



City of Needles, California Request for City Council Action

CITY COUNCIL NPUA HACN Regular Special

Meeting Date: February 24, 2026

Title: Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Pilot Program Approval of Custom Signage Purchase

Background: On August 26, 2022, Assembly Bill 2152 authorized the City of Needles to establish an Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) pilot project to designate combined-use highways within city limits. The purpose of the legislation is to safely connect Bureau of Land Management (BLM) trail systems with local roadways, lodging, fuel, and service areas while reducing trespass and maintaining traffic safety.

On September 9, 2025, the City Council approved the OHMV Plan and Routes – Pilot Project Technical Memorandum identifying approximately 9.20 miles of designated routes throughout the city.

On January 13, 2026, the City Council adopted Resolution 2026-2 approving the CA MUTCD-compliant Designated Routes Signage Plan prepared by Minagar & Associates. The approved plan establishes the signage framework necessary to clearly define authorized corridors, route numbers, staging areas, and traffic control measures to support safe and enforceable implementation of the pilot program.

This item does not modify the previously approved Signage Plan. It authorizes procurement of the custom signs required to implement the Council-approved plan in the field. Staff obtained a formal quote from AWP Safety for fabrication of 242 custom signs required for full implementation, with a total cost of \$25,000 including tax and freight. Upon receipt, City Public Works staff will perform installation in accordance with the approved plans, reducing overall project costs and allowing coordinated field deployment.

Fiscal Impact: The total cost for fabrication of 242 custom signs is \$25,000. Installation will be performed by City Public Works staff, minimizing additional labor costs. Funding is proposed from General Fund reserves. Staff will continue to pursue eligible grant opportunities, including the Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Fund, to offset costs where available.

Environmental Impact: The pilot program is subject to ongoing monitoring and reporting requirements established under AB 2152 and Vehicle Code §38026.2, including coordination with the California Highway Patrol, Department of Transportation, and Department of Parks and Recreation. Impacts to air quality, noise, and adjacent lands will be evaluated in the City’s 2027 legislative report.

Recommendation: Approve the purchase of custom signs from AWP Safety in the amount of \$25,000 to be funded from General Fund reserves, for implementation of the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Designated Routes Signage Plan.

Submitted By: Patrick Martinez, City Manager

City Manager Approval: Patrick J. Martinez Date: 2/19/2026

Other Department Approval (when required): _____ Date: _____