

CETAP Fact Sheet

BACKGROUND: Western Riverside County is expected to grow by more than 1 million residents in the next 25 years, stressing our roads, utilities, schools and homes. Riverside County's *Blueprint for Tomorrow* maps out a comprehensive plan to meet future transportation, conservation and housing needs.

The transportation element of the Blueprint, called the *Community and Environmental Transportation Acceptability Process* (CETAP), will identify four possible new highway routes as well as public transit opportunities. Two of the routes are entirely within Riverside County, while two would connect to adjacent counties (inter-county corridors).

The two routes proposed within Riverside County (internal corridors) are:

- Winchester to Temecula (North – South)
- Hemet to Corona/Lake Elsinore (East – West)

Environmental impact studies for the two internal were released for public review in July 2002.

GOAL: To improve traffic flow within Riverside County and provide better access to jobs, homes and public facilities.

**DECISION
PROCESS:**

- Decision of a final route for each corridor is needed to preserve right-of-way for future construction of the new highways
- Environmental documents will provide the basis for the decisions
- The public had 119 days to review environmental documents and submit written comments
- RCTC held public hearings in August 2002, December 2002 and January 2003 on the environmental documents for the internal corridors; public hearings for the inter-county corridors will be held following the completion of their environmental studies
- RCTC will choose the locally-preferred alternative for the two internal corridors following review of public input
- Approval of the final routes will be made by RCTC, and state and federal agencies

BENEFITS:

- Commuters in corridor areas will get as much as 1½ to 2 hours more per week to spend with their families
- Internal corridors will save Riverside County residents as much as \$40-70 million per year in transportation costs
- Less traffic means less stress for motorists
- Better access to jobs, homes and public facilities