

Palm Desert General Plan Reference Guide for 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Program

Mobility Element

This Element describes the City’s goals and policies related to transportation. The transportation system includes the city’s roadways, bus stops, bicycle lanes, sidewalks, and trails.

Goals

1 – Livable Streets. A balanced transportation system that accommodates all modes of travel safely and efficiently.

3 – Pedestrian Facilities. Integrated pedestrian pathways that connect residences, businesses, and educational community uses.

4 – Bicycle Networks. Well-connected bicycle network that facilitates bicycling for commuting, school, shopping, and recreational trips.

6 – Sustainable Transportation. A transportation network that can be built, operated, and maintained within the City’s resource limitations.

7 – Monitoring. A process to regularly monitor the performance of City transportation facilities.

Policies

1.1 – *Complete Streets*. Consider all modes of travel in planning, design, and construction of all transportation projects to create safe, livable, and inviting environments for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and public transit users of all ages and capabilities.

3.1 – *Pedestrian Network*. Provide a safe and convenient circulation system for pedestrians that include sidewalks, crosswalks, places to sit and gather, appropriate street lighting, buffers from moving vehicles, shading, and amenities for people of all ages.

3.2 – *Prioritized Improvements*. Prioritize pedestrian improvements in areas of the city with community and/or education facilities, supportive land use patterns, expressed community interest in better pedestrian infrastructure, and non-automotive connections such as multi-use trails and transit stops.

4.2 – *Prioritized Improvements*. Prioritize and capitalize on opportunities to provide bicycle facilities that connect community facilities, supportive land use patterns, pedestrian routes, and transit stations.

6.3 – *Operations and Maintenance Costs*. Evaluate potential changes in Citywide operations and maintenance costs for transportation facilities prior to the construction of any new facilities.

7.1 – *Ongoing Monitoring*. Regularly monitor the performance of all major transportation facilities within the City including major roadways, pedestrian facilities, bicycle lanes, and transit stops.

7.2 – *Safety Review*. Continue to coordinate with law enforcement agencies to identify major accident locations

including those affecting vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Regularly publish reports regarding traffic safety conditions in the city.

Safety Element

This element identifies priority public safety issues in Palm Desert and addresses potential hazards to people and property. Issues in this element include both natural and human-caused hazards. Goals, policies and actions in the Safety Element seek to enhance the safety of the community and foster long-term resilience to potential hazards.

Goals

1 – Leadership. City leadership that promotes collaboration within the region that sustains maximum resilience to emergencies and disasters.

3 – Flood hazards. A community where flooding and inundation hazards are contained within areas reserved for open space.

4 – Fire hazards. Existing and future development is protected from wildfire hazards, with decreased frequency and intensity of wildfire incidents despite increased density and urbanization within the community.

Policies

1.4 – *Critical Facilities*. Prepare existing critical facilities for resilience to hazards and develop new facilities outside of hazard-prone areas.

3.3 – *Stormwater Management*. Monitor, update, and enforce stormwater management plans in coordination with regional agencies, utilities, and other jurisdictions.

4.1 – *Fire Preparation*. Maintain optimal fire readiness and response service in coordination with Riverside County and other agencies. Review interjurisdictional fire response agreements and ensure that the agreements and firefighting resources, including water supply, can meet current and future needs, including increased demand from new development and changing fire regimes.

Public Utilities & Services Element

This Element establishes the City’s long-term goals and policies for producing, managing, and maintaining its infrastructure systems and public utilities. The Public Utilities & Services Element provides background research, goals, and policies to guide the provisions of public utilities and services to support existing and new development in Palm Desert.

Goals

3 – Water Supply. Ensure a sustainable, clean, long-term water supply.

6 – Education. A city with world-class educational opportunities.

Policies

3.3 – *Water infrastructure*. Maintain existing water infrastructure to protect the supply, quality, and delivery of portable water.

6.3 – *Library space*. Ensure adequate library space, services, books and other resources are available to residents and students.

7 – Emergency Services. Continue to provide excellent emergency services to the community.

7.1 – *Quality of service*. Provide courteous, responsive, and efficient police and fire services.

7.3 – *Serving new growth*. Expand police and fire service coverage in conjunction with new growth to ensure quality of service does not diminish.

Health & Wellness Element

This element presents priorities, objectives, and goals for health and wellness improvements throughout the community. It includes goals and policies that address existing community health concerns as well as innovative solutions to ensure city streets, parks, and public spaces are safe and comfortable now and in the future.

Goals

5 – Healthcare and Social Services. Affordable, accessible, and high-quality health care and social services for all residents.

Policies

7.1 – *Physical plan*. Facilitate the construction of a built environment that supports a healthy physical and social environment for new and existing neighborhoods and strengthens community cohesion.

Housing Element

The Housing Element is designed to guide the City’s elected and appointed officials, as well as City staff and the general public, in locating and constructing housing to accommodate all segments of the community.

Goals

2 – The preservation and maintenance of the high quality of the City’s affordable housing supply.

Policies

3 – The City shall preserve existing affordable housing units.

3.D – The Housing Authority owns approximately 1,114 existing rental housing units and will strive to maintain its ownership and/or long term affordability of these units by a third party. Should the Housing Authority sell any of its properties, the sale will include a deed restriction assuring that the same affordability levels as occur prior to sale are maintained for a period of at least 55 years.