

3.15 Transportation and Circulation

3.15.1 Circulation Study Area and Transportation Modes

The following information is excerpted from the RCIP Existing Setting Report (LSA, 1999). Riverside County's transportation system is composed of numerous State highways (both freeways and arterial highways), as well as numerous County and city routes. The public transit system includes fixed route public transit systems, common bus carriers, AMTRAK (intercity rail service), MetroLink (commuter rail service), and other local agency transit and paratransit (dial-a-ride) services. In addition, the County transportation system includes general aviation facilities, limited passenger air service within the County, extensive air passenger facilities in the Southern California and San Diego regions, freight rail service, bicycle facilities, and other nonmotorized forms of transportation (pedestrian and equestrian trails).

The private automobile is the dominant mode of travel within Riverside County. Trips by transit currently represent less than two percent of all trips made in the County. Public transportation, where service is available, is utilized primarily by a transit-dependent population that generally does not have access to automobiles.

The County is responsible for maintaining an extensive network of roads in rural and urbanizing areas to service goods movement and agriculture. Large trucks are the primary means of transporting such goods. In addition, freight rail is an important backbone of the goods movement industry in Riverside County. Nonmotorized forms of transportation are also prevalent in Riverside County, including numerous bikeways, pedestrian facilities, and equestrian amenities.

The study area of the proposed HCLE Corridor is represented as a broadly defined land area that links the Hemet/San Jacinto area with areas along I-15 between Corona and Lake Elsinore (see Figure 3.15.1).

Currently, the connection between Corona and Hemet is via multiple routes: SR 74, I-215, I-15, and SR 91 or via the Ramona Expressway and Cajalco Road connecting to the I-15 and SR 91. SR 74, I-215, and I-15 connect Hemet to Lake Elsinore.

3.15.2 Existing Regional Circulation System

Figure 3.15.1 illustrates the circulation study area of the HCLE Corridor.

Highway facilities in this corridor include the following routes that provide general east-west mobility.

- C SR 79 to Gilman Springs Road, SR-60 west to SR-91, then west to Corona. SR-60 in Moreno valley is a four-lane freeway. SR-60/I-215 is a six-lane to eight-lane freeway. SR-60/I-215 is being widened to include an HOV lane in each direction. A truck climbing lane has been constructed on the eastbound section. The SR-60/SR-91/I-215 interchange is planned for partial reconstruction by 2006. SR-91 is a six lane to eight lane freeway east of I-15.

Figure 3.15.1 - Circulation Study Area

- C SR-74 west to I-215 north then continuing west on SR-74 to Lake Elsinore. SR-74 is a four lane arterial until 7th St in western Perris where it changes to two lanes for the remainder of the distance to I-15. I-215 is a four lane to six lane freeway. I-15 is generally a six lane facility south of SR-91. Improvement of SR-74 is part of the Measure A half-cent sales tax program. Currently, realignment of curves and widening to four lanes is planned for SR-74 between Seventh Street in Perris and I-15.
- C Ramona Expressway and Cajalco Road. The Ramona Expressway is a four lane divided facility eastward from I-215 but reduces to two lanes as it approaches Lake Perris. Right-of-way exists for eventual widening to a four lane or six lane divided cross section.¹ Cajalco Road is a two lane roadway from I-215 to I-15 and traverses the reserve for the Stephens Kangaroo Rat (Lake Mathews Estelle Mountain Reserve) south of Lake Mathews.
- C Ramona Expressway and Cajalco/El Sobrante/Mockingbird Canyon/Van Buren. These routes represent multiple ways of traveling east-west between Hemet/San Jacinto and Corona. However, these are generally two lane, lower speed roadways except for Van Buren Blvd., which is generally a four-lane roadway.
- C Domenigoni Parkway/Newport Road/Railroad Canyon Road. This represents a route between Hemet and Lake Elsinore. Railroad Canyon Road is a four lane facility. Newport Road is four lanes east and west of I-215. Domenigoni Parkway is a four lane expressway.

3.15.2.1 Functional Classifications for Roadways in the Riverside County General Plan Update

To identify roadway infrastructure needs in western Riverside County, several broad roadway classifications have been identified. The typical cross sections for roadway classifications in Riverside County are shown in the Traffic and Circulation Element of the proposed General Plan for Riverside County.

- C **Freeways.** A freeway is a divided, limited access highway (access is provided at grade-separated interchanges. Other vehicular crossings of these facilities are provided at grade separations). Freeways are designed to carry large volumes of traffic traveling long distances, although localized use of freeways occurs in urban areas. The planned freeway right-of-way varies with the needs of the facility.
- C **Expressways.** These are highways that carry large volumes of traffic relatively long distances within or through an urban or rural area. They also often serve considerable local traffic traveling over short distances. Along these facilities, priority is placed on through traffic mobility rather than access to fronting property. Direct access to individual fronting parcels is not allowed -- fully controlled frontage access is required. Expressways should be continuous through the urban or rural community they serve and link to arterial routes. The designated right-of-way for expressways in Riverside County is currently 56 m (184 ft). Additional right-of-way may be required at some intersections.

¹ The general design characteristics of a facility, including number of lanes (mixed flow and high occupancy vehicle lanes), the general width of medians, shoulders, and buffer areas, and the number of tracks, if rail is included.