

TRANSPORTATION PLAN ELEMENT**18.1 Major Transportation Issues**

While activity along U.S. Interstate 15 is a major economic influence in the community, the City's transportation service is primarily limited to the highway. As such the community is almost totally dependent on trucks and rubber tired vehicles for the delivery of goods, products and necessary materials required for the City to function.

As the community grows, there will be increasing demands for additional and more frequent transportation services to be available. These demands will be for commercial, industrial, resort and personal services.

As most of the goods will be delivered by trucks, there will be a dramatically increased amount of truck activity throughout the City. Of special concern will be increased truck traffic near the resort centers, the commercial business districts and the industrial areas serving Mesquite.

Mesquite Boulevard and Pioneer Boulevard are the only roadways in the City with rights-of-way currently large enough to adequately accommodate large trucks; it can be anticipated that truck activity within the City will bring congestion to the surface roadways.

The closest rail service is located near Glendale, Nevada, twenty-nine (29) miles south along U.S. Interstate 15, towards Las Vegas. A full time drop does not currently exist at the rail service, although it can be anticipated that industrial development near Glendale will create a demand for the drop service.

Other than private aircraft activity at the Mesquite airport, air service is presently limited to charter flights and some commercial deliveries. Increased charter activity is anticipated to serve the community's resorts and casinos, and there is a need to extend the existing runway to accommodate larger aircrafts.

Planning Context

A comprehensive transportation plan should be developed by the City Council to address the impact that increased truck activity will have on the community-at-large. In addition to congestion, the movement of hazardous materials through the City should be evaluated. A coordinated emergency contingency plan should be prepared to support the fire department and emergency service in case of an accident or spill.



As part of the plan, adequate water resources should be reserved to insure that spills of hazardous and toxic materials can be cleaned-up properly and in a timely fashion.

The Council should explore how local control over the routing and timing of shipments of hazardous materials can be developed, including required notification of local authorities from shippers. A program to urge the enforcement of the Federal Department of Transportation regulations requiring proper placards, inspections, notifications and signs on trucks and other vehicles transporting hazardous materials should be established, as well.

More effective bus service to provide greater access to Mesquite should be explored as part of the Council's plan. Increased service to St. George, Utah and to Las Vegas is important for citizens and for workers who may reside in the two nearby cities. A more convenient schedule will allow local citizens greater access to health and medical care and to senior services provided by state and county agencies.

Also included in the plan should be investigations of how the airport can be expanded to be better utilized. A master plan of the operation of the airport should be developed within the boundaries of this document to serve the community into the 21st century.

Included in the master plan should be provisions to construct a terminal facility and related facilities to service scheduled and chartered service to the City. Expansion of the existing runway and taxi-way system should be incorporated to accommodate larger aircraft.

The City should work with the proper resources to develop an air freight service at the airport to serve business and industry and to help develop infrastructure improvements necessary to support their activities.

Finally, the Council's comprehensive transportation plan should determine how the remote rail service near Glendale can be increased and marketed to service the community and assist economic development for the City.

18.2 Environment and Resources

The Transportation Plan Element should be managed and administered through the office of the City Manager. Since no current program exists, a series of work sessions by the council would be needed to discuss and determine the aspects of the program.



A citizens advisory committee including individuals from the community with experience with transportation issues could be established by the Council to assist with their work.

No other additional staff or resources would be needed to develop the plan element.

18.3 THE PLAN

O. Transportation Plan

Goal:

1. To provide adequate bus and airline service for citizens and visitors to the City and freight access to serve local business and industry.

Objectives:

O-1.1 Develop efficient interstate bus service to the City for citizens of the area.

O-1.2 Develop commuter airline service for citizens and visitors.

O-1.3 Develop commuter bus service from the City to Las Vegas and to St. George to serve workers and visitors.

O-1.4 Develop the airport and runway to accept larger aircraft for passenger and freight service.

O-1.5 Develop transportation corridors for truck access to serve local business and industry and to restrict travel through residential area.

Strategies:

1. Identify any increased needs for bus and airline service to the City and work with companies to provide more frequent scheduled service.

2. Work with CATS and other vendors to provide commuter bus service to the City for employees living in other nearby communities and Las Vegas and St. George.

3. Expand the airport operation so that it can better serve the City's growing needs for passenger and freight service.



4. Identify special truck routes for service activities and the movement of any dangerous materials.