



# 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;



- Coordination with the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG);
- Coordination with the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG), and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG);
- Coordination with advisory committees, such as Community Environmental Transportation Acceptability Process (CETAP) and General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC); and
- Public hearings with the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

### **Community Environmental Transportation Acceptability Process (CETAP)**

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*New growth patterns no longer reflect a pattern of random sprawl. Rather, they follow a framework of transportation and open space corridors, with concentrations of development that fit into that framework. In other words, important open space and transportation corridors define growth areas.*

*Growth focus in this County is on quality, not on frustrating efforts to halt growth.*

*Population growth continues and is focused where it can best be accommodated.*

*Growth is well coordinated between cities and the County and they jointly influence periodic state and regional growth forecasts affecting Riverside County and its cities.*

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- RCIP Vision

Due to the importance of the circulation and mobility systems in the County, the Community Environmental Transportation Acceptability Process (CETAP) was created as one of three planning efforts of the RCIP in addition to the Multiple Species Habitat and Conservation Plan, the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat and Conservation Plan, and the General Plan. The CETAP committee served as an advisory body to the County staff during the development of the Integrated Plan, and made recommendations relating to transportation issues for the County to consider during the General Plan development and review process. CETAP incorporated three levels of effort: identification of transportation corridors, development of the General Plan Circulation Element, and exploration of options for transit system development in the County. The members of CETAP dedicated a substantial amount of time and effort to evaluate the County’s transportation systems, identify potential issues, and provide recommendations for the County to consider for inclusion in the updated General Plan. This valuable insight shaped the Circulation Element policies and will ultimately help shape the future of transportation within Riverside County.