



## NEWS RELEASE

**Date** December 13, 2018  
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*For immediate release*

### **Riverside County Transportation Commission Elects 2019 Chair, Vice Chairs**

Members of the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) unanimously elected Riverside County Third District Supervisor Chuck Washington yesterday to serve as the Commission's Chair for 2019.

Also elected by unanimous vote were Wildomar Mayor Ben Benoit, who will serve as RCTC's First Vice Chair, and Palm Desert City Council Member Jan Harnik, who was named Second Vice Chair.

Washington will lead the Commission in its ongoing efforts to improve mobility and provide solutions to transportation challenges. RCTC is responsible for building highways, express lanes, interchanges, and railroad bridges and helps provide the five-county Metrolink passenger rail system. RCTC also funds regional and local buses, promotes ridesharing programs, offers Freeway Service Patrol roadside assistance, and administers Measure A, the voter approved, half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements in Riverside County.

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An elected public servant since 1995, Washington previously served on the Temecula and Murrieta City Councils as Mayor and Council Member for both cities, serving twice as Mayor of Temecula. He is a former Navy officer and aviator and a veteran commercial airline pilot for 24 years.

“I am eager and honored to lead the 34-member Riverside County Transportation Commission in 2019. Riverside County faces both challenges and opportunities as the fourth most-populous county in the state,” said Supervisor Washington, who also chairs the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors. “Transportation remains vital to our residents’ ability to live and work locally, and the Commission works hard to find solutions and improve our regional transportation system.”

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