



Chapter 4: Circulation Element

Introduction


CIRCULATION ELEMENT CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK



The transportation system in Riverside County has more than kept pace with the growth in population, employment and tourism and the demands for mobility. New and expanded transportation corridors are planned that connect growth centers at key locations throughout the County. In fact, several corridors will have built-in transit service and expansion capability to accommodate various forms of transit. Some of these corridors are now providing express bus service to MetroLink stations. It will be critical to design the corridors with a high regard for the environment, including provision of critical wildlife corridor crossings so that our open spaces can sustain habitat value.



- RCIP Vision

 A comprehensive Circulation Report, which contains detailed descriptions of circulation systems, assumptions, and studies, can be found in the Environmental Impact Report Technical Appendix.

The circulation system of a community is vital to its prosperity. Its function is to provide for the movement of goods and people, including pedestrians, bicycles, transit, train, air, and automobile traffic flows within and through the community. Efficient traffic circulation is important to economic viability and the creation and preservation of a quality living environment.

In Riverside County, the circulation system is also intended to accommodate a pattern of concentrated growth, providing both a regional and local linkage system between unique communities. The circulation system is also multi-modal, meaning that it provides numerous alternatives to the automobile, such as transit, pedestrian systems, and bicycle facilities so that Riverside County citizens and visitors can access the region by a number of transportation options.

In compliance with state law, all city and county general plans must contain a circulation element that designates future road improvements and extensions, addresses non-motorized transportation alternatives, and identifies funding options. The Circulation Element also identifies transportation routes, terminals, and facilities. The intent of the Circulation Element is to:

- Identify the transportation needs and issues within the County, as well as regional relationships that affect the County's transportation system;
- Describe the proposed circulation system in terms of design elements, operating characteristics, and limits of operation, including current standards, guidelines, and accepted criteria for the location, design, and operation of the transportation system;
- Consider alternatives other than the single-occupant vehicle as essential in providing services and access to facilities;
- Establish policies that coordinate the circulation system with General Plan and area plan land use maps and provide direction for future decision-making in the realization of the Circulation Element goals; and
- Develop implementation strategies and identify funding sources to provide for the timely application of the Circulation Element goals and policies.

Public Participation/Intergovernmental Coordination

The Circulation Element was created in a public forum with input from numerous interest groups, citizens, jurisdictions, and agencies. Extensive efforts were made to involve the public, including:

- Public workshops to receive initial comments and discuss circulation and transportation issues;