



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

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

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: April 5, 2024

1. The Needles Rodeo Association is thrilled to invite you to the 46th Annual Colorado River Round Up, a cornerstone event that embodies the spirit and heritage of the Tri-State region. Celebrated as the oldest local rodeo, this event is endorsed by the Grand Canyon Professional Rodeo Association, ensuring a showcase of skill, courage, and cowboy tradition. Scheduled **for Friday (TONIGHT) and Saturday, April 5-6, 2024, starting at 6 pm** at the iconic Needles Rodeo Grounds at 1001 San Clemente, this weekend promises an unforgettable rodeo experience.

But the excitement continues after the rodeo; attendees can also relish culinary delights from food trucks, local vendors, and delectable BBQ offerings. Tickets can be purchased at the door for this event.

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the excitement and community spirit of the Colorado River Round Up. This event is not just about the rodeo; it's about coming together as a community to celebrate our shared heritage and values. For more details, please refer to the attached flyer. We look forward to seeing you at this celebration of rodeo excellence and community camaraderie, which is sure to be a highlight of your year.

2. In July of last year, Palo Verde College (PVC) initiated the process to find a new Superintendent/President. PVC has organized [open forums](#) for **April 10, 2024**, to introduce the finalists for this pivotal role. These forums, taking place between **1 pm and 4 pm in room CL 101 at the Blythe Campus**, offer a unique opportunity for the community to hear directly from the candidates. For wider accessibility, the event will be live-streamed on the Palo Verde College [YouTube channel](#), with recordings subsequently made available on the [PVC website's homepage](#).

PVC, which has been catering to the educational needs of Needles residents since 1998 from its [Needles Center](#) located at 725 W. Broadway (previously Claypool's),

offers a comprehensive range of classes. These are designed to facilitate student transfers to four-year institutions and provide essential entry-level job skills, enhance vocational competencies, and offer diverse non-credit courses suitable for community learning and development. Notably, the governance of PVC includes representation from the community, with two of the seven [PVC Board of Trustees](#) elected from San Bernardino County, underscoring the college's commitment to serving the educational aspirations of the Needles area.

3. 2022 AB-2152 was enacted by the California legislature, updating the California Vehicle Code to launch a pilot program in Needles, slated to run until January 1, 2028. The initiative is designed to integrate off-highway motor vehicles (OHMV) into the city's transportation framework by permitting use on specific road segments in and surrounding Needles. The program's foundational meeting took place on **March 28, 2024**, orchestrated by the Needles City Council's OHMV Subcommittee in collaboration with city personnel and law enforcement representatives from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, the Bureau of Land Management, and the California Highway Patrol. Minagar & Associates has been hired by the City to develop an Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Master Plan and listen to stakeholders and received feedback. **Members of the public can provide feedback directly by emailing minagarf@minagarinc.com or directly at 949-707-1199 ext. 2#.** This session marked the start of the planning phase, focusing on soliciting and incorporating feedback from various stakeholders. For further information, please consult the provided document.

This pilot project permits Needles to establish shared-use routes on city roads, extending up to 10 miles. These routes will connect existing OHMV trails and trailheads on lands managed by the federal Bureau of Land Management or the United States Forest Service and OHMV recreational areas to essential services and accommodations. The goal is to offer a unified trail system for OHMVs while ensuring traffic safety, enhancing natural resource conservation, preventing OHMV trespassing on private properties, and mitigating the impact on residents.

Residents cannot currently utilize OHMV on City roads, but City Staff is working diligently to obtain the proper approvals to implement the plan. As the OHMV Subcommittee progresses, the public will be informed of the status of the plan's implementation.

4. The City Staff is excited to announce a Community Cleanup event on **April 20, 2024, at 7 am**, in honor of Earth Day. Owing to its success over the years, we've expanded the initiative to include two cleanup sites this year: Jack Smith Park (1001 River Road) and J Street/Nikki Bunch Fields. There's no need to register; everyone is invited to join the effort. The City will supply bags, pickers, and gloves for participants. We encourage all community organizations and members to take part. For more details, please refer to the attached flyer or stay updated via our Needles Connect app.
5. Thrilling advancements are in progress at Bob Belt's Beach Park, previously recognized as First and Second Beach. The City has triumphantly obtained a

\$2,179,702 Clean California Grant, dedicating these funds to creating this innovative park along the scenic Colorado River, facing the Rivers Edge Golf Course. This past Wednesday, we celebrated a significant milestone by delivering and setting up a prefabricated restroom, soon to be connected to an advanced septic treatment system.

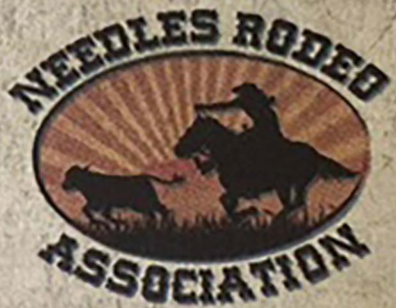
We invite you to observe the current developments, including constructing a new parking area and placing benches and tables, through the attached image. This project signifies a promising riverfront enhancement, transforming it into a vibrant community engagement and enjoyment area.

6. We're excited to bring you the latest developments at Jack Smith Park, a testament to our community's progress and dedication to enhancing public spaces. The City Council has enthusiastically embraced a grant awarded by the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation, amounting to \$181,116. This generous funding has been directed towards the thoughtful design and meticulous construction of significant enhancements within the park. Notable improvements include introducing approximately 1300 linear feet of walking and biking trails, further enriched with seven state-of-the-art outdoor exercise equipment thoughtfully positioned along the trail to encourage health and fitness.

The construction journey, which began in November 2023, concluded successfully in March 2024, marking a new chapter in the park's history. For an immersive glimpse into these enhancements, we invite you to view the attached images that highlight the newly installed exercise equipment. Moreover, a captivating video showcasing the comprehensive improvements was presented at the March Council meeting and is easily accessible through the [provided link](#). This initiative not only revitalizes Jack Smith Park but also underscores our commitment to fostering health and wellness across our community.

★ ★ ★ 1. 46th Colorado River ★ ★ ★

ROUND UP



**APRIL 5 -
6, 2024**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Grand Canyon Professional
Rodeo Association
sanctioned rodeo

*"Oldest local rodeo in the
tri-state area put on by locals"*

Needles Rodeo Grounds

1001 SAN CLEMENTE • NEEDLES, CA

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL NEEDLES RODEO ASSOCIATION
760-333-5255**

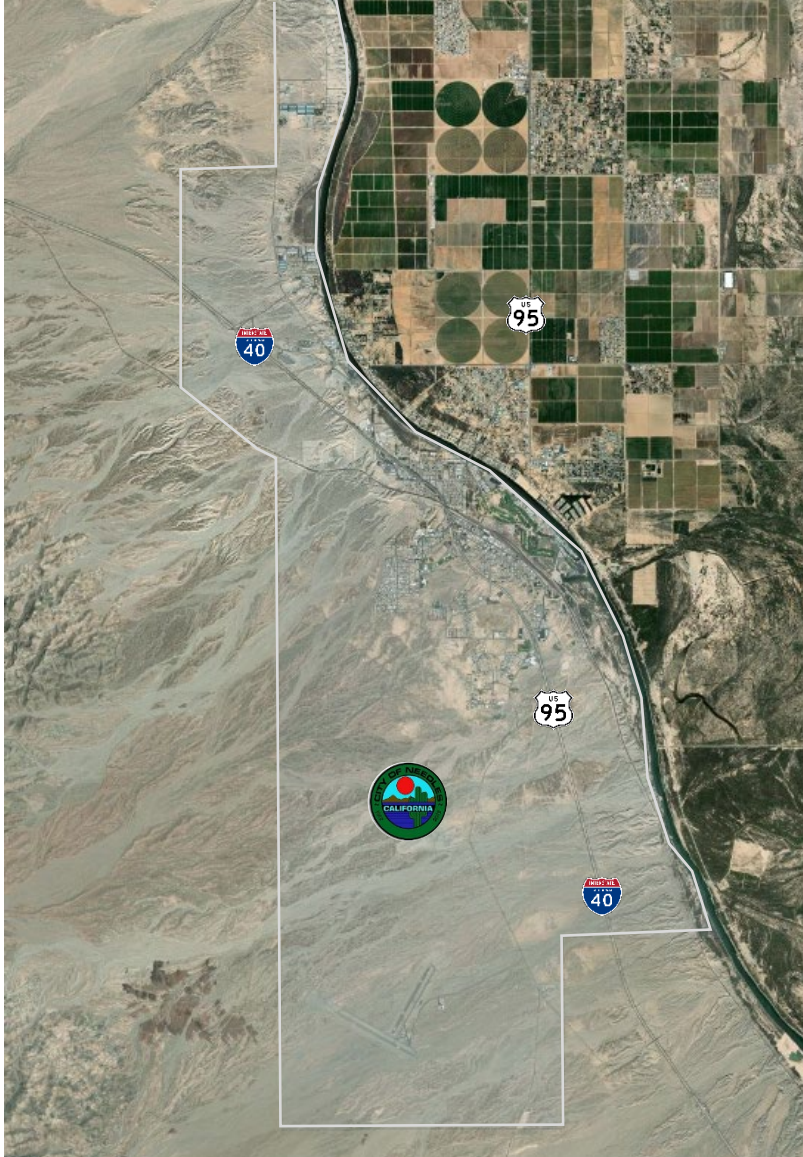


3. Off-Highway Motor Vehicles (OHMV) Master Plan and Routes – Pilot Project Technical Memorandum

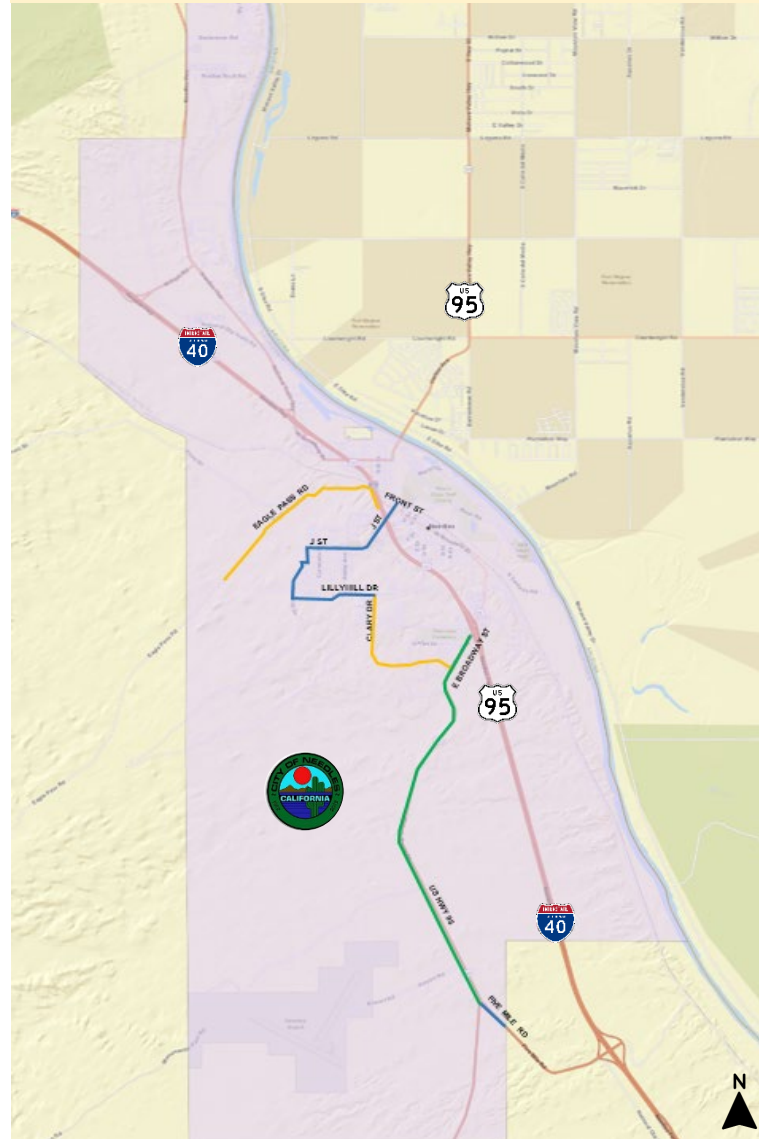
Revised Draft
City of Needles, CA



City of Needles Terrain Map



Functional Classification of Proposed OHMV Routes in the City of Needles



PREPARED FOR:



CITY OF NEEDLES

City Manager's Office
817 Third Street
Needles, CA 92363



PREPARED BY:



MINAGAR & ASSOCIATES, INC.

ITS – Traffic/Civil/Electrical Engineering – Transportation Planning – Homeland Security – CEM
23282 Mill Creek Drive, East Tower, Suite 120
Laguna Hills, CA 92653



February 16, 2024



February 18, 2024

Mr. Patrick Martinez
City Manager
City of Needles
817 Third Street
Needles, CA 92363

Re: Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Master Plan & Routes
Technical Memo Per the New California Vehicle Code Section 38026.2 – Pilot Project

Dear Mr. Martinez,

Minagar & Associates, Inc. has completed the investigation of roadway characteristics of the City's proposed Off-Highway Motor Vehicle routes, including factors such as the presence of street lighting, number of lanes, and presence of curvatures or other special conditions, and subsequently decided on a total of 9.50 miles of roadway to be proposed Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) routes subject to the final approval of the stakeholders and ultimately the City Council of Needles.

In the following pages, please find the summary tables of Minagar's findings regarding the characteristics and conditions of the proposed OHMV routes, accompanied by additional justifications, information, and supporting materials and figures. A table of contents has been provided on the following page for convenience in locating and referencing the tables and figures.

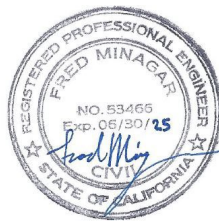
Please feel free to contact me directly with any additional questions you might have at (949) 707-1199 ext. 2# or via e-mail at minagarf@minagarinc.com.

Sincerely,

MINAGAR & ASSOCIATES, INC.
(A California Corporation)

Fred Minagar, MS, RCE, PE, FITE
President/Senior Project Manager

CC: Kathy Raasch

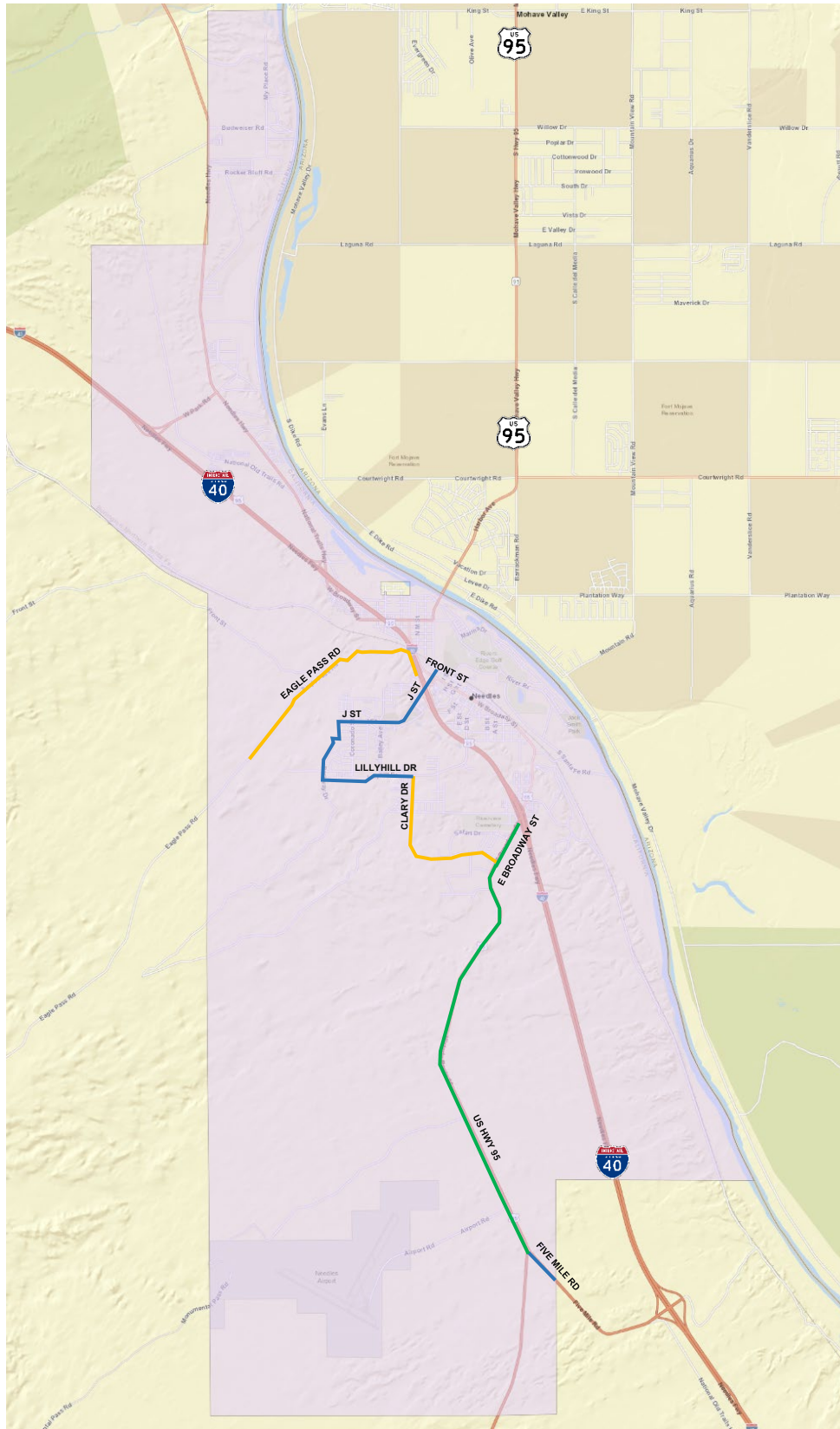




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LEGEND
Functional Classification

- Minor Arterial
- Major Collector
- Local

Figure 1: Potential Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Routes Functional Classification Map





Table 1: Proposed OHMV Routes Roadway Characteristics Summary

Street Name	From	To	Distance (mi)	Posted Speed Limit Sign	Designated Bike Lane	Street Lighting	Sight Distance	Other Roadway Characteristics
Eagle Pass Rd*	Slightly Past El Monte Dr	S L St	1.88	None	No	None	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Lane in each direction - No clear roadway markings/stripping or shoulder - Topography: Flat - Adjacent Infrastructure: Little to none - Unpaved
J St	Parkway Dr	Front St	1.08	30 MPH	No	Yes	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Lane in each direction - Partial striping, sidewalks, and shoulder east of Balboa St - Clear striping, sidewalks, and shoulder west of Balboa St - Presence of driveways - Topography: Flat - Adjacent Infrastructure: residential, civic & institutional, park
Lillyhill Dr	Parkway Dr	Clary Dr	0.77	30 MPH	No	Yes	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partial striping and sidewalks, no shoulder - Wider roadway with on-street parking on both sides of the road between Bailey Ave and Clary Dr - Presence of driveways - Topography: moderate horizontal curves, occasional vertical dips - Adjacent Infrastructure: residential on Lillyhill
Clary Dr & Victory Dr	Lillyhill Dr	E Broadway St	1.38	None (within these limits)	No	Partial	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Lane in each direction - No clear striping, shoulder or sidewalks on Victory Dr - Partial sidewalks, wider unmarked lanes north of Calle Hernandez Rd - Presence of driveways - Topography: flat, moderate horizontal curves - Adjacent Infrastructure: sparse residential, civic & institutional
E Broadway St/US Hwy 95	Five Mile Rd	Needles Fwy	4.04	40 MPH	No	None	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Lane in each direction - Clear striping, sufficient dirt shoulders - Moderate horizontal curves - Topography: Mostly flat with occasional dips - Adjacent Infrastructure: Little to none south of E Spikes Rd, some industrial & residential north of E Spikes Rd
Five Mile Rd	E Broadway St/US Hwy 95	West City Limits	0.35	None (within these limits)	No	None	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Lane in each direction - No clear roadway markings/stripping or shoulder - Topography: Mostly flat with one slight dip - Adjacent Infrastructure: None
Total Distance of Proposed OHMV Routes: <u>9.50 Miles</u>								

*Limited Findings

Roadway Classification

	Minor Arterial
	Major Collector
	Local Roadway





Table 2: Additional Justification & Details of Proposed Segments

Street Name	From	To	Posted Speed Limit Sign	Justification/Benefits	Additional Considerations/Requirements
Eagle Pass Rd	Slightly Past El Monte Dr	S L St	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides connectivity to all three existing OHMV routes in the City of Needles (See Table 3 for existing OHMV routes in the City)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will require an additional posted speed limit sign of 35 MPH specific to OHMV vehicles (As per Cal. Veh. Code § 38026.2 (5), provided in Attachment A.)
J St	Parkway Dr	Front St	30 MPH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides connectivity to all three existing OHMV routes in the City of Needles 	None
Lillyhill Dr	Parkway Dr	Clary Dr	30 MPH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides connectivity from residences and lodging facilities to OHMV routes #1, #2, and #3 	None
Clary Dr & Victory Dr	Lillyhill Dr	E Broadway St	None (within these limits)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides connectivity from residences and lodging facilities to OHMV route #3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will require an additional posted speed limit sign of 35 MPH, specific to OHMV vehicles (As per Cal. Veh. Code § 38026.2 (5))
E Broadway St/US Hwy 95	Five Mile Rd	Needles Fwy	40 MPH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides connectivity to the Eagle Pass OHMV route in the City of Needles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will require an additional posted speed limit sign of 35 MPH, specific to OHMV vehicles (As per Cal. Veh. Code § 38026.2 (5))
Five Mile Rd	E Broadway St/US Hwy 95	West City Limits	None (within these limits)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides connectivity to the Eagle Pass OHMV route in the City of Needles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will require an additional posted speed limit sign of 35 MPH, specific to OHMV vehicles (As per Cal. Veh. Code § 38026.2 (5))

See the subsequent pages for supporting tables, figures, and attachments referenced in the above table.

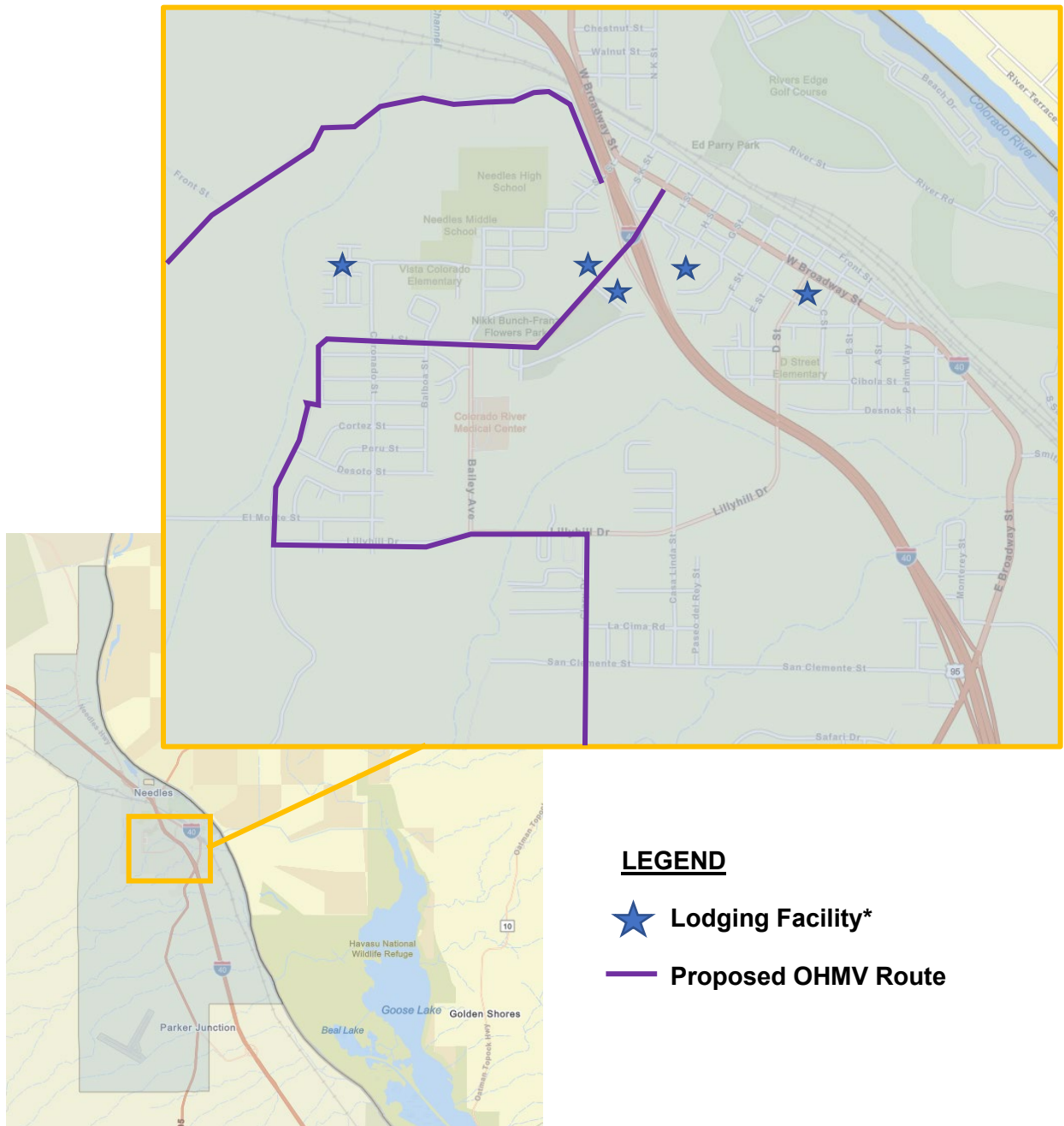


Figure 2: Existing Lodging Facilities in the Vicinity of Proposed OHMV Routes

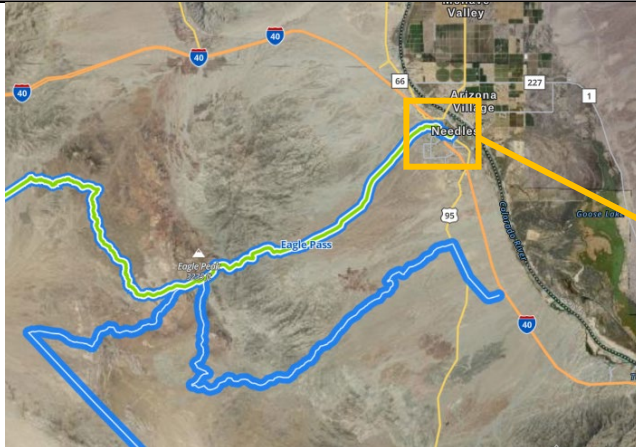
* Includes Motel 6, Days Inn & Suites, Econo Lodge, Santiago Coronado Village, and Quality Inn





Table 3: Existing OHMV Routes in the City of Needles

1. EMHT Segment 1: Needles to Ivanpah



Accessible By



High
Clearance
4x4

Image Source: <https://www.onxmaps.com/offroad/trails/us/california/emht-segment-1-needles-to-ivanpah>

2. EHTM Segment 4: Fenner to Needles



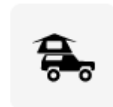
Accessible By



SxS



High
Clearance
4x4

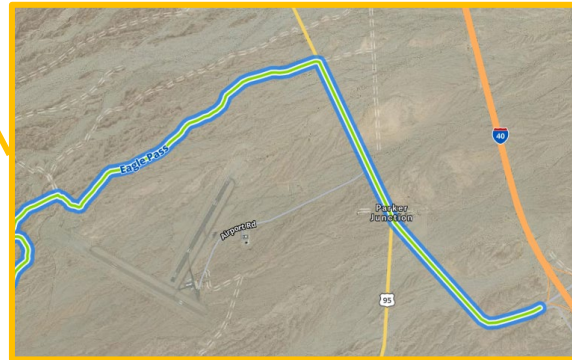
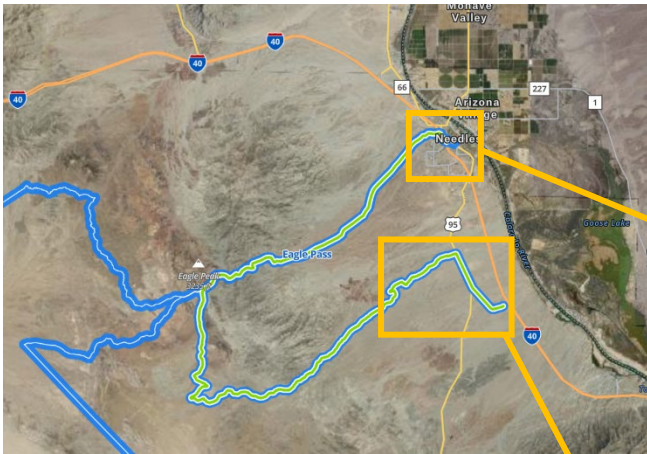


SUV

Image Source: <https://www.onxmaps.com/offroad/trails/us/california/emht-segment-4-fenner-to-needles>



3. Eagle Pass



Accessible By



Dirt Bike



ATV



SxS



High
Clearance
4x4

Image Source: <https://www.onxmaps.com/offroad/trails/us/california/eagle-pass>



Attachment A: **California Vehicle Code - § 38026.2**



- (a) Except as provided in subdivision (e), the City of Needles may establish a pilot project to designate combined-use highways on roads in the city for no more than 10 miles so that the combined-use highways can be used to link existing off-highway motor vehicle trails and trailheads on federal Bureau of Land Management or United States Forest Service lands, and to link off-highway motor vehicle recreational-use areas with necessary service and lodging facilities, in order to provide a unified system of trails for off-highway motor vehicles, preserve traffic safety, improve natural resource protection, reduce off-highway vehicle trespass on private land, and minimize impacts on city residents.
- (b) A pilot project established pursuant to this section shall do all of the following:
- 1) Prescribe a procedure for highway, road, or route selection and designation. The procedure shall be approved by a vote of a majority of the city council.
 - 2) Prescribe a procedure for the city to remove a combined-use designation, including a designation that is removed as a result of the conclusion of the pilot program.
 - 3) In cooperation with the Department of Transportation, establish uniform specifications and symbols for signs, markers, and traffic control devices to control off-highway motor vehicles, including, but not limited to, all of the following:
 - a) Devices to warn of dangerous conditions, obstacles, or hazards.
 - b) Designations of the right-of-way for regular vehicular traffic and off-highway motor vehicles.
 - c) A description of the nature and destination of the off-highway motor vehicle trail.
 - d) Warning signs for pedestrians and motorists of the presence of off-highway motor vehicle traffic.
 - 4) Require that off-highway motor vehicles subject to the pilot project meet the safety requirements of federal and state law regarding proper drivers' licensing, helmet usage, and the requirements specified in Section 38026.5.
 - 5) Prohibit off-highway motor vehicles from traveling faster than 35 miles per hour on highways designated under this section.
 - 6)
 - a) Prohibit a combined-use highway road segment designated under this section from exceeding 10 miles.
 - b) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), two or more combined-use highway road segments may share a common starting point or ending point and may partially overlap as long as the resulting network of the highway road segments does not include more than three distinct locations of shared starting or ending points, or both.
 - 7) Include an opportunity for public comment at a public hearing held by the city in order to evaluate the pilot project.
- (c) A pilot project established pursuant to this section may include use of a state highway, subject to the approval of the Department of Transportation, or any crossing of a highway designated pursuant to Section 38025.
- (d)
- 1) By selecting and designating a highway for combined use pursuant to this section, the city agrees to defend and indemnify the state against any and all claims, including legal



defense and liability arising from a claim, for any safety-related losses or injuries arising or resulting from use by off-highway motor vehicles of a highway designated as a combined-use highway by the city council pursuant to this section.

2) This subdivision does not alter the requirements of subdivision (e).

(e) The city shall not designate a highway for combined use pursuant to this section unless the Commissioner of the Department of the California Highway Patrol finds that designating the highway for combined use would not create a potential traffic safety hazard.

(f)

1) Not later than January 1, 2027, the City of Needles, in consultation with the Department of the California Highway Patrol, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Parks and Recreation, shall prepare and submit to the Legislature a report evaluating the pilot project, and containing all of the following:

a) A description of the road segments designated to allow combined use for over three miles, as approved or adopted by a majority vote of the members of the City of Needles city council.

b) An evaluation of the overall safety and effectiveness of the pilot project, including its impact on traffic flows, safety, off-highway vehicle usage on existing trails, incursions into areas not designated for off-highway vehicle usage, and nonmotorized recreation.

c) A description of the public comments received at a public hearing held by the city in regards to an evaluation of the pilot project.

2) On or before January 1, 2027, the City of Needles, in consultation with the entities listed in paragraph (1), shall prepare and submit a report to the Legislature that includes the information specified in paragraph (1).

(g) On or before January 1, 2027, the City of Needles, in consultation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, shall prepare and submit a report to the Legislature on the operation and impacts of the combined-use highways designated pursuant to this section, and the portions of any adjoining trails in close proximity to those highways, including impacts to neighboring lands affected by the system, if any. The report shall include the latest available information, including, but not limited to, impacts on cultural resources and archaeological sites, streambed modifications and water quality impacts, impacts on protections for wildlife and aquatic habitat, native plants, and wildlife, traffic, particulate pollution, and noise.

(h)

1) The reports submitted pursuant to subdivisions (f) and (g) shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

2) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2028, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute that is enacted before January 1, 2028, deletes or extends that date.

Ca. Veh. Code § 38026.2

Added by Stats 2022 ch 185 (AB 2152), s 4, eff. 1/1/2023.



4. EARTH DAY COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

SPRING INTO ACTION

TWO LOCATIONS

Community Cleanup Day

Jack Smith Park | 1001 River Rd.

&

J Street | Nikki Bunch Fields

Saturday, April 20, 2024

7 AM - 8 AM

Join your friends and neighbors as we work together to clean our community. No registration required.

The City will provide bags, pickers and gloves!



cityofneedles.com

5. BOB BELT'S BEACH PARK



5. BOB BELT'S BEACH PARK



5. BOB BELT'S BEACH PARK



6. JACK SMITH PARK



6. JACK SMITH PARK

