

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: May 9, 2024

PREPARED BY: Nick Melloni, AICP, Principal Planner

REQUEST: STUDY SESSION: UPDATE FOR THE PALM DESERT GENERAL PLAN
MOBILITY ELEMENT

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide feedback on proposed future updates to the Palm Desert General Plan Mobility Element.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

California state law requires all cities and counties to adopt a general plan, “for the physical development of the county, or city, and any land outside its boundaries which in the planning agency’s judgment bears relation to its planning” (Gov. Code §65300). The mobility element, sometimes referred to as a circulation element, is one of the mandatory general plan elements required by state law. A circulation element correlates to the land use element and identifies the general location and extent of existing and proposed major thoroughfares, transportation routes, terminals, and other local public utilities and facilities.

The City of Palm Desert adopted its current general plan on November 10, 2016, by City Council Resolution No. 2016-87. Since this adoption, several state policies and regulations have been implemented addressing roadway safety (Senate Bill or “SB” 932), vehicle miles traveled or “VMT” (SB 743), and other requirements pertaining to housing (SB 330 / SB 35) which affect the required contents of the mobility element. Additionally, the element requires content updates to ensure it is clear, objective, internally consistent, and consistent with area plans and recommendations found in the City’s Active Transportation Plan.

The purpose of this session is to provide an overview of these changes, and an overview of staff’s recommended approach to update the mobility element.

Legal Review:

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney’s office.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Presentation