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Corridor planned by two counties

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Los Angeles County supervisors voted Wednesday to join with San Bernardino County on an initiative to build a high-speed roadway linking the Antelope Valley Freeway and Interstate 15.

No funding was allocated, but officials hope the proposed freeway or expressway could receive funds under Proposition 1B that state voters approved Tuesday to raise \$19.9 billion for transportation projects.

"It will address the region's shortage of major east-west routes, and it will result in economic development for both north Los Angeles County and San Bernardino County," said Tony Bell, a spokesman for Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich.

By their unanimous vote Wednesday, county supervisors authorized forming a joint-powers authority between Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties. The authority, with a five-member board from both counties, is expected to be formed before the end of the year.

The High Desert Corridor is a long-range vision of the California Department of Transportation and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, but the project was not expected to be done before 2020 or 2030. Antonovich wants to accelerate that, and forming a joint-powers agency is one way to do that, said Michael Cano, a transportation deputy for the supervisor.

The proposed roadway would provide access to the Palmdale Regional Airport terminal, where officials are trying to attract airlines to relieve congestion at major Southern California airports.

"We're talking about a lot of passengers that need to be accommodated and served from throughout Southern California," said Nancy Castles, spokeswoman for the Los Angeles city department that oversees Los Angeles International, Ontario International, Palmdale Regional and Van Nuys airports.

In addition to money from Proposition 1B, officials hope there could be federal aid for the corridor, and private funds could be used through the creation of toll roads or other means.