



City of Needles

817 Third Street, Needles, California 92363
(760) 326-2113 • FAX (760) 326-6765
www.cityofneedles.com

Mayor, Janet Jernigan
Vice Mayor Ellen Campbell
Councilmember Tona Belt
Councilmember Jamie McCorkle
Councilmember JoAnne Pogue
Councilmember Henry Longbrake
Councilmember Larry Ford

City Manager Patrick J. Martinez

MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PATRICK J. MARTINEZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: WEEKLY MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 6, 2026

1. Phase V Street Paving Improvements – Groundbreaking Reminder

This is a reminder that the City will host a community groundbreaking ceremony for the Phase V Street Paving Improvements Project on **Tuesday, February 10, 2026**, at **9:00 a.m.** at the intersection of Rio Vista Drive and Balboa Street. The \$1.37 million project is underway, with early construction activities completed and paving operations beginning this week. Phase V includes roadway improvements on Parkway Street, Lillyhill Drive, Coronado Street, Peru Street, Cortez Street, and Balboa Street and is funded through local cannabis tax revenues. Community members are encouraged to attend and help celebrate continued reinvestment in neighborhood infrastructure.

2. Water Main and Manifold Improvements Project – Construction Update

Crews have mobilized into the golf course maintenance yard to advance the next phase of improvements for the Water Main and Manifold Improvements Project. This phase advances the project's broader goal of strengthening system reliability and operational effectiveness. The work is part of a \$1.3 million investment authorized by the NPUA to modernize aging water infrastructure and support long-term system performance. Emergency grant funding from the State's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund is helping advance this project, underscoring the City's collaboration with the State Water Resources Control Board to invest in critical water infrastructure. Overall, the project remains focused on reinforcing system resiliency while minimizing operational and service impacts.

3. Wastewater Infrastructure Improvement

The Wastewater Department completed the installation of a new secure lid at the River Road wet well this week. This improvement protects critical NPUA wastewater infrastructure while enhancing public safety by preventing unauthorized access to the wet well. The project supports City Council goals focused on maintaining essential infrastructure, reducing operational and safety risks, and ensuring reliable utility services for residents and businesses. Proactive investments like this help extend the life of City assets, improve system reliability, and demonstrate the City's continued commitment to safe, well-maintained public facilities.

4. **PBS Route 66 Feature**

The City of Needles will be featured in a national PBS special celebrating the Route 66 Centennial as part of *Hidden Route 66*, produced and hosted by CBS News Travel Editor Peter Greenberg. Filming will occur **next week**, with crews capturing locations throughout the community that highlight Needles as the California gateway to Route 66. Mayor Jernigan will be featured on camera representing the community and sharing Needles' Route 66 story. The program will air on PBS and stream globally on platforms including Amazon Prime and Apple TV+, providing significant national and international exposure. This opportunity directly supports City Council goals related to tourism, economic development, and Route 66 Centennial promotion.

5. **Route 66 Centennial Utility Box Art Project – Weekly Update**

The Route 66 Centennial Utility Box Art Project kicked off last week, with artists now actively working on all eight (8) utility boxes across the community. The team made strong progress over the weekend and will return this weekend to continue painting. Early results are already visible, with completed and near-completed boxes adding color, character, and Route 66–themed imagery at high-visibility locations. The project continues to advance the City's beautification efforts and enhance the visitor experience along the historic Route 66 corridor. Refer to the attached images for a glimpse of current progress.

6. **Route 66 Centennial – Private Investment and Beautification Efforts**

The City would like to recognize and thank local hoteliers for their continued investment in advancing Needles' efforts to celebrate the historic Route 66 corridor. Several private properties have recently refreshed or created Route 66–themed murals, contributing to a more vibrant and welcoming experience for residents and visitors. Best Western has refreshed its iconic Route 66 shield, and the Fenders Motel along Route 66 has added new visual elements that reinforce the City's historic identity. These improvements complement the City's public art initiatives and demonstrate strong public-private collaboration. The collective impact of these efforts is already visible across multiple locations throughout the community. The City appreciates these partners for helping showcase Needles' unique character as Route 66 preparations continue.

7. **Route 66 100th Anniversary Kickoff – Event Reminder**

This is a reminder that the City will kick off the Route 66 100th Anniversary with the Route 66 Info Fair and Classic Car Show on **Saturday, February 14, 2026**, from **9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (PST)** at El Garces, **950 Front Street**. The event will feature Route 66 information and merchandise, food trucks, live music in the park, vendor drawings, complimentary El Garces tours, Route 66 speakers, and a Classic Car Show. Activities are designed for all ages and highlight Needles' historic role along America's Main Street. This event supports City Council goals related to tourism promotion, economic development, and community engagement by activating the downtown core and attracting residents, visitors, and Route 66 travelers. Additional details are available in the attached flyer.

8. **Workforce Development and Manufacturing Readiness**

This week, City Manager Patrick Martinez toured the **\$22 million Mohave College Advanced Manufacturing Training Center** alongside former City Manager Rick Daniels and Palo Verde College Board Member Jon McNeil, as

part of the City's ongoing collaboration with Palo Verde College. The visit provided valuable insight into modern training models and program concepts that can help inform future curriculum development tailored to the needs of Needles residents. As the City continues to position itself for manufacturing, maintenance, and skilled trades opportunities, aligning local education pathways with workforce demand remains a priority. The City appreciates the invitation to participate and looks forward to continuing this partnership to support workforce readiness and long-term economic opportunity for the community.

9. PVC Scoop – High-Level Overview

The February 2026 *PVC Scoop* is a student-produced newsletter from the Palo Verde College Needles Center that highlights campus news, student achievements, and available support services, while recognizing Black History Month. The publication showcases the positive role the Needles Center plays in expanding access to education, supporting student success, and strengthening local workforce pathways. It also reinforces the strong partnership between the college and the community by promoting upcoming activities and resources available to residents. Hard copies are available at the Needles Center.

10. Needles Pride – Beautification Update

This week, Public Works crews advanced citywide beautification efforts under the Needles Pride Program, with a focus on weed abatement and cleanup in highly visible areas following recent rains. Crews addressed overgrowth along Needles Highway and at key community spaces, including Train Park, improving safety, sightlines, and overall aesthetics. In addition, a full cleanup of the historic El Garces Harvey House grounds was completed, reinforcing the City's commitment to maintaining and preserving important community landmarks. These visible improvements reflect the City's continued focus on infrastructure maintenance, public safety, and community pride, and directly support City Council goals related to aesthetics and quality of life. Residents can report concerns by calling 760-326-5700 (press #9) or using the Needles Connect app on [Google Play Store](#) (Android) and [Apple Store](#) (iOS). Together, we're building a safer, stronger Needles!

11. Needles Sunday Farmers Market at Santa Fe Park

The Needles Sunday Farmers Market continues to draw residents and visitors to Santa Fe Park each week, supporting local vendors and small businesses. Hosted by Tumbleweed Markets Inc., the market features a rotating selection of fresh produce, baked goods, coffee, flowers, handmade items, and other locally made products. The market is held every Sunday through **March 31, 2026**, from **8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** at Santa Fe Park. New vendors continue to join the lineup, expanding opportunities for local entrepreneurs and artisans. This ongoing event supports the City Council's goals for community engagement and local economic vitality. Vendor information is available by contacting Market Manager Patrick Lauterio at (760) 848-8289 or needlesfarmers@gmail.com.

12. **Community Events Calendar Now Live**

The City's new website now features a [Community Events Calendar](#)—a single source for community events, civic meetings, and community programs. Local organizations are invited to submit or update events through the City Clerk's Office to keep the calendar current and inclusive. Contact **Candace Clark at cclark@cityofneedles.com** to participate. Residents can subscribe and sync the calendar to mobile devices for real-time updates, making it easier to stay informed and engaged.

13. **Senior Lunch & Learn**

Residents 60 and over are invited to attend a free Lunch-and-Learn event hosted by Route 66 Pharmacy, Colorado River Home Health, and Direct Hospice. The event will include a complimentary Teriyaki chicken and rice lunch with dessert, prepared by the Needles Women's Club, and informational presentations on health and wellness services available to seniors. The City is sharing this information as a community notice to help connect residents with local resources and is not hosting the event. Needles-only homebound meal delivery will be available for residents who do not have transportation or who have physical limitations that prevent them from leaving their home. The Lunch-and-Learn will take place on **February 10, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.** at the Needles Senior Center, 1699 Bailey Avenue. Advance registration is encouraged through the event website by clicking on [this link](#).

14. **Active Transportation Plan – Community Outreach**

The City is advancing development of its Active Transportation Plan and is seeking broad community participation through an online interactive mapping platform. The plan is focused on improving safety, connectivity, and mobility for residents who walk, bike, or travel throughout the community, while helping prioritize future infrastructure investments such as sidewalks, curb and gutter, and bike lanes. Public input submitted through the interactive map will directly inform the plan and strengthen the City's competitiveness for state and federal grant funding. Stakeholders are encouraged to share the informational flyer and direct residents to provide input at <https://www.needlesatp.com/provide-input>.

15. **2026 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event**

The San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, in partnership with the City of Needles, will host a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event on **March 7, 2026, from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** at the Needles City Yard, **112 Robuffa Street**. The event allows residents to safely dispose of household hazardous materials, including used motor oil and filters, batteries, paint products, household cleaners, electronics, and approved sharps. The collection is limited to household waste generated by San Bernardino County residents, and identification will be required. Business-generated waste and other prohibited materials will not be accepted. Additional information is available in the event flyer or through the Household Hazardous Waste Program at **909-382-5401** or **1-800-OILY-CAT**. Refer to the attached flyer for more information.

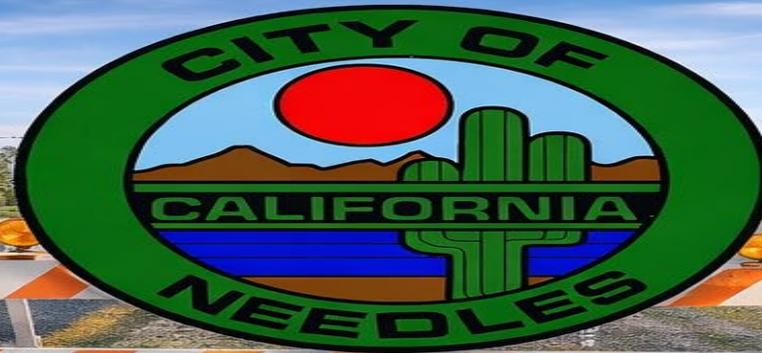
16. Needles Cactus Commuter Program – Launch Reminder

The Needles Cactus Commuter mileage reimbursement program will officially begin next **Monday, February 9, 2026**, expanding transportation options for eligible low-income Needles residents who must travel to the High Desert for medical and court appointments. Administered by Victor Valley Transit Authority (VVTA), the program provides mileage reimbursement of up to 1,100 miles per month for qualifying participants. This new service helps reduce transportation barriers and improves access to essential services outside the community. City staff are coordinating local outreach to help ensure residents are aware of and able to access this resource. Additional information is available through VVTA at 760-995-3561 or at <https://vvta.org/ncc/>.

17. Last Chance to RSVP – Wine, Cheese & Chocolate Pairing at Elks Lodge

The Needles Elks Lodge #1608 hosted its second annual Wine, Cheese & Chocolate Pairing Event on **February 7, 2026**, at the Elks Lodge on Lilyhill Drive. The community fundraiser supported local scholarship programs and was open to the public. Tickets were available for **\$25 per person**, with advance reservations accepted by contacting **Sharon Dooley at (917) 797-1205**, or purchased at the bar. The event highlights the Elks Lodge's ongoing role as an active community partner supporting youth-focused initiatives.

1. PHASE V GROUNDBREAKING



COMMUNITY GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

Phase V Street Improvements Project



Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026

9:00 AM

Intersection of
Rio Vista & Balboa

Join Us As We Kick Off the Phase V Street Improvements Project!

- Neighborhood street improvements for Parkway St, Lillyhill Dr, Coronado St, Peru St, Cortez St, and Balboa St
- Funded through City tax revenues generated by the local cannabis industry



ALL ARE WELCOME!

Celebrate this milestone and learn about the progress being made to enhance our neighborhood streets.

1. PAVING PHASE V



2. WATER MAIN AND MANIFOLD PROJECT



3. WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE



5. ELECTRICAL BOXES



5. ELECTRICAL BOXES



6. ROUTE 66 INVESTMENT



7. ROUTE 66 100TH INFO FAIR & CLASSIC CAR SHOW



Entries: Pre- 1975

CLASSIC CAR SHOW

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026

9:00AM ~ 2:00PM

Registration begins at 7am

COST: \$20.00 (payable in cash, check or zelle)

LOCATION: EL GARCES
950 FRONT ST NEEDLES, CA

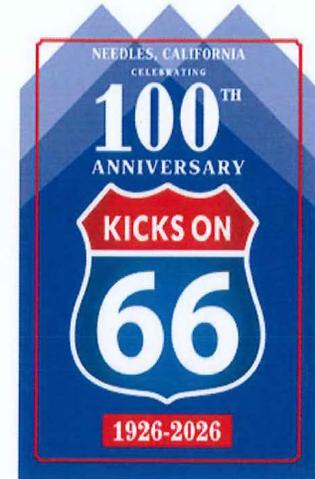
RAFFLE PRIZES AND A 50/50
RAFFLE

CATEGORIES:
*BEST IN SHOW
*UNDER CONSTRUCTION
*RAT ROD
*PEOPLE'S CHOICE



CONTACT JAN JERNIGAN FOR INFORMATION
at 760 221 3211

Have some fun with us at
El Garces on Route 66 Needles!



Let's **KICK OFF**
our **100th Anniversary!**

Saturday, February 14th, 2026
9am - 2pm (PST)

Featuring...

- ★ Route 66 Information
- ★ Route 66 Books
- ★ Route 66 items/memorabilia
for sale
- ★ Food Trucks
- ★ Complimentary El Garces
- ★ Tours
- ★ Vendor Drawings



All Route 66 Vendors Invited!

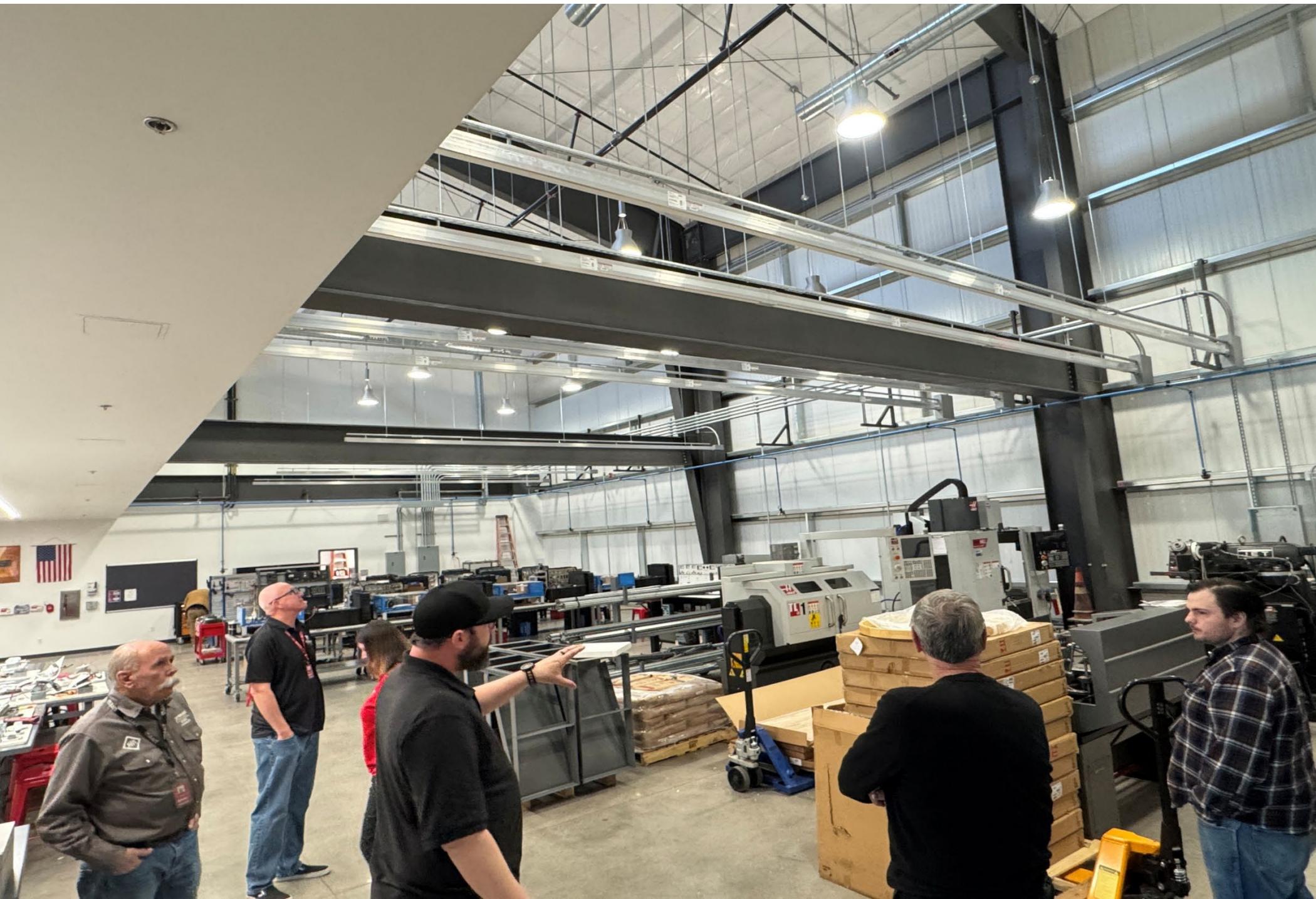
No Charge for vendor tables / Setup begins Friday at Noon / Call to reserve a table

Questions or Vendor Reservations? - Call Jan Jernigan at 760-221-3211

8. MOHAVE COLLEGE MANUFACTURING



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10. NEEDLES PRIDE PROGRAM



11. SUNDAY FARMERS MARKET



13. LUNCH AND LEARN SENIOR CENTER

FREE

Lunch & Learn

FEBRUARY 10 - 11:00



Teriyaki Chicken Bowl

Food prepared by



Needles Senior Center

1699 Bailey Ave

60+ Only



14. ATP COMMUNITY OUTREACH

THE CITY OF NEEDLES IS DEVELOPING THEIR ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN, WE NEED YOUR INPUT!



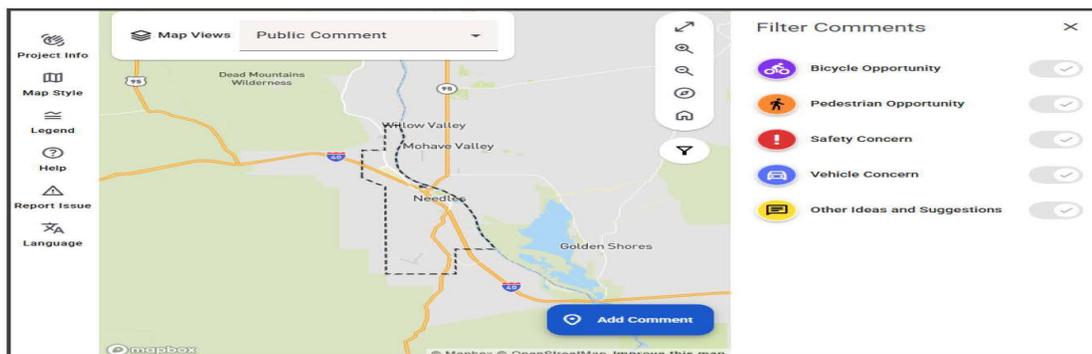
Active
Transportation
Plan

How will this impact me?

The Active Transportation Plan aims to create safe, connected, and reliable active transportation for nearby residents and businesses in the area! Whether you walk, bike, or drive to your next destination, the focus is to meet the community need for a better, connected environment!



Interactive Map Preview



Goals for ATP

- Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Strengthening the Economy
- Improving Public Health & Environment

Get Involved

- Share an Idea on the Interactive map at www.NeedlesATP.com
- Sign up for alerts by scanning the QR code
- Call **760-326-2113** or email info@NeedlesATP.com



15. HHWC EVENT

Needles Residents:

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

March 07, 2026 | 7a.m. to 11a.m.

Needles City Yard, 112 Robuffa Street, Needles, CA 92363



We Accept...

- Antifreeze
- Auto & Household Batteries
- Computer Monitors, TVs
- CPUs, Printers
- Fluorescent Tubes
- Home-Generated Sharps/Needles in approved container
- Household Cleaners
- Medications – separate liquids from solids (excluding controlled substances)
- Microwave Ovens
- Motor Oil/Used Filters
- Musical Cards, Clothes Irons
- Paint Products
- Pesticides & Fertilizers
- Space Heaters, Stereos, Radios
- Telephones
- VCRs/DVD Players

We Do NOT Accept...

- Asbestos
- Business/Commercial Wastes
- Explosives
- Medical Wastes other than sharps
- Radioactive Wastes
- Reactives
- Tire, Appliances, Furniture, Air Conditioner, etc.
- Wastes from foreclosed properties & non-profit organizations

Take the last step! Recycle your USED MOTOR OIL and OIL FILTERS!

- Dumping used oil (or any chemical) is a crime – legally and environmentally
- Dumped oil contaminates ground water – our drinking water source
- Used oil is insoluble and can contain toxic chemicals
- Used oil kills plant and aquatic life
- One pint of used oil can create an acre-sized oil slick on surface waters



Remember when recycling oil to...

- Drain your oil from cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, recreational vehicles, lawnmowers, etc., into a reusable, sealable container.
- Do not dump oil on the ground, in the gutter or storm drain, or throw in the trash
- Do not mix anything with the oil (water, paint, pesticides, diesel, antifreeze or gasoline)

Before transporting, be sure that...

- Waste is properly labeled or in its original container
- The container is no larger than 5 gallons. Transport no more than 15 gallons or 125 lbs.
- Containers are sound and not leaking
- Sharps/needles must be placed in approved containers. Sharps/needles will not be accepted in plastic bags, coffee cans, milk jugs, or soda cans
- Waste is securely placed in the back of the vehicle for safe transport

The following guidelines apply:

- Household Hazardous Waste ONLY. No Business-Generated Waste Accepted
- San Bernardino County Residents ONLY. Identification will be required
- No Early Birds (waste brought before 7:00a.m. will not be accepted)
- Waste must be accepted by County Fire Protection District personnel
- Remain in vehicle at all times

For questions or more information, contact:

San Bernardino County Fire Protection District,
Household Hazardous Waste Program
909-382-5401 or
1-800-OILY-CAT (1-800-645-9228)

Visit Sbcfire.org/hhw

Cosponsored by San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors,
City of Needles, and San Bernardino County Fire Protection District



16. VICTORVILLE TRANSPORTATION



NEEDLES CACTUS COMMUTER

FROM



**DO YOU NEED TO DRIVE OR NEED A RIDE TO THE
VICTOR VALLEY AREA FOR MEDICAL OR COURT APPEARANCES?**

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

- **Open to Low Income Needles Area Residents**
- **Mileage Reimbursement Program**
- **Up to 1,100 Miles Monthly**
- **Trips only to Medical Appointments or Court Appearances in the Victor Valley Area**



SOME RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY

NCC@VVTA.ORG • 760-995-3561
vvta.org/ncc

17. NEEDLES ELKS LODGE EVENT



**NEEDLES LODGE#1608
1000 LILYHILL DRIVE
NEEDLES CA 92363
IS PROUD TO PRESENT
ITS SECOND ANNUAL**

WINE CHEESE AND CHOCOLATE PAIRING OPENED TO ALL

Proceeds to Fund Scholarships

FEBRUARY 7, 2026 2-5 PM

TICKETS \$25.00

at the Bar or

TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET

Sharon Dooley @ 917-797-1205