

# Transportation and Land Management Agency

## Background

The Transportation and Land Management Agency was created by the Board of Supervisors in November 1991. Transportation, Planning, Building and Safety are the three departments comprising this agency.

The Transportation Department is responsible for roads and transportation in the County of Riverside. The goal of the department is to provide a safe, efficient and cost-effective road system for the county.

The Transportation Department does not receive any money from the general fund. Most of the funds are derived by gas tax and Measure A.

Measure A is a special one-half cent sales tax administered by the Riverside County Transportation Commission. Revenue returned to the county and cities within the county are used for maintenance and repair of roads.

This report deals only with the Transportation Department.

## Findings

1. Forty percent of Measure A proceeds are returned to the twenty-four cities and the unincorporated areas of Riverside County.
2. These twenty-four cities receive an average of \$3,895 per road mile per year. The county receives \$1,733 per road mile per year.
3. The formula for payment of Measure A is based on vehicle registration and population. Number of miles of roadway that must be maintained is not considered in the present formula.
4. Riverside County has 2,600 miles of road systems in the unincorporated areas (the distance from Riverside, California, to Cleveland, Ohio).
5. The cost of seal coating roads is \$10,000 to \$12,000 per mile. Resurfacing costs \$100,000 per mile and reconstruction is \$300,000 to \$400,000 per mile.
6. The American Public Works Association recommends that seal coating of roads should be done on a seven-to-ten-year schedule. Because of lack of funds, Riverside County is on a twenty-year schedule.
7. The American Public Works Association recommends that resurfacing of roads should be on a twenty-year schedule. Riverside County is currently on a 150-year schedule.
8. Most road work for the county is contracted to the private sector.
9. Some prison crews are used for cleaning roadways saving some of much needed revenue for the department.

## Recommendations

The Board of Supervisors:

1. Support any changes in the Measure A formula to take into consideration the number of miles of roadway maintained.
2. Direct the Transportation Department to recruit retirees, seniors and concerned citizens, on a volunteer basis as well as increase prison crews, to clean roadways within the county.