WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR THE MID COUNTY PARKWAY?

Right now RCTC is studying the location of alternative routes for the Mid County Parkway. In order to move forward, the following steps must be completed:

- **Route Evaluation:** Possible routes will be identified and evaluated for feasibility by both engineers and environmental agencies.
- **Public Input:** Public meetings will be held to gather public input on the possible alignments both before the formal environmental process and then again in the first phase of the environmental process, called Scoping. Public input helped determine the general location of this route during the regional transportation planning process held in 2002 and 2003 and RCTC is committed to seeking residents’ input as the project moves forward.
- **Environmental Studies:** Environmental studies to determine the potential impacts of the alternative routes will be completed including a draft EIS/EIR. These studies will measure impacts to biological resources, water resources, geology, air quality, cultural resources, paleontology, noise, socioeconomic, land use, public services and utilities, aesthetics, traffic and circulation, and public safety.
- **Alternatives Narrowed:** The results of the public input process, environmental studies, and the input of other transportation and environmental agencies will narrow down the choice of possible routes for the Mid County Parkway.

**Prefered Alternative Selection:** RCTC will choose the locally preferred alternative from those studied in the Draft EIS/EIR. If approved, the preferred route will move forward for design and construction.

We want to know what you think. If you have any comments about the Mid County Parkway, call us at (951) 787-7141, email us at www.midcountyparkway.org, or write us:
Cathy Bechtel, Mid County Parkway Manager

WHAT IS THE MID COUNTY PARKWAY SCHEDULE?

The Mid County Parkway is being pursued under the historic Cajalco-Ramona Corridor NEPA Partnership agreement between RCTC, the County of Riverside, the United States Department of Transportation, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Army Corps of Engineers, Caltrans, and the California Department of Fish and Game. This agreement means that all project partners have pledged to employ streamlining procedures that will help ensure timely traffic relief for western Riverside County residents. Nevertheless, the project is expected to take at least three years before final engineering and right of way acquisition can begin. Construction can begin after all right of way has been obtained and utility conflicts have been resolved.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE MID COUNTY PARKWAY?

Meetings will be held at the following times and locations:
- 9/1/04 (Tuesday)—6:30 pm
  - Valley Wide Recreation & Park District
  - 901 W. Esplanade Ave.
  - San Jacinto, CA 92581
- 9/22/04 (Wednesday)—6:30 pm
  - Vail Verde Unified School District
  - District Office Conference Room
  - 975 W. Morgan St.
  - Perris, CA 92571
- 9/23/04 (Thursday)—6:30 pm
  - Eagle Glen Golf Course
  - 1800 Eagle Glen Pkwy
  - (I-15 & Cajalco Rd.)
  - Corona, CA 92581

Stay Informed—
www.midcountyparkway.org

WHAT IS THE MID COUNTY PARKWAY?

The Mid County Parkway is a proposed 32-mile transportation corridor that will relieve traffic congestion for east-west travel in western Riverside County between the San Jacinto and Corona areas and help address future transportation needs through 2030. The proposed corridor was identified as a part of the Riverside County Integrated Project, a regionwide transportation and environmental planning project undertaken over several years by the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) and the County of Riverside. The Project determined that a corridor in the vicinity of Cajalco Road in the west and Ramona Expressway in the east would significantly reduce congestion, improve traffic flow, and reduce travel times on I-215, SR 91, SR 74, and SR 60. County residents, through their input at public meetings, helped determine the general corridor locations under consideration. Further study of potential route locations is being conducted by RCTC, the agency responsible for transportation planning in Riverside County and the administrator of Measure A, Riverside County’s 1/2¢ sales tax for transportation.

WHY IS THE MID COUNTY PARKWAY NEEDED?

By 2020, the County’s population is projected to double to 3 million. Today, east-west traffic within western Riverside County is carried on State Routes 60, 91 and 74. These corridors, which link western Riverside County to San Bernardino County and the Coachella Valley to the east and Los Angeles and Orange counties to the west, are already experiencing significant gridlock. Another east-west route to relieve this congestion is essential in order to maintain and enhance quality of life in western Riverside County.

Such a route was identified as a high priority in the Riverside County Integrated Project’s transportation element, called the Community and Environmental Transportation Acceptability Process (CETAP). In July 2002, a draft Environmental Impact Study/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) was published for an east-west corridor identified as the “Hemet to Corona/Lake Elsinore Corridor.” While RCTC studied several alternatives for the corridor, a route roughly following Cajalco Road and the Ramona Expressway was eventually identified as a preferred route to relieve congestion and provide future mobility. The new name for this Cajalco-Ramona route is the Mid County Parkway.

The project received national recognition when it was identified by the White House under Executive Order 13274 for environmental streamlining, one of only seven transportation projects in the nation to initially receive this designation. In order to move forward now, it is necessary to study the corridor in detail and eventually identify a specific route.
The preliminary design and environmental studies for the Mid County Parkway will be funded through a Federal Streamlining Allocation and the western Riverside County Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee or TUMF.

The TUMF is paid as a part of the fees collected for development of land in Riverside County and is participated in by all 14 cities in western Riverside County and the County of Riverside. These fees paid by new development offset the cost of providing transportation improvements to accommodate new homes and residents.

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Final Engineering Design, right-of-way acquisition and construction costs are anticipated to be funded by a combination of Measure A, Riverside County’s 1/2¢ sales tax for transportation; TUMF fees; and state and federal dollars. RCTC is working closely with Caltrans and the Federal Highways Administration so that the proposed roadway will meet state and federal standards and be eligible for state and federal funding.

Presently, no specific route has been selected for the Mid County Parkway. The study area, shown here, includes a large area located on either side of the existing roadway known as Cajalco Road between I-15 and I-215 and as Ramona Expressway east of I-215. The project must provide for connections to SR 79 in the east, I-215 in the center, and I-15 to the west.

The Mid County Parkway will offer a variety of benefits to residents, commuters, property owners and business owners throughout western Riverside County.

For the General Public, the Mid County Parkway will bring badly needed traffic congestion relief, giving residents more time at home with family and less time in traffic.

For Businesses, improved mobility provided by the Mid County Parkway will expedite the movement of goods and services across western Riverside County, a key factor in maintaining and enhancing the local economy. Reduced travel times across western Riverside County and improved mobility will bring residents and businesses substantial savings in transportation costs and improve the climate for attracting new businesses to the region.

Commercial and industrial property values along the route will see an upswing in value from improved transportation access.

The Mid County Parkway will also create an express route for regional trips and public transit between the population centers of San Jacinto/Hemet, Perris/Moreno Valley, and Corona/Norco.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE MID COUNTY PARKWAY?

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HOW WILL THE MID COUNTY PARKWAY BE FUNDED?

The following roadway designs are being evaluated as possibilities for various segments of the Mid County Parkway:

Roadway with Center Divider

Divided Roadway with Drainage Facility in Median

Divided Roadway

WHERE WILL THE MID COUNTY PARKWAY BE LOCATED?

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