

Riverside County Transportation Improvement Plan

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY BY SUPPLEMENTING EXISTING FUNDS FOR TRANSPORTATION

Reduce current congestion and provide adequate transportation facilities to accommodate reasonable growth in the future.

Provide funding for the adequate maintenance and improvement of local streets and roads in the cities and unincorporated areas.

Enhance Riverside County's ability to secure state and federal funding for transportation by offering local matching funds.

PROVIDE FOR ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE EXPENDITURE OF TAX PAYER FUNDS

Provides for mandatory dedication of sales tax funds only for the transportation improvements and programs identified in the Expenditure Plan and no other purpose.

Provides for a mandatory, annual financial audit of program expenditures to insure that all funds are spent in accordance with this voter adopted Plan and associated legal ordinance.

Provides for a Maintenance of Effort requirement in funds made available to city and county governments for local street and road programs to insure the new money for this purpose is adding to current funding levels.

Provides for the strict limitation of administrative staff costs in implementing this Plan, by limiting, in law, funds expended for salaries and benefits to no more than one (1) percent of the annual net amount of revenues raised by Measure "A".

TAXPAYER ACCOUNTABILITY SAFEGUARDS

LEGAL DEDICATION OF FUNDS

Measure "A" funds may only be used for transportation purposes and described in the local ordinance governing this program, including the construction, environmental mitigation of transportation projects, capital activities, acquisition, maintenance, and operation of streets, roads, highways, including state highways and public transit systems and for related purposes. These purposes include but are not limited to expenditures for the planning, environmental reviews, engineering and design costs, related right-of-way acquisition, and construction, engineering and administration.

MANDATORY ANNUAL FISCAL AUDIT

No less than annually, the RCTC shall conduct an independent fiscal audit of the expenditure of all sales tax funds raised by this measure. The audit, which shall be made available to the public, shall report on evidence that the expenditure of funds is in accordance with the Riverside County Transportation Improvement Plan as adopted by the voters in approving the sales tax measure on November 5, 2002. In addition, the audit shall determine that Maintenance of Effort requirements, other requirements regarding local government participation in Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee Programs, as well as requirements described in Section 5 of the Plan entitled "Local Streets and Roads" have been complied with. The audit shall also insure that no more than 1 (one) percent of total sales tax expenditures are used for administrative staff salaries and benefits in implementing this Plan.

MANDATORY PLAN UPDATE AND TERMINATION OF SALES TAX

This Plan shall be updated by RCTC every 10 years that the sales tax is in effect to reflect current and changing priorities and needs in the County, as defined by the duly elected local government representatives on the RCTC Board. Any changes to this Plan must be adopted in accordance with current law in effect at the time of the update and must be based on findings of necessity for change by the Commission. The sales tax authorized to be collected by the voters shall be terminated on March 31, 2039, unless reauthorized by the voters to extend the sales tax prior to the termination date as required under state law in effect at the time of the vote for extension.

ROUTE	LIMITS	PROJECT	EST. COST
91, 60, I-15, & I-215		Reducing congestion on these routes will require that new transportation corridors are constructed	See Section 2
Rte 91	Pierce Street to Orange County Line	Add 1 lane each direction	\$ 161
91/I-15	Interchange	Add new Connector from I-15 North to 91 West	\$ 243
91/71	Interchange	Improve Interchange	\$ 26
Rte 71	Rte 91 to San Bernardino County Line	Widen to 3 lanes each direction	\$ 68
I-215	60/91/215 to San Bernardino County Line	Add 2 lanes each direction	\$ 231
I-215	Eucalyptus Ave to I-15	Add 1 lane each direction	\$ 210
I-15	Rte 60 to San Diego County Line	Add 1 lane each direction	\$ 359
I-10	San Bernardino County Line to Banning	Add eastbound truck climbing lane	\$ 75
I-10/60	Interchange	Construct new interchange	\$ 129
Rte 60	Badlands area, east of Moreno Valley	Add truck climbing lane	\$ 26
Rte 79	Ramona Expressway to Domenigoni Parkway	Realign highway	\$ 132
SUBTOTAL	Measure "A" Funding		\$1.02 Billion
	State & Federal Formula Funds		\$0.64 Billion
TOTAL			\$1.66 Billion

The Commission may add additional State Highway projects, should additional Measure "A" revenue become available.

An estimated 5% of the total cost for these highway projects (\$83 million) will be used for environmental purposes to mitigate the cumulative and indirect impacts associated with construction of these projects.

B. Commuter Rail and Intercity Bus Service

Metrolink has provided a viable alternative to the automobile for thousands of daily commuters to Orange and Los Angeles counties and reduces the demand on our freeways. The current service level needs to double in the future and expansion of the system to Moreno Valley and Perris is needed to relieve congestion on I-215. In addition, an intercity express bus service that feeds the Metrolink service and provides a reasonable alternative to the automobile for daily commuters who travel within the region is needed. Measure "A" funds will be made available for operations of these services and to match federal funds for capital.

C. Commuter Services, Ridesharing, Vanpools, Buspools, Park-N-Ride

Commuter traffic created by Riverside County residents traveling to jobs in neighboring Orange, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino counties adds significantly to the peak hour congestion on the freeway and highway system. A number of programs have been implemented to assist commuters to share rides, reduce congestion, and take advantage of travel in the "carpool" lanes. These programs include; rideshare matching services; incentive programs; vanpool "seed money"; buspool subsidies; and park-n-ride lot leasing. These programs will become even more necessary in the future as traffic increases. A minimum of \$50 million in Measure "A" funds will be used for this purpose.

4. REGIONAL ARTERIAL SYSTEM

The freeway and state highway system can no longer be expected to handle the traffic demands for travel between and through the cities of the Western County area, with the development projected for the future. A system of regional arterials (major local roadways) with limited access, freeway interchanges, grade separations, and coordinated traffic signals are needed to supplement the highway backbone system. The Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG), in conjunction with the cities and the County, has developed this system of roadways to meet this need. This roadway system will be periodically updated by the Commission, or the Western Riverside Council of Governments, to reflect actual development trends.

Current resources, without the extension of the existing sales tax revenues for transportation, cannot provide adequate funding to maintain the local street and road system at the level necessary to adequately serve the public.

The Transportation Improvement Plan will provide an estimated \$970 million specifically for this purpose. The funds made available in the Western County area will be distributed to the cities and the county by a formula based 75% on proportionate population and 25% on revenues generated by Measure "A". In order to be eligible for these funds, each agency will be required to: 1) File a Five-Year Capital Improvement Program, updated annually, with the Commission; 2) Participate in a Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee (TUMF) Program to be developed and administered by the Commission or the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG); and, 3) Participate in the Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) currently under development by the County of Riverside by endorsing the Permit Application and signing the Implementation Agreement.

The TUMF Program shall be adopted according to all applicable laws and shall provide that the first \$400 million of TUMF revenues will be made available to the Commission to fund equally the: 1) Regional Arterial System, as described above; and, 2) Development of New Corridors ("CETAP") described above.

6. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES PROGRAM

The need to attract new commercial and industrial development and jobs to Riverside County to reduce the need for long commutes to Orange and Los Angeles counties is important to the economic vitality and quality of life of Western Riverside County. A greater jobs – housing balance is needed immediately.

The Transportation Improvement Plan will provide an estimated \$40 million for this purpose. These funds will be used to create an Infrastructure Improvement Bank to improve existing interchanges, construct new interchanges, provide public transit linkages or stations, and make other improvements to the transportation system. Given the limited amount of funds available, the RCTC shall develop a program of competitive incentives to attract commercial and industrial development and jobs to locate within the Western Riverside County area.

1. STATE HIGHWAYS AND MAJOR REGIONAL ROAD PROJECT

Fifty percent (50%) of the Measure "A" revenues will be used for State highways and regional road improvements. The Transportation Project Prioritization Study (TPPS), developed through the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), will function as the Plan for future needs. Preventive maintenance of these Measure "A" funded arterials will be allowed, if a majority of the Coachella Valley local governments give approval.

The system improvements will be accomplished with a mix of Measure "A" funds, state and federal highway funds, and the existing Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee (TUMF) on new development.

This segment of the Measure "A" Expenditure Plan will be implemented through the Coachella Valley Association of Governments.

2. LOCAL STREETS AND ROADS

Thirty-five percent (35%) of the Measure "A" revenues will be returned to the cities and the county in the Coachella Valley and shall be used to assist with the funding local street and road improvements. These funds will supplement existing federal, state, and local funds. Local street improvements adjacent to new residential and business developments will continue to be paid for by the developers.

Cities and the county in the Coachella Valley must participate in the Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee (TUMF) program to assist in the financing of the priority regional arterial system in order to receive these funds. If a city or the county chooses not to levy the TUMF, the funds they would otherwise receive for local streets and roads will be added to the Measure "A" funds for the Regional Arterial Program.

Allocations of funds to the cities and the county will be based on a formula weighted 50% on proportionate dwelling units and 50% on Measure "A" revenues generated within each jurisdiction. A Five-Year Capital Improvement Program for the use of these funds will be prepared and annually updated with public participation by each city and the county.

transit buses have a 12-year life. Passage of Measure "A" will enable Sunline's fleet to be replaced as needed. Funds will also be used to increase frequency of service, which is the single most important factor in use of public transportation.

PALO VERDE VALLEY AREA

The Palo Verde Valley area is located in the far eastern part of Riverside County. It is geographically separated from the Western and Coachella Valley areas. The population within the area is relatively small, and significant growth over the next 30 years is not anticipated.

The Palo Verde Valley is served by Interstate 10 which provides adequate connections to the more westerly portions of Riverside County and easterly to Arizona. Increasing transit needs can be adequately met using existing revenue sources available for that purpose. The greatest need for the Palo Verde Valley is additional funding to adequately maintain and rehabilitate local streets and roads.

All of the funding generated by Measure "A" returned to the Palo Verde Valley is to be used for local streets and roads. Funds shall be distributed to the City of Blythe and the County of Riverside by formula. The formula distribution is based 75% on proportionate population and 25% on sales tax revenues generated in each area.

MEASURE "A" REVENUE ALLOCATIONS

(\$ millions)

Western County Area

Highway Improvements	\$1,020
New Corridors	\$ 370
Commuter Rail / Intercity Bus/ Specialized Transit/ Commuter Services	\$ 390
Regional Arterial Projects	\$ 300
Local Streets and Road Improvements	\$ 970
Bond Finance	\$ 270
Economic Development Projects	\$ 40
TOTAL	\$3,360

Coachella Valley

Highways and Regional Arterials	\$ 628
Local Streets and Roads	\$ 439
Specialized and Public Transit	\$ 188
TOTAL	\$1,255

Palo Verde Valley Area

Local Street and Road Improvements	\$ 47
TOTAL	\$ 47

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN

1. BASIS FOR REVENUE ESTIMATES

Federal and state participation for highways, commuter rail, new corridors, and major non-highway roadway improvements is assumed to be \$40 million per year allocated biannually by the California Transportation Commission through the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) process. The Riverside County Transportation Commission currently programs 24.2% of these funds on a discretionary basis for projects. This practice will be continued in order to fund major improvements that will arise and have not been anticipated by this Transportation Improvement Plan.

Measure "A" revenue estimates have not been adjusted to reflect inflation. It is assumed that inflation revenue increases will be offset by inflation costs to deliver the projects. "Real Growth" is assumed to parallel countywide population growth. Based upon these factors Measure "A" revenues over the 30-year period are assumed to be about \$4.665 billion.

2. BASIS FOR COST ESTIMATES

All cost estimates for highway projects were developed by Caltrans based on a specific scope of improvements and are based on 2001 values. Future costs may increase due to inflation or other factors beyond the control of the Commission. The 2001 costs estimates are to be used to determine the proportionate distribution of funds to the categories of projects and programs identified in the transportation program.

3. STATE HIGHWAY AND MAJOR ARTERIAL PROGRAMS

- A. Eligible state highway project costs include preliminary engineering, environmental clearances, design engineering, project management, right of way acquisition and long-term leases and construction. Measure "A" funds are intended to supplement and not replace existing federal and state sources. If it is determined by the Commission that Riverside County is not receiving its fair share of existing funds, sales tax funds may be directed to other types of transportation needs.

5. LOCAL STREETS AND ROADS PROJECTS

- A.** Eligible local street and road project costs include any environmental review and mitigation, engineering, right of way acquisition and, capital or maintenance cost. Decisions on projects are to be made by local jurisdictions, but subject to capital Improvement requirements.
- B.** Annual population estimates used for the distribution formula for the Western County and Palo Verde Valley areas shall be from the State Department of Finance. Dwelling unit estimates used for the distribution formula in the Coachella Valley shall be from the Riverside County Planning Department. Actual State Board of Equalization retail sales transactions shall be used for the formula in all three areas. The County Planning Department shall estimate the share for each of the unincorporated areas for the three areas, from the total retail sales transactions for the total unincorporated area.
- C.** The Commission shall assure the cities and the County are in compliance with maintenance of effort requirements before allocating funds for local streets and roads. Further, the Commission shall not allocate funds to an individual city or the County for local streets and roads within the Western County and Coachella Valley areas unless the local agency is certified by the Coachella Valley Association of Governments or in the Western County Area by the Commission or the Western Riverside County Association of Governments as applicable, to be a participant in the Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee (TUMF) program necessary for the implementation of the Regional Arterial Program in their area. The cities and the county in the Western County Area must participate in the Multi Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) by endorsing the Permit Allocation and executing the Implementation Agreement with the resources agencies in order to be eligible to receive local streets and roads funds.
- D.** Funding which is not allocated to a city or the county because it is not a participant in the TUMF program in the Coachella Valley area and the TUMF and the MSHCP in the Western County area shall be allocated to the Regional Arterial Program in the geographic area in which the city or portion of the county is located.

ORDINANCE NO. 02-001

RIVERSIDE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
TRANSPORTATION EXPENDITURE PLAN
AND RETAIL TRANSACTION AND USE TAX ORDINANCE

PREAMBLE

The transportation system in Riverside County is rapidly deteriorating and our population and economy are growing rapidly. Maintenance and repairs of existing roadways and improvements to relieve congestion cannot be accomplished with available funds. Without additional funds, the system will bog down and pavement will crumble into permanent disrepair. State highway funds are inadequate and competition for funds is increasing. Projects in areas where local sales tax funds are available have been and will continue to be viewed much more favorably in the selection process of the California Transportation Commission. Local governments must either generate revenues to expand our system and maintain our investments or watch the system collapse and endanger the health, welfare and safety of all Riverside County residents.

Continuation of our one-half percent sales tax for transportation to supplement traditional revenues and revenues to be generated through locally-adopted developer fees and assessment districts for transportation improvements is the only way local governments can be sure the transportation system will serve the current and future travel needs of Riverside County. Collection of the one-half percent sales tax will commence upon the expiration of the existing tax.

The Riverside County Transportation Commission will continue to seek maximum funding for transportation improvements through State and federal programs. The Commission will not provide sales tax revenues to any city or to the County unless revenues currently used by that agency for transportation are continued to be used for transportation purposes.

The Riverside County Transportation Commission ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. SUMMARY. This Ordinance provides for the imposition of a retail transaction and use tax of one-half percent for a period of thirty (30) years, the authority to issue bonds secured by such taxes, and the administration of the tax proceeds and a county transportation expenditure plan.

SECTION II. DEFINITIONS. The following definitions shall apply in this ordinance:

- A. Expenditure Plan. "The Expenditure Plan" means the Riverside County Transportation Commission Expenditure Plan (attached as Exhibit B) and adopted as part of this Ordinance including any future amendments thereto.
- B. "County" means the County of Riverside.

The local cities and the County shall annually submit to the Commission a list of the proposed uses for these funds and a certification that the maintenance of effort requirement is being met. If in any fiscal year the maintenance of effort requirement is not met, the agency shall not be eligible for any Measure "A" funds in the following fiscal year. Such funds shall be distributed to the remaining local governments using the formula for the area.

SECTION VIII. RETURN TO SOURCE. Funds for transportation purposes shall be allocated to the Western County, Coachella Valley, and Palo Verde Valley areas proportionate to the Measure "A" funds generated within these areas.

SECTION IX. ADMINISTRATION OF PLANS. The Commission shall impose and collect Measure "A" funds, shall allocate revenues derived, and shall administer the Expenditure Plan consistent with the authority cited herein.

SECTION X. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS. The Commission shall expend only that amount of the funds generated from Measure "A" for staff support, audit, administrative expenses, and contract services that are necessary and reasonable to carry out its responsibilities pursuant to Division 25, and in no case shall the funds expended for salaries and benefits exceed one percent (1%) of the annual net amount of revenue raised by Measure "A".

SECTION XI. ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT. The annual appropriations limit has been established pursuant to Ordinance 88-01 pursuant to Article XIII B of the California Constitution and Section 240308(b) of the Public Utilities Code. The appropriations limit has and shall be subject to adjustment as provided by law.

SECTION XII. EFFECTIVE AND OPERATIVE DATES. Subject to voter approval, this Ordinance shall take effect at the close of the polls on November 5, 2002.

SECTION XIII. ELECTION. The Commission requests the Board of Supervisors to call an election for voter approval of Measure "A" (Exhibit A), which election shall be held on November 5, 2002. The election shall be called and conducted in the same manner as provided by law for the conduct of elections by a county. Pursuant to Section 240308 of the Public Utilities Code, the sample ballot to be mailed to the voters shall be the full proposition as set forth in the Ordinance, and the voter information handbook shall include the entire Expenditure Plan. Approval of the attached proposition, and the imposition of the Measure "A" retail sales and use tax described herein, shall require the affirmative vote of 2/3rds of the electors voting on the attached proposition at the election described in this section.

SECTION XIV. EXPENDITURE PLAN AMENDMENTS. The Expenditure Plan for Measure "A" funds may only be amended, if required, in accordance with Public Utilities Code section 240302, as amended. This section currently provides the following process for amendment: (1) initiation of the amendment by the Commission reciting findings of necessity; (2) approval by the Board of Supervisors; and, (3) approval by a majority of the cities constituting a majority of the incorporated population, unless such process is amended in a manner consistent with State legislation.