



Circulation

The circulation system is vital to the prosperity of a community. The circulation system 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 planes, and to 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. The circulation system is multi-modal, which means 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.



Innovative designs allow for increased density in key locations, such as near transit stations, with associated benefits. In these and other neighborhoods as well, walking, bicycling, and transit systems are attractive alternatives to driving for many residents.



- RCIP Vision

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 Palo Verde Area Plan, 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 Palo Verde Area Plan is tied to the Countywide system and long range direction. As such, successful implementation of the policies in Palo Verde Area Plan 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 Palo Verde Area Plan is shown on Figure 5, Circulation. The vehicular circulation system in Palo Verde planning area is anchored by Interstate 10, which runs east to west through the planning area, connecting the Palo Verde Valley with the rest of Riverside County, and the State of California with bordering Arizona. State Route 95, State Route 78, and Neighbors Street are other major arterials running north south through the eastern portion of the planning area. A system of major and secondary arterials, and collector roads branch off from these major roadways and serve local uses. Midland Road travels northwest through the eastern portion of Palo Verde Valley and is considered a Mountain Arterial.

Policies:



- PVAP 7.1 Design and develop the vehicular roadway system per the Palo Verde Area Plan Circulation, Figure 5, and in accordance with the Functional Classifications and Standards section of the General Plan Circulation Element.



- PVAP 7.2 Maintain the County’s roadway Level of Service standards as described in the Level of Service section of the General Plan Circulation Element.

Rail Transit

The AT&SF Railroad is located within this planning area, running in a generally north-south direction through the Palo Verde Valley. The railroad is currently being used for freight and agricultural uses and may be able to be used for alternative service if there is ever sufficient demand.

Policies:



- PVAP 8.1 Encourage the maintenance and enhancement of existing railroad facilities in accordance with the Freight Rail section of the General Plan Circulation Element.

Trails and Bikeway System

The County of Riverside contains multi-purpose bicycle, pedestrian, and equestrian trails that traverse through urban, rural, and natural areas. These trails accommodate hikers, bicyclists, equestrian users or others as an integral part of the County's circulation system. These trails serve both as a means of connecting the unique communities and activity centers throughout the County and as an effective alternate mode of transportation. In addition to transportation, the trail system also serves as a community amenity by providing recreation and leisure opportunities as well as separations between communities.

Currently, there are no adopted regional trails in or through the Palo Verde planning area. But, there is considerable opportunity to create a trail system along the Colorado River that links the established parks and recreation areas by foot, bicycle, or horse. This system of trails could follow the path of the Colorado River and be an attraction for residents and tourists. This system of trails could also join the regional trails system that has been adopted by Riverside County.

Policies:

- PVAP 9.1 Develop a system of multi-purpose trails that enhances the Colorado River’s recreational opportunity and connects with the adopted trails system of Riverside County.

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.