

# CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

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MEETING DATE: September 25, 2025

PREPARED BY: Carlos Flores, AICP, Deputy Director of Development Services

SUBJECT: CIRCULATION ELEMENT GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive an update on the General Plan Amendment of the Circulation Element.

## **BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:**

The City of Palm Desert adopted its current general plan, including the Circulation Element, on November 10, 2016, by Resolution No. 2016-87. Since its adoption, several updates to state laws and regulations have been implemented, which necessitate updates to the Circulation Element in addition to updating internal inconsistencies within the General Plan.

On July 11, 2024, the City Council approved a contract with Fehr & Peers (Consultant) for the preparation of an amendment to the Circulation Element (Chapter 4 - Mobility) of the Palm Desert General Plan.

The Consultant has provided several updates on the Circulation Element Update as follows:

- February 13, 2025, City Council Study Session: Consultant provided an overview and update on the Circulation Element, including covering five (5) key topics: Active Transportation, Safety, Roadway Design Standards, Traffic Congestion, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT).
- June 26, 2025, City Council Study Session: Direction given to the Consultant to include the Portola Avenue/Interstate-10 Interchange Study to the Circulation Element Update.
- September 5, 2025, Active Transportation Program (ATP) Sub-Committee: Review and direction on proposed maps, policies, and programs.
- September 25, 2025, City Council Study Session: Consultant will provide an update, including a discussion on the following draft documents:
  - o Introducing new Goals and Policies, and proposing modified policies
  - o Proposed changes to roadway networks and cross-sections
  - o Proposed changes to Highway 111 Vision
  - o Proposed changes to Bike & Golf Cart Network
  - o Discuss truck routes
  - o VMT and Level of Service (LOS) Policy and Thresholds
  - o Draft Implementation Matrix

## **Legal Review:**

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney's Office.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact on the General Fund with this update.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Presentation
2. Draft Cross Sections
3. Draft Implementation Matrix
4. Draft Mobility Element Goals and Policies.