



Transportation section of the General Plan Circulation Element.

Scenic Highways

Scenic Highways are a unique component of the circulation system, as they contain distinctive natural characteristics that are not typical of other areas in the County. The intent of these policies is to conserve significant scenic resources along scenic highways for future generations and to manage development along scenic highways and corridors so that it will not detract from the area's natural characteristics.

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The purpose of the California Scenic Highways program, which was established in 1963, is to "Preserve and protect scenic highway corridors from change which would diminish the aesthetic value of lands adjacent to highways."

As shown on Figure 8, Scenic Highways, there is one County Eligible and one State Eligible Scenic Highway in the planning area. State Route 74 from the Orange County border to the western edge of the San Bernardino National Forest has been designated as an Eligible State Scenic Highway. State Route 74 passes through Homeland, Romoland, and Green Acres. State Route 74 continues east out of the Harvest Valley/Winchester planning area to the Palms to Pines Highway, an official State Scenic Highway. Menifee Road is a County Eligible Scenic Highway that runs from State Route 74 south out of the planning area eventually connecting with Interstate 215. From these two roadways, views of the Lakeview and Dawson Mountains, Salt Creek, and Double Butte are provided.

Policies:



HVWAP 11.1 Protect the scenic highways in the Harvest Valley/Winchester planning area from change that would diminish the aesthetic value of adjacent properties in accordance with the Scenic Corridors sections of the General Plan Land Use, Multipurpose Open Space, and Circulation Elements.

Transit Oasis



Investment in and expansion of the existing freeway and arterial street networks continue to be a critical part of our comprehensive transportation system development.



- RCIP Vision

The Transit Oasis is a concept to improve transportation options in Riverside County by providing an integrated system of local serving, rubber-tired transit that is linked with a regional transportation system, such as MetroLink or express buses. In the Transit Oasis concept, rubber-tired transit vehicles operate on a single prioritized or dedicated lane in a one-way, continuous loop. The Transit Oasis is designed to fit into community centers, which provide the types of densities and concentrated development patterns that can allow this concept to become a reality.

In the Harvest Valley/Winchester planning area, the Transit Oasis concept may be accommodated in the Winchester and Domenigoni Community Centers. The Transit Oasis would provide local serving transit to the residents and business in and adjacent to the community centers as well as convenient access to regional circulation systems. Due to their strategic location, in the systems Winchester and Domenigoni Community Centers can also connect with systems that may be provided within the Hemet to Corona/Lake Elsinore and Banning/Beaumont to Temecula CETAP Corridors.



Policies:



HVWAP 12.1 Support the development and implementation of a Transit Oasis in the Winchester and Domenigoni Community Centers in accordance with the Public Transportation System section of the General Plan Circulation Element.


State Route 79 Corridor

Currently, State Route 79 (Winchester Road) runs north-south through the center of the community of Winchester. The State Route 79 (SR 79) Project will re-align the existing State Route 79 between Lamb Canyon Road to the north and Newport Road to the south causing the highway to bypass the Winchester Policy Area. The SR 79 Project will offer a greater traffic capacity and continuity between communities to meet increasing traffic demands within Riverside County. While the precise alignment of this relocation has not been set, all current alignments show the roadway veering east of Winchester. The existing State Route 79 will remain as a secondary arterial highway. This re-alignment is a separate effort from the Community Environmental Transportation Acceptability Process (CETAP) portion of the RCIP.

The implementation of a transit station, which would serve the Transit Oasis and regional rail transit concepts, would reinforce the unique community core and help bring visitors to Winchester. In that context, State Route 79 remains an important future transit link. The Harvest Valley/Winchester Area Plan provides an opportunity to complete a transit connection between Winchester and Temecula along State Route 79 through the acquisition of additional right-of-way that is required to be dedicated for future transit use. Transit improvements could include additional road lanes, a dedicated transit lane, or other transportation improvements.

Policies:

HVWAP 13.1 Require the dedication of right-of-way along State Route 79 (Winchester Road) for future transportation/transit improvements.



Please see the General Plan Circulation Element for more Transit Corridor policies.

Community Environmental Transportation Acceptability Process (CETAP) Corridors

The population and employment of Riverside County are expected to significantly increase over the next twenty years. The Community and Environmental Transportation Acceptability Process (CETAP) was established to evaluate the need and the opportunities for the development of new or expanded transportation corridors in western Riverside County to accommodate increased growth and preserve quality of life. These transportation corridors include a range of transportation options such as highways or transit, and are developed with careful consideration for potential impacts to habitat requirements, land use plans, and public infrastructure. CETAP has identified three priority corridors for the movement of people and goods: Banning/Beaumont to Temecula, Hemet to Corona/Lake Elsinore, and Moreno Valley to San Bernardino County.