Riverside County Integrated Project: An innovative model for integrating land use, transportation and conservation planning

Revitalizing the Suburbs
Edward J. Blakely Center for Sustainable Suburban Development
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RCTC’s Mission

• Play a leadership role in improving mobility in Riverside County
• Oversee funding and coordination of all county public transportation services
• Implementing agency for the Measure A Transportation Improvement Program
• SAFE, FSP, Transit
Traffic Volume
Increases by Year 2020

Estimated % growth in traffic on specific roadways from now to the year 2020
Riverside County Integrated Project ~ RCIP ~

- Initiated by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors in 1999
- Recognition that land use and infrastructure decisions are driven by environmental issues
- Deal with environmental issues as part of land use and infrastructure planning
RCIP is a Four Part Integrated and Complementary Program

- **New General Plan for the County**
- **Habitat Conservation-MSHCP**
- **Special Area Management Plan-SAMP**
- **Major Transportation Corridors-CETAP**
Overall Transportation Strategy

- Promote job growth
- Serious effort to expand freeway and arterial system
- Develop/expand transit spine network
- Promote development at transit nodes
- *Have transportation integrated with conservation efforts and land use decisions*
Four Priority Corridors
MSHCP

• Is the linchpin of the RCIP
• Considers species protection as an element of planning and construction
• Adopted by all 14 cities in the western county in June 2003
• USFWS/DFG issued permits June 2004
MSHCP: Fundamentals

• Designed to protect up to 146 species (32 listed species)
• Plan area encompasses 1.2 million acres
• Planned reserve of 500,000 acres
  ➢ 347,000 acres existing
  ➢ 153,000 additional reserve lands
• Linkages between core habitats and existing public conservation areas
MSHCP Benefits

• Provides coverage and mitigation for all western county transportation requirements and other critical infrastructure

• Umbrella Federal and State permits to “take” endangered species—streamlines regulatory review

• Open space secured

• Public access of natural areas

• Greater certainty in development process

+153,000 acres
General Plan

Innovative concepts included in the new county-wide Plan:

Clustered development
- Encouraged compact development and permanent preservation of open space

Community Centers
- Planned focal points that integrate housing, retail, office, and recreation
- Desire to accommodate a portion of future growth by allowing increased densities to reduce sprawl
How a Transit Oasis Works

A station is located on the Metrolink or Regional Flyer network.

A Community Center is developed as a pedestrian-friendly environment.

A Transit Oasis is built as part of the Community Center.

A Transit Oasis shuttle waits for the express to arrive.

The shuttle proceeds nonstop from Station to Station along the Transit Oasis.

Since the Transit Oasis behaves like a light rail vehicle, it completes its loop rapidly.

The shuttle circulates all day, connecting with expresses and serving internal trips.
RCIP Accomplishments

- CETAP Recognized under E.O. 13274 for Environmental Stewardship and Transportation Infrastructure
- Plans adopted in 2003
- Regional Conservation Authority created to implement the MSHCP
- Reserve Assembly underway, *almost 36,000 acres already added to reserve*
RCTC Supported Efforts

- Perris Valley Line
- Rail feasibility studies
- Express bus
- Commuter Assistance programs to support ridesharing
- Joint development/Transit Oriented Development
PVL Service Facts

- $179 million project cost
- 22.7 miles long
- Eight trips per day at start-up
- Travel time of 40 minutes from Perris
- Travel time of 20 minutes from Alessandro
- Extends an existing Metrolink line to more of Riverside County
Joint Development Guidelines

- Promote and enhance rail transit ridership
- Enhance and protect the commuter rail station and corridor
- Encourage comprehensive and complementary planning and development around RCTC-owned station sites
- Reduce auto use and congestion through encouragement of rail transit-linked development
- Demonstrate a fiscal benefit to the Commission based on a fair market return on public investment
For More Information...

On the Riverside County Integrated Project:
www.rcip.org

On the MSHCP:
www.wrc-rca.org

On the General Plan:
www.rctlma.org/generalplan

On RCTC or CETAP:
www.rctc.org or www.rcip.org/transportation

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