange in Victorville.

“This funding strategy developed at my direction by the County of San Bernardino and our transportation commission means we can complete the corridor between the Yucca Loma Bridge and the La Mesa/Nisqualli Interchange in a timely fashion,” said First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, who also serves as President of San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG), the county’s transportation commission. “This is one of the top priority projects in the Victor Valley that will provide broad regional benefits, and we could not have gotten here without the cooperation and vision of Apple Valley, Victorville, the County and SANBAG.”

The Yucca Loma Bridge and the La Mesa/Nisqualli Interchange are two of the highest-priority projects in the Victor Valley, along with the Ranchero Road Interchange in Hesperia. As both projects near construction by early next year, it became apparent that a connection between them to create a new east-west corridor was lacking funding. Without a connection, the two projects would provide some benefit but would operate in isolation rather than as a complete corridor to produce the maximum benefit for local motorists.

Last year, Supervisor Mitzelfelt created a working group of staff and elected officials from the County, SANBAG, Apple Valley and Victorville to identify a way to ensure the connection can be under construction by the time the two projects are complete. The group identified about \$27 million in funding that could be used to build a two-lane road from Yates Road at Ridgecrest Road west to Hesperia Road where Green Tree Boulevard now ends. The road would be graded for four lanes and the extra lanes would be added sometime in the future when funding becomes available.

The funding relies on a combination of local funds and state bond funds. The plan still must be approved by the three jurisdictions and the SANBAG Board of Directors.

“I’m excited by the cooperation we got between Victorville and the County,” said Apple Valley Town Councilman Rick Roelle, who also serves on the SANBAG Board. “This guarantees the Yucca Loma Bridge will provide a region-wide benefit and will relieve traffic immensely on Bear Valley Road.”

Victorville City Councilman and SANBAG Board Member Ryan McEachron agreed.

“I appreciate the funding plan put forward by Supervisor Mitzelfelt. It’s in the spirit of moving this project forward and ensuring that it gets built, and it also ensures that the funding is shared fairly between the jurisdictions: Apple Valley, Victorville and the County,” Councilman McEachron said.

By providing a connecting route between the new bridge and the new interchange, the project creates a convenient corridor that will reduce the severe congestion that leads to gridlock on Bear Valley Road, thereby providing a regional benefit for every motorist in the Victor Valley.

Supervisor Mitzelfelt further thanked the City of Victorville for endorsing the alignment that would extend Green Tree Boulevard.