



NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

\$11 Million Awarded to Riverside County Transportation Projects to Address Traffic Congestion, Air Pollution, and Equity

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – The Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) will receive a \$3 million grant from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to evaluate enhanced transit services on I-15, I-215, and along the San Jacinto Branch rail line in western Riverside County. This planning grant is one of five Regional Early Action Planning grants (REAP 2.0) awarded to projects in Riverside County, totaling more than \$11 million. The state funded program accelerates progress toward the state’s housing and climate goals.

“REAP 2.0 provides vital funding to strategic transportation planning efforts that address traffic congestion, pollution, and equity across Riverside County,” said Commission Chair and Lake Elsinore City Councilmember Robert “Bob” Magee. “RCTC and our partners will continue to work on implementing microtransit, Coachella Valley Rail, and active transportation projects with the help of the grant. We are grateful to SCAG and the State for spotlighting Riverside County transportation needs.”

As the County's Transportation Planning Agency, RCTC worked closely with the Riverside Transit Agency (RTA), the City of Coachella, and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) to assemble a list of innovative projects. The grant aims to reduce vehicle traffic and air pollution by encouraging housing closer to where people live and work. The projects that will receive funding range from extending RTA’s GoMicro service in the San Jacinto/Hemet areas, preparing for the future CV Rail terminus station in the City of Coachella, and studying ways to reduce vehicle miles traveled and construct more active transportation projects in the Coachella Valley.

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The following Riverside County projects are approved for funding through the REAP 2.0 program:

Riverside Transit Agency GoMicro Microtransit Pilot Program Extension (\$2,378,635) - Launched in December 2022, the RTA GoMicro Microtransit Pilot Program serves the Hemet-San Jacinto area with on-demand shared ride service allowing pickups and drops at nearly 300 RTA bus stops within the service area. Riders can book trips in real time with their smartphones, online, or by calling the reservation center. The service has proven to be popular among the community and the grant extends the pilot program through at least 2024.

CVAG Vehicle Miles Traveled Study (\$2,005,000) - The study will provide the Coachella Valley with a framework to utilize vehicle miles traveled as the primary transportation evaluation metric by establishing screening criteria, analysis methodologies, calculation tools, and mitigation strategies.

Riverside County Transportation Commission Core Capacity Innovative Transit Study (\$3,000,000) - The study will evaluate transit potential along I-15, I-215 and along the San Jacinto Branch rail line in western Riverside County. The study aims to create a fully integrated transportation network that allows for multimodal access while leveraging advanced technology. The study will also consider vanpool and rideshare share improvements, active transportation improvements around proposed existing transit stops, and the deployment of Intelligent Transportation Systems.

City of Coachella Rail Station Feasibility Study and Integrated Land Use and Transit Network (\$2,005,000) - The study will create a vision and implementation plan for the multimodal transit-supportive rail station district in the City of Coachella, including a land use-focused development strategy, infrastructure investments, active transportation projects, and placemaking amenities to increase housing and jobs in a walkable and transit-accessible environment. The study is intended to support RCTC's Coachella Valley Rail project that would provide passenger rail service between Los Angeles Union Station and the Coachella Valley.

CVAG (CV) Link Community Connectors Analysis (\$1,700,000) - The project builds upon CV Link, a \$118 million multimodal transportation facility that connects various cities, tribal nations, and unincorporated areas in the region, by developing design plans for connector routes to this important regional active transportation route.

All the awarded projects support RCTC's efforts to reduce traffic congestion, address the needs of disadvantaged communities, and encourage sustainable development for the benefit of our economy and environment.

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