



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RCTC celebrates 40 years of delivering mobility, looks forward to Riverside County's future

During a historic time of infrastructure investment in Riverside County, with more than \$2 billion of mobility improvements underway today, the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) celebrates the 40th anniversary of its creation by the California Legislature and Governor.

“I’m pleased to join with Commissioners and the community to mark RCTC’s 40th anniversary,” said Anne Mayer, Executive Director of RCTC. “Think of where Riverside County was 40 years ago. In 1976, about 550,000 people lived in Riverside County and oranges were more prevalent than cars. A lot has changed since 1976 – and we the people of Riverside County have been adaptive to that change.”

Mayer made her comments at an Open House event to commemorate RCTC’s 40th anniversary on Thursday September 29. Over 200 people visited RCTC’s downtown Riverside offices to reflect on the progress of the last four decades and share visions of the road ahead for one of California’s fastest growing counties and one of the nation’s most important economic regions.

Since RCTC was formed, the population of Riverside County has quadrupled. To help manage this growth, voters passed Measure A, the half-cent sales tax for transportation projects, in 1988 and again in 2002 (by two-thirds votes each time). Measure A has allowed RCTC to deliver mobility projects including:

- Critical safety improvements to SR-86 in the Coachella Valley;
- Congestion relief projects on major highways throughout Riverside County such as:

- SR-91 in Corona in the early 1990's and again today in Riverside and Corona;
- SR-60 in Moreno Valley and Jurupa Valley;
- I-215 through Murrieta, Menifee, and Perris;
- Perris Valley Line Metrolink Extension;
- Interchange improvements along I-10 in the Coachella Valley; and
- Critical transit and paratransit services for disabled, senior, and economically disadvantaged citizens.

Mayer added, "With Measure A, we turned small highways like SR-60, SR-215, and SR-91 into major corridors for commerce and transportation. We built commuter rail to provide our residents with alternate modes of travel to the coast. And we invested hundreds of millions of dollars into local streets. Measure A investments helped to build an empire – the Inland Empire. They have facilitated the growth in our economy, and they have enabled our 2.3 million residents to pursue the way of life that only Riverside County can deliver."

While Riverside County has grown significantly in the past 40 years, experts anticipate more growth to come. A recent UC-Riverside Economic Forecast held predicted Riverside County will grow by 1.2 million additional people by 2035 before Measure A sunsets. Over the next year, RCTC will explore with the community how transportation can play a role in the region embracing its destiny as a world-class community of choice.

"Because of Measure A, RCTC will continue to investment in our county's mobility to improve our quality of life," said Mayer. "I'm excited to see where the next 40 years can take us."

Background:

On September 29, 1976, Governor Edmund "Jerry" Brown signed AB 1246 (Ingalls) which created county transportation commissions in Riverside, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Orange Counties. Creation of the four commissions by the state was intended to provide greater local control in transportation decisions that affect communities' quality of life and economy.

For more information on RCTC, visit rctc.org or stay connected on social media: @RCTC (Twitter), @theRCTC (Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook), or email eperez@rctc.org.