

General Plan Circulation Element Update



July 9, 2025

RSM General Plan

- State law requires every city to adopt a General Plan
- Long-term plan to guide development of the City (10 to 20-year horizon)
- Identifies the community's priorities and vision for the future

- First General Plan Adopted in 2002
- 2020 General Plan Update: Land Use, Noise, Safety, Conservation/Open Space, Economic Development (March 2020)
- Housing Element (2021-2029) and Safety Element Update (August 2022)
- Land Use Element Update (August 2024)



Circulation Element Update

- Purpose: to update the last remaining element – 2014 Circulation Element
- Focus of the update:
 - Current regulatory setting, new legislation
 - Internal consistency with Land Use, Housing, and Safety Elements
- Implement Transportation Study Guidelines



General Plan Elements

■ Element Framework

- Introduction
 - describes focus and purpose of the element
 - Identifies relationship to other elements
- Issues, Goals and Policies
 - Description of planning issues - needs, concerns or desires
 - Goals and policies related to the issue
- Plan
 - Overview of potential actions to implement the goals and policies



Goals and Policies

- Serve as a guide for future development
- Intent: Balanced, multi-modal network for all roadway users
- Notable new goals and policies:
 - Goal 3 and policies 3.1-3.6 promote a safe and accessible circulation system that accommodates all user types.
 - Policy 1.9 related to evacuation routes, integrates policy from the Safety Element to comply with AB 747.
 - Policy 1.6: Require new development projects to prepare transportation studies consistent with the City's Transportation Study Guidelines
 - Policy 2.3: Work with regional partners to plan for emerging transportation modes and technologies.



Analysis of Proposed Changes

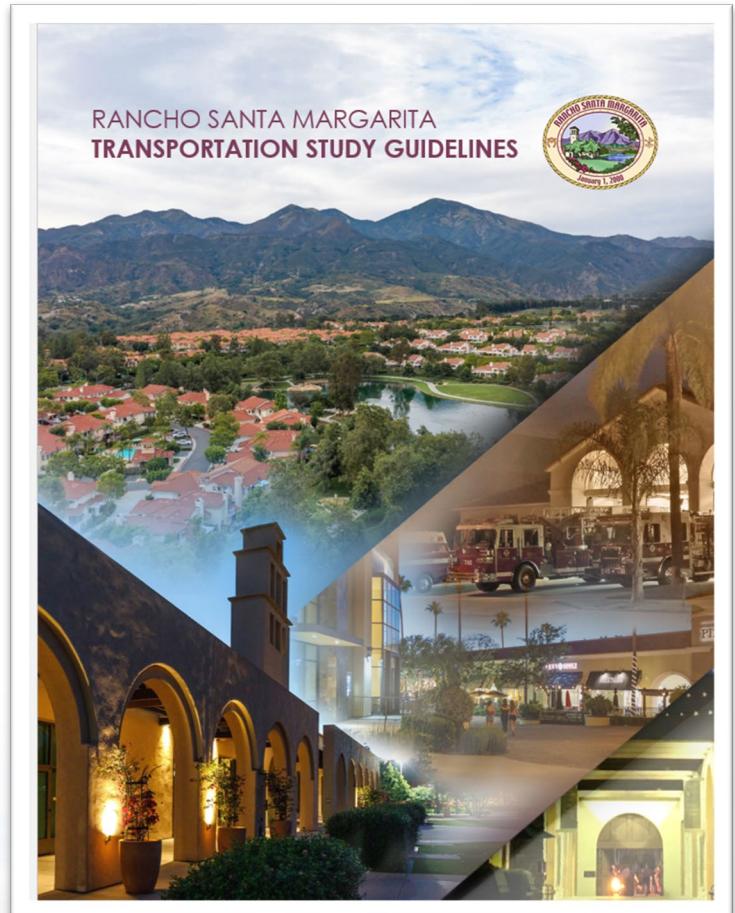
Staff Report Attachment C

Proposed Changes to the 2025 Circulation Element Update		
Existing (2014) Circulation Element	Proposed 2025 Circulation Element Update	Summary of Changes
Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">Introductory paragraphs describe the City's circulation system and contents of the Element	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">Introductory paragraph outlining the City's overall goals for the circulation system	Minor text changes to provide clarity and better reflect the community's circulation needs.
Purpose of the Circulation Element <ul style="list-style-type: none">Purpose and brief overview of the Element, including State planning law requirements	Purpose of the Circulation Element <ul style="list-style-type: none">Purpose of Element and overview of topical areas covered	Minor text changes to provide clarity and better reflect the community's circulation needs.
Scope and Content of the Circulation Element <ul style="list-style-type: none">Scope and content of the Circulation Element; Principles the Circulation Element focuses on; and how to read goals, policies, and actions	Scope and Content of the Circulation Element <ul style="list-style-type: none">Description of State planning law requirements; Scope and content of the Circulation Element; and how to read goals, policies, and actions	Minor text changes to provide clarity and better reflect the community's circulation needs.
Related Plans and Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none">Description of regulatory setting, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">California Assembly Bill 32 (2006) and Senate Bill 375 (2008)AB 1358 California Complete Streets Act of 2008The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)Orange County Congestion Management Program (CMP)	Related Plans and Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none">Description of regulatory setting, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">California Assembly Bill (AB) 32 (2006)California Senate Bill (SB) 32 (2016)SB 375 (2008)SB 743 (2013)AB 1358 California Complete Streets Act (2008)	Includes relevant regulations that have been updated since adoption of the Existing (2014) Circulation Element, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Senate Bill (SB) 743, which went into effect on July 1, 2020, changed transportation impact analysis as part of CEQA compliance, replacing the determination of impacts based on roadway and intersection



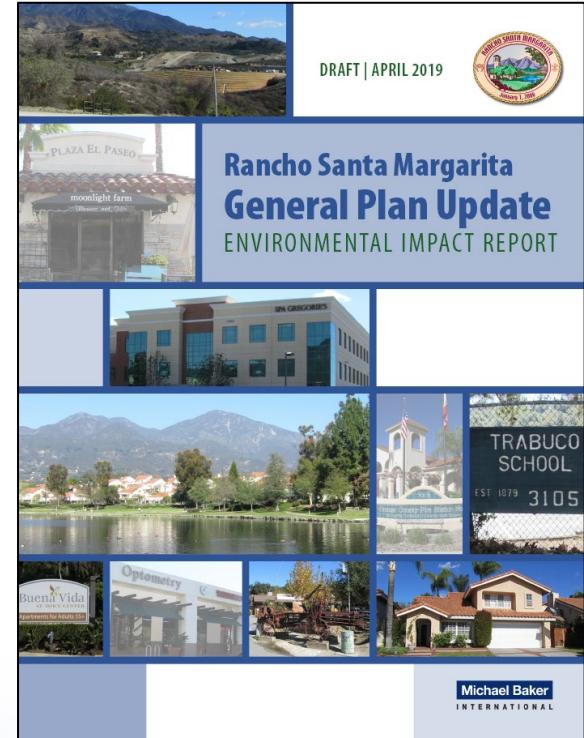
Transportation Study Guidelines

- State law requires transportation impact analysis under CEQA to utilize Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
- Level of Service (LOS) is still a valid measure, but may not be used in environmental analysis
- Local policies can require LOS analysis for new development
- Proposed Circulation Element sets LOS policies and use of Transportation Study Guidelines
- Guidelines will be used for consistent evaluation of projects



Environmental Review

- Update of the General Plan is considered a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- General Plan Final EIR Addendum
- Finding: The Circulation Element Update does not result in any new significant environmental impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified significant impact



Recommendation

- Adopt a resolution entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING THE THIRD ADDENDUM TO THE 2020 GENERAL PLAN FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, AS PREVIOUSLY ADDENDED, FOR THE CIRCULATION ELEMENT UPDATE PROJECT, PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

- Adopt a resolution entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT GPA 25-001, AN UPDATE TO THE GENERAL PLAN CIRCULATION ELEMENT



Questions?

