



COACHELLA VALLEY COMMUNITY CONNECTORS

OCTOBER 2026 FINAL

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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JURISDICTIONS

City of Cathedral City

City of Coachella

City of Desert Hot Springs

City of Indian Wells

City of Indio

City of La Quinta

City of Palm Desert

City of Palm Springs

City of Rancho Mirage

County of Riverside

TRIBAL NATIONS

Agua Caliente Band of
Cahuilla Indians

Torres-Martinez Desert
Cahuilla Indians

SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Palm Springs Unified School District (PSUSD)

Desert Sands Unified School District (DSUSD)

Alianza Coachella Valley

Coachella Valley Housing Coalition Desert

Bicycle Club

Friends of CV Link

Friends of the Desert Mountains

Life to Rise

Youth Leadership Institute (YLI)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY **i**

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION **1**

Project Overview2

Chapter 2

EXISTING CONDITIONS **5**

Study Area6

Demographics and Commuting8

Mobility Networks18

Safety27

Bicycle Network Quality31

Chapter 3

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION **34**

Collateral, Educational Materials, and Project Webpage36

Community-Based Organization Partnerships37

Interactive Outreach Tools38

Pop-Up Events40

Virtual Public Meetings41

Targeted Stakeholder Meetings42

Community Engagement's Influence on the Plan .43

Chapter 4

GOAL, OBJECTIVES, AND NETWORK DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK **44**

Project Goal and Objectives45

Network Development Framework50

Chapter 5

CONCEPTUAL PLANNING **55**

Applying the Network Development Framework56

Agency and Tribal Collaboration66

Assessment of Alternatives68

Recommended Community Connector Network69

Chapter 6

EARLY ACTION PROJECT IDENTIFICATION **72**

Early Action Project Identification criteria.73

Criteria Scoring75

Chapter 7

EARLY ACTION PROJECTS **79**

Chapter 8

REMAINING COMMUNITY CONNECTOR PROJECTS **187**

Appendices

A: Existing Conditions Report

B: Public Outreach Summaries

C: Alternatives Assessment

D: Community Connector Segments and Classifications by Jurisdiction

E: Early Action Project Identification Methodology

F: Rough Order of Magnitude Cost Estimate Technical Memo

G: Ramon Road Bridge Designs



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

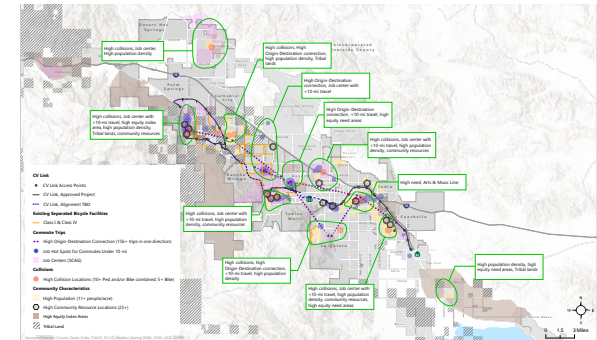
The Coachella Valley Community Connectors Plan is a regional master plan that identifies and advances a network of low-stress active transportation corridors throughout Coachella Valley. The network is designed to support local and regional active transportation trips by better linking population and employment centers, key destinations, and other points of interest. At strategic locations, the Community Connectors will also connect with CV Link, expanding access to the regional corridor and facilitating longer-distance, intercity trips.

The Plan was developed with funding from the State of California's Regional Early Action Planning (REAP 2.0) program, which supports planning efforts to accelerate infill development, affirmatively further fair housing (AFFH), and reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita. Building on previous and ongoing active transportation planning efforts, the Plan was developed through collaboration with local jurisdictions, Tribal nations, community members, and other stakeholders.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The existing conditions assessment in Chapter 2 examined travel demand, social equity, and the safety and comfort of the current transportation environment to identify regional needs and opportunities. Findings highlighted Palm Desert, Indio and Palm Springs as areas with strong potential for bicycling activity due to their concentration of residents, employment, and regional and local destinations. Travel patterns also revealed substantial intercity demand, particularly between Indio and neighboring cities, reinforcing the need for a connected regional network.

The assessment also identified communities experiencing greater socioeconomic, environmental, and transportation disadvantages. While these conditions occur throughout the Coachella Valley, higher concentrations were identified in Coachella, Indio, and Desert Hot Springs, underscoring the value of equitable access to safe and affordable transportation options.



Key findings from Existing Conditions Report

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Black History Month Town Fair

A comprehensive public engagement program, described in Chapter 3, complemented the technical analysis through grassroots outreach, community events, interactive mapping activities and surveys, and a virtual public workshop. These activities provided opportunities for residents and stakeholders throughout the Coachella Valley to share their experiences, needs, and preferences.

Community members emphasized the need for safer bicycle facilities and crossings; improved connections to parks, schools, commercial districts, and other everyday destinations; and better regional connectivity in underserved areas. This feedback helped validate findings from the existing conditions review and inform the development and refinement of the Community Connectors network.

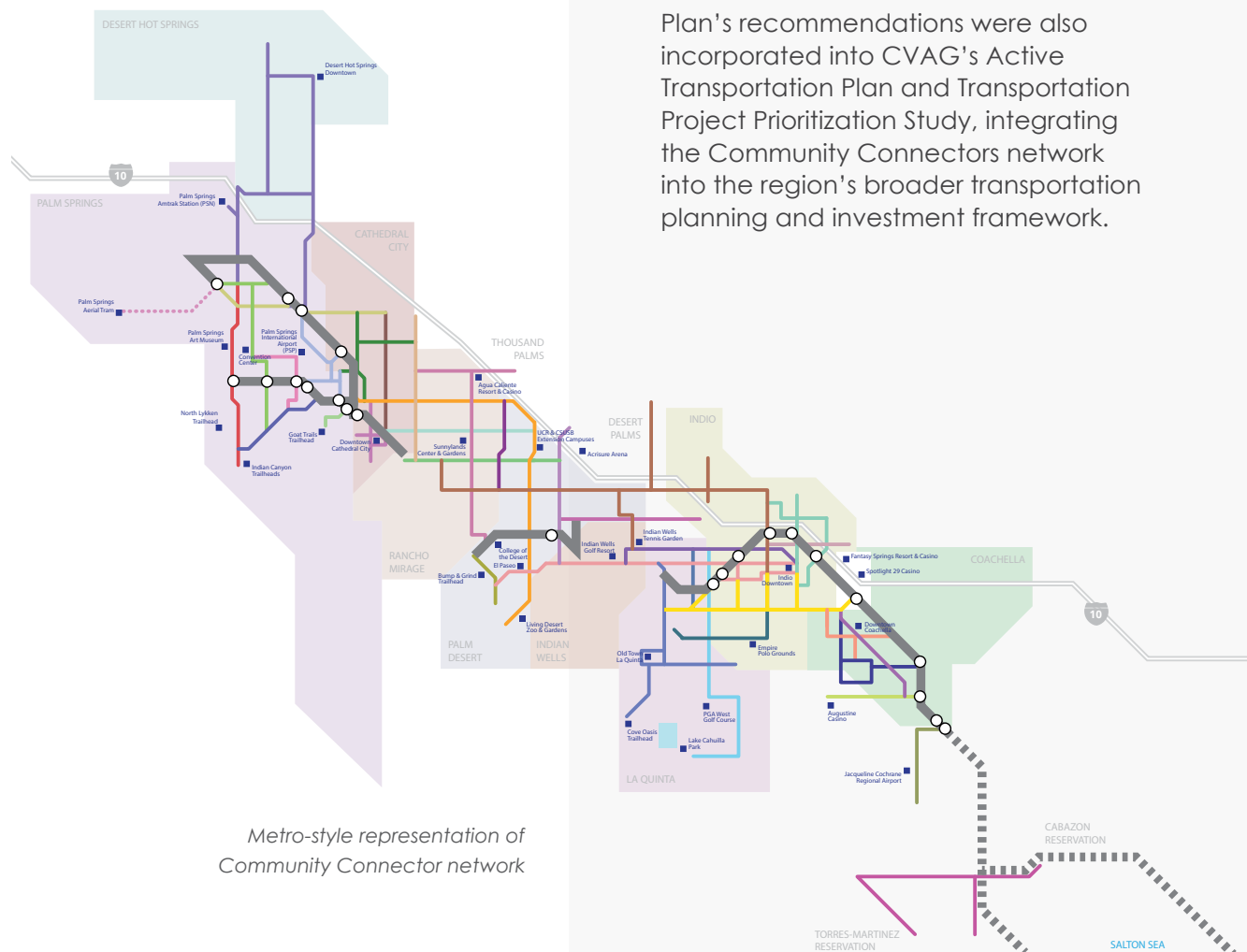
NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

The Plan's overarching goal, presented in Chapter 4, is to **extend local connections to the CV Link to help fulfill CVAG's vision of a more active, livable, equitable and sustainable Coachella Valley**. Four supporting objectives and eight network development principles established the framework for identifying and refining the Community Connectors network. These principles consist of building on past planning, improving connectivity, serving demand, geographic equity, social equity, supporting everyday active transportation, providing safety and comfort, and feasibility.

The conceptual planning process (Chapter 5) applied this framework through technical analysis and ongoing coordination with local agencies and Tribal governments. This collaboration provided essential local knowledge regarding community priorities, existing and planned facilities, roadway conditions, design preferences, and implementation constraints, helping to shape a network that balances regional connectivity, community needs, and feasibility.

The resulting network includes nearly **250 miles of Community Connectors**, extending the reach of CV Link into surrounding communities while also supporting local and intercity active transportation trips independent of CV Link. Approximately **55% of the planned network consists of Class I and Class IV bicycle facilities**, which provide physical separation from vehicular traffic and support a more comfortable, low-stress bicycling environment for users of varying ages and abilities.

The recommended network is arranged into **44 Community Connector projects**, each with suggested bikeway classifications. Conceptual design and planning-level cost estimates were developed for projects selected for further advancement. The Plan's recommendations were also incorporated into CVAG's Active Transportation Plan and Transportation Project Prioritization Study, integrating the Community Connectors network into the region's broader transportation planning and investment framework.



PROJECT EVALUATION AND EARLY ACTION PROJECTS

The 44 Community Connectors projects were evaluated using nine scoring criteria (Chapter 6) reflecting regional active transportation goals and REAP 2.0 program objectives. The criteria considered population and employment density, accessibility to non-work destinations (overall and within disadvantaged communities), regional bicycling connectivity, collision history, bicycling comfort, proximity to affordable housing infill sites, cost and feasibility, and overlap with local projects.

The evaluation identified projects which offer the greatest potential benefits for early advancement. Two of these projects, Avenue 50 / Monroe Street and Grapefruit Boulevard, are already advancing toward full implementation. As a result, two additional projects were selected from the next highest-scoring projects, resulting in 15 Early Action Projects for further conceptual design and cost estimating.

The 15 Early Action Projects include:

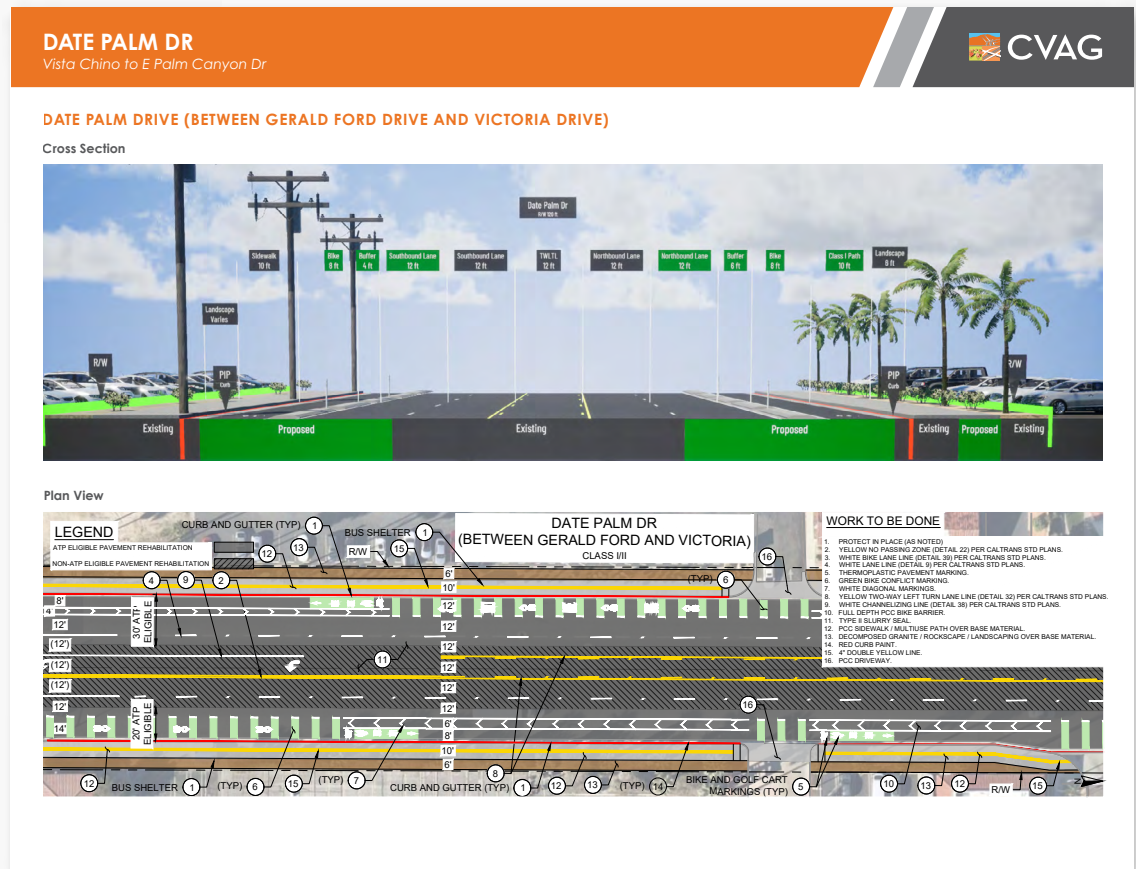
- ▶ Indian Canyon Drive
- ▶ Tahquitz Canyon Way / El Cielo Road
- ▶ Palm Drive / Pierson Boulevard
- ▶ Gene Autry Trail
- ▶ Ramon Road / Landau Boulevard
- ▶ Date Palm Drive
- ▶ Cook Street
- ▶ Highway 111
- ▶ Jefferson Street / Avenue 40
- ▶ Fred Waring Drive
- ▶ Miles Avenue / Requa Avenue
- ▶ Jefferson Street
- ▶ Jackson Street / Avenue 42
- ▶ Avenue 50 / Cesar Chavez Street / Van Buren Street
- ▶ Avenue 52



CONCEPTUAL DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

To support implementation, the 15 Early Action Community Connector Projects are presented in Chapter 7 through multipage exhibits that include project overview and description, planning-level cost estimates, and representative conceptual plan views and cross-sections at four locations along each Connector. Cost estimates identify construction quantities and unit costs, with a distinction between improvements anticipated to be eligible or ineligible for Active Transportation Program (ATP) funding.

Corresponding exhibits for the remaining 27 Community Connector projects are provided in Chapter 8, with representative conceptual plan views and cross-sections at two locations per project.



Sample cross-section and conceptual plan view included in each project exhibit

The Community Connectors Plan represents an important step toward realizing CVAG's vision of a more active, livable, equitable, and sustainable Coachella Valley. By building on existing investments, addressing gaps in the active transportation network, and connecting communities to everyday destinations and CV Link, the Plan establishes a coordinated framework for future investments. As the network is implemented, it will expand transportation choices, improve safety and accessibility, and strengthen connections within and between communities throughout the Coachella Valley.