



## *Circulation*

The circulation system is vital to the prosperity of a community. It provides for the movement of goods and people within and outside of the community and includes motorized and non-motorized travel modes from bicycles, to trains, to airplanes and automobiles. 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. This system is multi-modal, which means that it provides numerous alternatives to the automobile, such as transit, pedestrian and equestrian systems, and bicycle facilities so that Riverside County citizens and visitors can access the region by a number of transportation options.

As stated in the Vision and the Land Use Element, the County is moving away from a growth pattern of random sprawl toward a pattern of concentrated growth and increased job creation. The intent of the new growth patterns and the new mobility systems is to accommodate the transportation demands created by future growth and to provide mobility options that help reduce the need to utilize the automobile. The circulation system is designed to fit into the fabric of the land use patterns and accommodate the open space systems.

While the following section describes the circulation system as it relates to the Eastern Coachella Valley, it is important to note that the programs and policies are supplemental to and coordinated with the policies of the General Plan Circulation Element. In other words, the circulation system of the Valley is tied to the countywide system and long range direction. As such, successful implementation of the policies in the Valley will help to create an interconnected and efficient circulation system for the entire County.

## **LOCAL CIRCULATION POLICIES**

### **Vehicular Circulation System**

The vehicular circulation system that supports the Land Use Plan for the Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan is shown on Figure 5, Circulation. The circulation system within this portion of the Coachella Valley connects the region to urbanized areas of the western portion of the Coachella Valley, western Riverside County, Imperial County, and the eastern portion of the County via Interstate 10, as well as providing access to and between its communities.

State Routes 111 and 86 are the main north-south connector routes within this area. State Route 86 is growing in importance as a trade route between the U.S. and Mexico. Interstate 10 is a key east-west corridor within the County, and indeed across the United States. State Route 195 also serves the Valley west of Mecca.

A grid system of numbered avenues running east-west, together with north-south oriented streets serves the urbanized and agricultural areas of the Valley. Box Canyon Road is the only Circulation Element roadway connecting the community of Mecca with the I-10 freeway to the north.