



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: April 3, 2026

1. **Route 66 Centennial Activation & T-Mobile Hometown Grant (Update)**

The Friends of El Garces, in partnership with the River Cruizers and River Valley Arts Guild, successfully hosted Route 66 Centennial activation events last Saturday at El Garces, including the Art & Craft Fair, “Cruisin’ the Century” Car Show, and Art in the Park. The event drew strong participation from residents and visitors, activating the downtown corridor and showcasing local talent, including artwork from Vista Colorado Elementary School Fifth Grade students and community members. A total of 61 vehicles participated in the car show, including the City of Needles’ historic 1923 American LaFrance Fire Truck. As part of the day’s activities, the City partnered with T-Mobile to host the official check presentation for the \$50,000 T-Mobile Hometown Grant. Sam Thanawalla, representing T-Mobile, formally presented the check to the Mayor and City Council. The City extends its appreciation to T-Mobile, including CEO Jon Freier, and Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez’s Office for their partnership and support. Additional thanks are extended to the Friends of El Garces, River Cruizers, River Valley Arts Guild, Rainie Torrance, for her leadership in securing the grant, and City staff for their contributions. The grant will support development of the Route 66 Arch Project near Train Park, enhancing the visitor experience and strengthening the downtown corridor. Staff are advancing project planning and design coordination as part of continued momentum toward the 2026 Route 66 Centennial and broader economic development efforts. A full recap video of the event is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUz5cHsKpaU>

2. **New Restaurant Opening – West End Investment (Update)**

The City is pleased to welcome Lucky Dhaba Indian Food, a new restaurant opening on **April 15, 2026**, at 2411 Needles Highway, revitalizing the former Giggling Cactus location on the west end of the city. The site benefits from a strong location along the I-40 corridor, with more than 8.81 million annualized average daily traffic (AADT), positioning the business to capture both local and regional travel activity. This investment reflects continued momentum along the Needles Highway corridor and activates a previously vacant space with a new dining option for the community. The City appreciates the owner’s commitment and investment in Needles, particularly on the west end. Staff will continue to

support the business through its opening and coordinate with the Chamber of Commerce on a ribbon cutting, reinforcing ongoing efforts to strengthen the local economy and enhance amenities for residents and visitors.

3. Ed Perry Park & Citywide Beautification Efforts Update

Staff continues advancing targeted beautification efforts at Ed Perry Park, Little League facilities, and Jack Smith Park, reinforcing our commitment to high-quality amenities that support sports tourism and community use. Public Works completed key upgrades to the Little League restrooms, including deep cleaning, fixture stabilization, new lighting, and a durable epoxy floor coating, bringing the facility to a clean, safe, and functional standard for the season. Crews also performed site cleanup, debris removal, and curb line improvements throughout Ed Perry Park, and completed a full cleanup of the islands at Jack Smith Park as part of ongoing fire abatement efforts along the Colorado River. These improvements directly strengthen our ability to host tournaments and attract visitors by ensuring our facilities are well-maintained, accessible, and competitive with the best in the region. Staff will continue prioritizing enhancements that elevate the user experience and position Needles as a premier destination for sports and recreation.

4. Colorado River Round Up Rodeo – This Weekend

The 48th Annual Colorado River Round Up Rodeo is taking place this weekend, April 3–4, at the Needles Rodeo Grounds, drawing strong attendance and generating significant economic activity within the community. Hosted by the Needles Rodeo Association and presented by Colorado River Medical Center, this signature event continues to drive tourism and position Needles as a regional destination. Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez attended Friday evening and addressed the crowd. A U.S. Marine Corps veteran with over 20 years of service, including two combat tours, Assemblymember Gonzalez continues to serve the region in the State Legislature. The City appreciates his ongoing support and advocacy on behalf of Needles and its residents. The City extends its appreciation to the Needles Rodeo Association, Colorado River Medical Center, the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, and all sponsors and partners for their continued support. Residents and visitors are encouraged to attend and be part of this long-standing community tradition.

5. Animal Services – Spay & Neuter Clinic Nearly Sold Out (Update)

The Needles Animal Shelter will host its Spay and Neuter Clinic on **April 9–10, 2026**, in partnership with Dr. Angelina Beeks of Angels Touch Mobile Vet. This bi-annual clinic supports responsible pet ownership by preventing unwanted litters, reducing overpopulation, and improving long-term pet health in the community. The clinic is by appointment only, and a non-refundable deposit is required to reserve a spot. Availability is extremely limited, with only a few appointments remaining for cats on Friday. Applications and deposits must be submitted in person at the Animal Shelter (1662 Flip Mendez Parkway). Residents are encouraged to act quickly to secure remaining appointments by calling **760-326-4952** or visiting the Animal Shelter.

6. Tri-State Community Healthcare Easter Egg Hunt – Reminder

A reminder that Tri-State Community Healthcare will host the Fourth Annual Needles Easter Egg Hunt on **April 4, 2026**, at Jack Smith Park (1000 River

Road). The event will take place from **9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**, with the egg hunt beginning promptly at **9:30 a.m.** Families can expect a fun-filled morning featuring over 5,000 eggs with prizes and gift baskets, along with face painting and photos with the Easter Bunny. This well-attended event continues to bring families together and reflects strong community partnership in Needles. Residents are encouraged to attend and take part in this annual tradition.

- 7. Tri-State Community Healthcare – Free Food Distribution Tomorrow**
Tri-State Community Healthcare will host a free strawberry distribution on **Saturday, April 4 at 7:00 a.m.** at 820 W Broadway, providing fresh produce to residents across the tri-state area. This event promotes healthy living and supports access to nutritious food within the community. The City appreciates Tri-State Community Healthcare, their partners, and volunteers for organizing this effort and continuing to invest in the well-being of Needles residents. Community members are encouraged to participate and share information about the event with family, friends, and neighbors.
- 8. Bi-Annual Vaccination and Licensing Clinic – Upcoming Event**
The City of Needles Animal Shelter will host a low-cost vaccination and pet licensing clinic in partnership with PetSmart Veterinary Services on **April 25, 2026**, from **9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** at the Animal Shelter (1662 Flip Mendez Parkway). The clinic will offer affordable vaccinations, including rabies, DA2PP, FVRCP, and Bordetella, as well as microchipping services. Pet licensing will also be available at reduced rates for both altered and unaltered animals. This bi-annual event supports responsible pet ownership, helps protect public health, and ensures compliance with local licensing requirements. Residents from the tri-state area are welcome to participate. Dogs must be on leashes and cats must be in carriers. Additional details are available through the Animal Shelter.
- 9. Consulate of Mexico – Mobile Services Visit (Update)**
The City successfully hosted the Consulate of Mexico in San Bernardino’s “Consulate on Wheels” mobile unit at El Garces on **March 31 and April 1, 2026**, providing direct access to essential consular services for residents. Services included passport issuance and renewals, matrícula consular identification cards, and voter identification (INE) applications. The event was well attended and reflects the City’s continued commitment to expanding access to critical services for the community. Staff coordinated outreach and logistics in partnership with the Consulate to support participation and ensure a smooth operation. This collaboration highlights the value of regional partnerships in delivering services locally and reducing barriers for residents who would otherwise need to travel outside the community.
- 10. Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Pilot Program – Implementation Update**
The City continues to advance implementation of the Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Pilot Program, a community-driven initiative supported by the City Council. The program is not yet active, as staff finalize required components, including installation of signage anticipated to be completed by the end of June. Until the program is officially launched and signage is in place, OHVs are not permitted on City streets. In parallel, public input remains open through **May 4, 2026**, for the City’s OHMV Staging Area Project grant application (Cycle G26), requesting approximately \$995,911 to support the adopted 9.20-mile route

network and improve access, safety, and rider amenities. Community input is an important part of the State’s evaluation process, and residents are encouraged to review and submit comments through the [State’s OHV grants portal](#) by selecting “Review Preliminary Applications” and choosing “City of Needles.” Additional updates will continue to be shared through the City’s website and Needles Connect.

11. Needles Sunday Market – Ongoing Community Activation

The Needles Sunday Market at Santa Fe Park continues to see strong participation from residents, visitors, and local vendors, with the season now extended through **April 2026**. Hosted by Tumbleweed Markets Inc., the weekly market features fresh produce, baked goods, coffee, flowers, and a variety of locally made goods. The market is held every Sunday from **8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** at Santa Fe Park, 950 Front Street. Continued community support helps sustain local businesses and strengthens ongoing activation of the downtown corridor.

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. ICMA Credentialed Manager Candidate Recognition

City Manager Patrick Martinez has been recognized by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) as a Credentialed Manager Candidate, a nationally recognized designation that reflects a commitment to professional excellence, ethical leadership, and continuous improvement in local government service. Mr. Martinez is on track to achieve full ICMA Credentialed Manager status in September 2026.

2. ART IN THE PARK AND CAR SHOW



1. ART IN THE PARK AND CAR SHOW



1. T-MOBILE GRANT CHECK AWARD



3. CITY BEAUTIFICATION



3. CITY BEAUTIFICATION



3. CITY BEAUTIFICATION



4. COLORADO RIVER ROUND UP RODEO



5. ANIMAL SHELTER CLINIC





SPRING SPAY & NEUTER CLINIC

Hosted by: *Needles Animal Shelter*

April 9th & 10th

at *Needles Animal Shelter*

Help your pets live longer, healthier lives!

-  Prevents unwanted litters
-  Reduces overpopulation
-  Improves long-term health
-  Supports our local community

CALL TO SCHEDULE!
(760) 326-4952

Appointments & Information Available by Phone

Let's work together to make a difference for animals in our community!

6. EASTER EGG HUNT

5,000 Eggs
Gift Baskets & prizes

NEEDLES, CA

Easter

EGG HUNT

SATURDAY- APRIL 4

9:00-10:00 AM

Hunt starts at 9:30

Jack Smith Park

1000 River Rd, Needles, CA

**FACE PAINTING & PHOTOS WITH
THE EASTER BUNNY**

This event is brought to you by:



(844) 444-1424 www.tristateclinics.org



7. FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION

FREE

Fresh
Strawberries

TRI-STATE COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE
SATURDAY APRIL 4

7:00 AM

820 W BROADWAY, NEEDLES, CA



8. VACCINATION CLINIC



PETSMART
VETERINARY
SERVICES™

Needles Animal Shelter

Low Cost Vaccination and Licensing Clinic

April 25th | 9:00-12:00

1662 Flip Mendez Pkwy, Needles, CA 92363
(760) 326-4952

All of tri-state
welcome!

Services provided by:

PETSMART Veterinary Services
Dr. Joseph Velasco

-  Rabies **\$10**
-  DA2PP **\$15**
-  FVRCP **\$15**
-  Bordetella **\$15**
-  Microchips **\$30**

SPECIAL PRICING

 FOR CITY LICENSE 

ALTERED

\$10

UNALTERED

\$20

CASH ONLY

Dogs must be on leashes
and cats must be in carrier

9. MEXICAN CONSULATE

CONSULADO DE MÉXICO EN SAN BERNARDINO
SOBRE RUEDAS

Needles

del 31 de marzo al 01 de abril 2026

El Garces Facilities

950 Front St, Needles, CA 92363

31 marzo de 12 a 4 p. m.

1º abril 9 a. m. a 2:30 p. m.

Expedición y renovación de
pasaporte, matrícula consular y solicitud de
credencial para votar (**INE**)

Agenda a partir del **jueves 26 de marzo** por
WhatsApp +1 (424) 309-0009



- Prepárate para tu cita:**
- Consulta los requisitos antes de tu visita
 - **Solo pagos en efectivo**



WhatsApp
para citas



Requisitos



Relaciones Exteriores
Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores

México

Consulado de Carrera de México
en San Bernardino

10. PUBLIC INPUT GRANT

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV) GRANT APPLICATION

PUBLIC INPUT REQUEST – CITY OF NEEDLES

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OHV ACCESS IN NEEDLES

The City of Needles is seeking community input as part of its application to the California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Grant Program (Cycle G26).

The City has submitted a \$995,911 grant application for the proposed:

OHMV STAGING AREA PROJECT

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project supports the City's 9.20-mile OHMV route network, connecting BLM trails to local businesses, including fuel, lodging, and services.

SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS

SCAN HERE



OR Visit:

- https://olga.ohv.parks.ca.gov/egramms_ohmvr/User/home.aspx
- Select "Review Preliminary Applications"
- Choose "Needles OHMV Staging Area Project"
- Submit your comments



PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Designated trailer parking
- Reduced roadside staging and congestion
- Protection of natural resources and habitat
- Improved ADA accessibility
- Restroom and sanitation facilities
- Enhanced traffic flow and safety

CONTACT INFORMATION

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(760) 326-2113 ext. 140
www.cityofneedles.com





**Needles Off-Highway Motor Vehicles (OHMV)
Master Plan and Routes – Pilot Project
Final Technical Memorandum
City of Needles, CA**



Project Summary: City of Needles Proposed OHMV Master Plan (Final Technical Memo)

What this project is

The City of Needles is advancing a **pilot Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) “combined-use highway” network** that allows properly equipped OHMVs (e.g., ATVs/UTVs/dirt bikes that meet California requirements) to operate on **designated city streets** to **connect** residents and visitors to **existing OHV trails/trailheads on federal lands (BLM/USFS), recreational use areas, and local services/lodging**. The pilot authority is provided by **California Vehicle Code (CVC) §38026.2, as amended by AB 1756 (2026)**, extending the pilot sunset to **January 1, 2034** to which was created specifically for Needles and limits the pilot network to **no more than 10 miles**.

How the route network was developed

Minagar & Associates evaluated roadway characteristics and operating conditions (lighting, lanes, curvature, sight distance, land uses, etc.) and incorporated **public and stakeholder input** (including BLM and law enforcement). The resulting proposed network totals **9.20 miles** of designated OHMV routes—within the statutory 10-mile limit—subject to **stakeholder coordination and final City Council approval**.

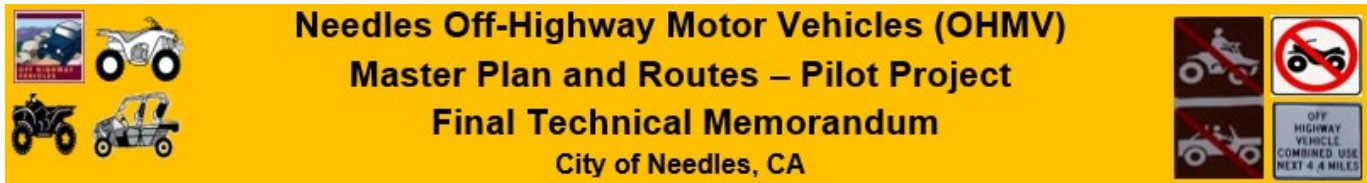
What streets/segments are included (high level)

The proposed system is a set of connected street segments intended to link lodging/residential areas, key corridors, and a **BLM interface connection point** (shown on the project figures). The inventory includes a mix of paved segments and at least one unpaved segment (Eagle Pass Rd), with varying posted limits on the underlying streets. The plan anticipates **route-specific signs and controls** so riders can navigate legally and safely and so enforcement is clear.

Core legal framework and operational limits (what makes this “combined-use”)

- Needles may designate combined-use highways **up to 10 miles total** for the pilot.
- **OHMVs must not exceed 35 mph on designated combined-use segments** under the pilot statute (even if the street’s normal posted speed differs to be higher. If the posted speed limit is lower, the posted lower speed shall supersede 35 mph).
- **CHP safety finding is required**: the City **cannot designate** a segment unless the **Commissioner of CHP** finds the designation would **not create a potential traffic safety hazard**.





- Combined-use designation generally becomes effective **when appropriate signs are installed** (signage is a key “go-live” condition).

Implementation plan elements (what happens after Council approval)

After City Council approval, the plan calls for an implementation program including:

1. **Street signage and traffic control devices** (Begin/End OHMV Route, directional arrows, speed control, warning/yield messaging, etc., consistent with CA MUTCD),
2. **Public education and outreach** for residents and riders (mailers, website map/FAQ, social media reminders, public meeting/open house, complaint/feedback portal),
3. **Enforcement coordination** (training, maps, citation guidance, targeted enforcement on high-use weekends), and
4. **Compliance requirements** emphasizing **vehicle identification/registration, insurance (financial responsibility), and licensing/helmet rules.**

Visitor services, lodging, and local quality-of-life

The report highlights that the OHMV network is designed to connect to **lodging and services**, supporting tourism and local economic activity. It also flags practical local governance issues—especially **short-term lodging (e.g., Airbnb)**—noting there is no single state law that ties OHMV access to short-term rentals, so Needles may need a **local policy approach** (registration, disclosure of OHMV rules to guests, quiet hours/parking standards, and targeted enforcement) to reduce neighborhood impacts.

Staging areas (proposed trailhead-style access points)

To reduce “informal unloading” on neighborhood streets and concentrate compliance messaging, the plan identifies potential staging areas near:

- **Park Drive & River Road**, and
- **Clary Drive & Lillyhill Drive**
 Typical elements include graded trailer parking, loading/unloading zones, kiosks with rules/maps, trash, restrooms (as feasible), entry/exit signage, and emergency contact information.

Reporting and pilot timeline

State law requires Needles (with CHP/Caltrans/Parks & Recreation and others) to evaluate and report on the pilot by **January 1, 2033**, including safety, traffic flow impacts, OHV usage changes, incursions/off-route impacts, and public comments. Additional reporting on environmental/neighborhood impacts is also due by **January 1, 2033**. The pilot statute is scheduled to remain in effect **until January 1, 2034** unless extended by later legislation.





**Needles Off-Highway Motor Vehicles (OHMV)
Master Plan and Routes – Pilot Project
Final Technical Memorandum
City of Needles, CA**



Citizen + Visitor FAQ (rules, regulations, and practical “how-to”)

1) Is OHMV riding allowed everywhere in Needles now?

No. OHMV operation on city streets is only legal on **designated OHMV routes** once the City Council approves the plan **and** required signage/controls are installed. Riding off-route on non-designated streets is subject to enforcement.

2) How long is the proposed OHMV street network?

The proposed combined-use network totals **9.20 miles**, which fits under the statutory cap of **10 miles** for the Needles pilot project.

3) What’s the maximum speed for OHMVs on the designated routes?

35 mph maximum for OHMVs unless posted lower on any roadway designated under the pilot master plan, regardless of the street’s standard posted speed. Riders must also obey any lower posted speed limits and operate safely for conditions.

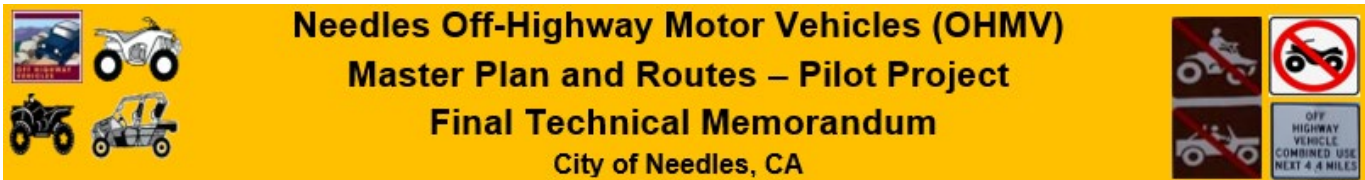
4) When do the routes officially “go live”?

Combined-use segments become effective when the City installs **approved signs/markers/traffic control devices** and after the required safety review process is complete (including the **NPD/CHP safety finding**).

5) Do I need a driver’s license to operate an OHMV on these city streets?

Yes—because these are **public roads/highways (combined-use)**. Operators must meet applicable **driver licensing requirements** for the vehicle type they are operating.





6) Do OHMVs need registration/identification to operate on the designated streets?

Yes. OHMVs subject to California identification requirements must display a valid **OHV identification plate/sticker (commonly red/green sticker or equivalent identification)** as required by California law. Vehicles without required identification are not legal for operation on public roadways as part of this system.

7) Do I need insurance?

Yes. Drivers/owners must be able to show **financial responsibility (insurance or equivalent proof)** and carry evidence in the vehicle (or otherwise be able to establish it as allowed by law). This is a major enforcement and liability topic on public streets.

8) Are helmets required?

Helmets are required under California rules for many OHMV use cases, and the plan specifically anticipates “**Helmet Required**” messaging as part of route signage and public education. When in doubt: **wear a helmet and appropriate protective gear**—and follow the specific rules for your vehicle class and rider age.

9) Can children operate OHMVs on the city routes?

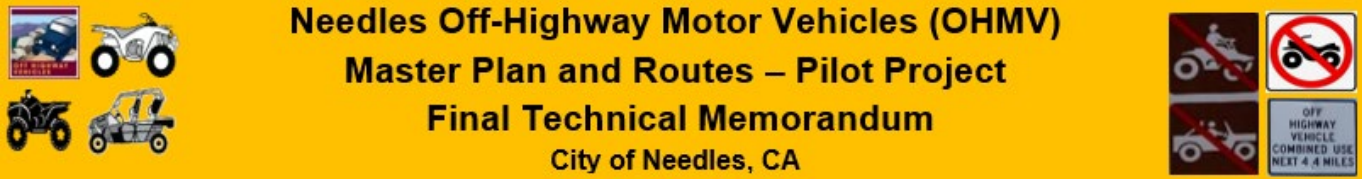
Minors have additional restrictions under state law (including ATV safety certification/training requirements for operators under 18 in many contexts). Practically: if you’re under 18, assume you will need to meet **training/certification and supervision requirements** and still comply with licensing/helmet rules applicable to public-road combined-use operation. Families should check age/vehicle-type requirements carefully before riding.

10) What if I’m staying at a hotel—can I ride from my lodging to the trails?

That is one of the core purposes of the plan: connecting **lodging facilities** to the OHMV route network and onward connections to federal trail systems. You must still:

- Stay on the **designated route**,
- Keep OHMV speed **≤ 35 mph**,
- Ensure your vehicle is **properly identified/registered**, and
- Carry **license + insurance proof** as required.





11) What about short-term rentals (Airbnb/VRBO)?

The report notes there is **no single state law** linking OHMV access and short-term rentals; the City may adopt **local rules** (registration, disclosure of route rules to guests, quiet hours, parking standards, and enforcement). Visitors should **not assume** a rental home is located on or near a legal connector route—if you're not on a designated route, riding on neighborhood streets can be illegal.

12) Where will I find the official route map and rules?

The plan recommends a dedicated **City OHMV webpage** with downloadable maps, the local ordinance, rules, and an FAQ—plus QR codes and printed mailers. Until the City publishes the final ordinance/map package, rely on:

- Posted **Begin/End OHMV Route** signs, and
- The City's official published materials.

13) What signage should I look for?

Expect (at minimum):

- **Begin OHMV Route / End OHMV Route** signs
- **Directional arrows** and wayfinding
- **Speed Limit (OHMV max 35 mph)**
- Warnings like **Yield to Pedestrians**, **Stay on Designated Route**, and hazard advisories in key locations

14) Can I cross highways to reach trails?

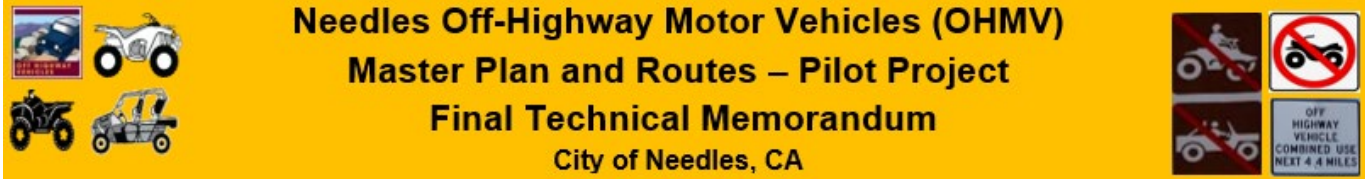
Crossing rules are tightly controlled. In many cases, OHMVs may only cross at **designated crossing locations** and must cross quickly and safely. Follow posted crossing signage and any City/Caltrans/CHP-designated crossing points.

15) Will law enforcement enforce these routes?

Yes. The implementation strategy specifically calls for law enforcement coordination, training, and targeted enforcement—especially during high-use weekends/holidays—to address speed, off-route riding, equipment compliance, and nuisance behavior.

16) What are the most common violations visitors should avoid?





- Riding **off the designated route network**
- Operate an OHV on designated routes during the **hours of darkness**
- Exceeding **35 mph** (OHMV cap)
- Operate without **rubber tires**
- Operate without **street-legal equipment as required by law, including an operational stoplight (brake light)**
- No proof of **insurance/financial responsibility**
- Missing required **OHV identification/registration**
- Operating without proper **license/endorsement** (as applicable)
- Unsafe operation near pedestrians/residential areas (noise, dust, reckless driving)
- Not compliance with CVC §38026.5

17) What are other safety tips?

OHMV riders will be operating on public roadways alongside:

- Pedestrians
- Bicyclists
- Passenger vehicles
- Commercial trucks

Riders must:

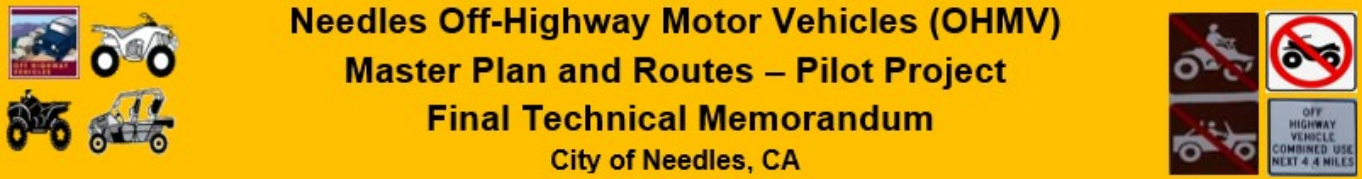
- ✓ Drive cautiously
- ✓ Yield to pedestrians
- ✓ Obey all traffic laws
- ✓ Operate defensively
- ✓ Maintain full situational awareness

Unsafe or reckless operation may result in citations and jeopardize the future of the program.

18) What are the benefits for residents? What about neighborhood impacts?

Benefits emphasized include improved legal access, reduced trespass onto private land, better resource protection, and visitor spending. To manage impacts, the plan emphasizes signage, staged access points, education, and enforcement—plus possible local policy tools for noise, dust, and short-term lodging.





Needles Off-Highway Motor Vehicles (OHMV)

Master Plan and Routes – Pilot Project

Final Technical Memorandum

City of Needles, CA

19) Is this permanent?

It is a **pilot** authorized in state law, with required evaluation reports due **January 1, 2033**, and the pilot statute scheduled to sunset **January 1, 203** unless extended.

Practical “Visitor Rules” cheat sheet (easy-to-share)

- **Only ride on designated OHMV routes** (look for Begin/End signs).
- **Max OHMV speed = 35 mph** on pilot-designated streets, unless posted lower.
- Bring and be ready to show: **driver’s license, insurance proof, OHV ID/registration.**
- Unlawful to operate an OHV on designated routes during the **hours of darkness.**
- Unlawful to operate without **street-legal equipment as required by law, including an operational stoplight (brake light).**
- Unlawful to operate without **rubber tires.**
- **Helmet + safety gear strongly expected** (and legally required in many cases).
- **Yield to pedestrians**, ride quietly through neighborhoods, and **don’t roost dust.**
- Use designated **staging areas** when available; don’t unload in neighborhoods.
- If you’re unsure, **don’t ride that street**—find the signed route.





**Needles Off-Highway Motor Vehicles (OHMV)
Master Plan and Routes – Pilot Project
Final Technical Memorandum
City of Needles, CA**



CITY OF NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA

OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE (OHMV) PILOT PROGRAM

Rules, Routes & Responsibilities

SIDE A — FOR RESIDENTS OF NEEDLES

What is the OHMV Pilot Program?

The City of Needles is implementing a **state-authorized pilot program** that allows Off-Highway Motor Vehicles (OHMV) to legally use **designated city streets** to connect neighborhoods, lodging, and services to **existing federal OHV trails**.

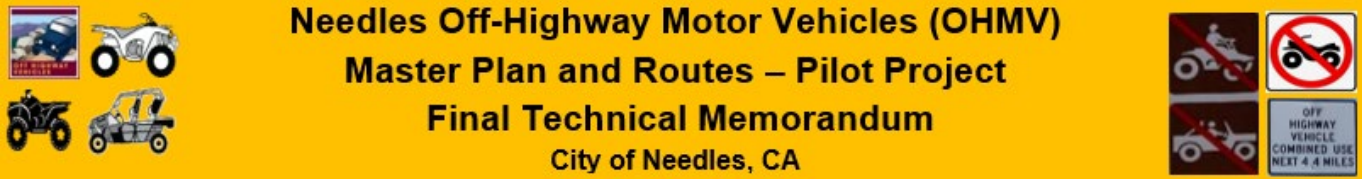
This program is authorized **only for the City of Needles** under California Vehicle Code §38026.2.

Where are OHMVs allowed?

- ONLY** on streets officially designated as OHMV Routes
- NOT** on all city streets

All routes are clearly marked with:





- “**Begin OHMV Route**” and “**End OHMV Route**” signs
- Directional arrows
- OHMV speed limit signage

Riding off-route is illegal and enforceable.

Speed, Safety & Neighborhood Protections

- **Maximum OHMV speed: 35 mph unless posted lower**
- Riders must **yield to pedestrians**
- No reckless riding, racing, or excessive noise
- Law enforcement will conduct **targeted enforcement**, especially on weekends and holidays

The program is designed to **reduce illegal riding on neighborhood streets** by directing riders to clearly marked corridors.

Do OHMV riders need licenses and insurance?

Yes. On city streets, OHMV operators must have:

- A **valid driver’s license**
 - **Proof of insurance / financial responsibility**
 - Proper **OHMV registration or identification sticker**
 - Required **helmet and safety equipment**
-

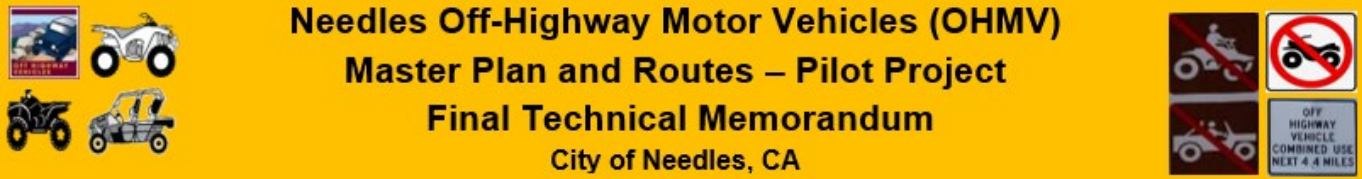
What if there are problems?

The City will maintain:

- A dedicated OHMV information webpage
- A complaint and feedback system
- Ongoing coordination with law enforcement

Residents are encouraged to report:





- Riding off designated routes
- Excessive speed or noise
- Unsafe operation

Is this permanent?

No. This is a **pilot program**.

- Evaluation report due to the State: **January 1, 2033**
- Program sunsets unless extended: **January 1, 2034**

SIDE B — FOR VISITORS & OHMV RIDERS

Welcome to Needles — Ride Legal, Ride Smart

Needles is proud to be one of the **only cities in California** offering legal OHMV street connections to world-class desert trails.

But riding is legal ONLY if you follow the rules below.

Where can I ride?

- ✓ **Designated OHMV Routes only**
- ⊘ **No riding on non-designated city streets**

Look for official signs:

- **Begin OHMV Route**
- **End OHMV Route**
- Directional arrows and warnings

If it's not signed — **don't ride it.**





Needles Off-Highway Motor Vehicles (OHMV) Master Plan and Routes – Pilot Project Final Technical Memorandum City of Needles, CA



Speed Limit

- ⊘ **Maximum OHMV speed on city streets: 35 mph**
Lower speeds may apply in specific areas.
-

What you must have to ride legally

Before riding on city streets, make sure you have:

- **Valid driver's license**
- **OHMV registration or CA identification sticker**
- **Proof of insurance**
- **Helmet and required safety gear**
- **Street-legal equipment as required by law**

Riders without proper documentation may be cited and removed from the route.

Staying at a hotel or lodging?

Many hotels are located near designated OHMV routes. You may ride:

- **From lodging → to designated OHMV routes → to trail systems**
- **ONLY via signed routes**

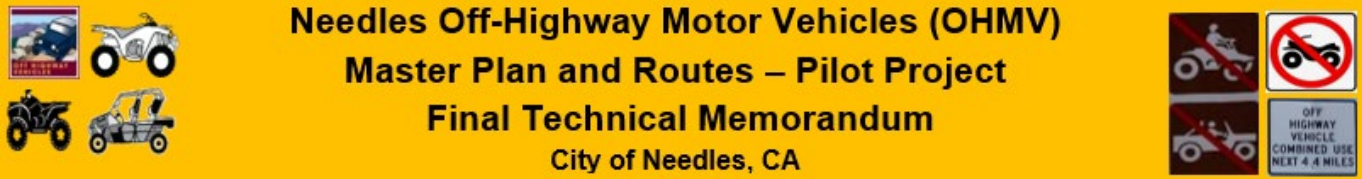
Short-term rentals (Airbnb, VRBO, etc.) may **not** be located on legal OHMV access streets. Ask before you ride.

Trail Staging Areas

Use designated OHMV staging areas when available to:

- Load and unload OHMVs
 - Access route maps and rules
 - Reduce impacts on neighborhoods
-





Do not unload or stage OHMVs on residential streets.

Respect the Community

- ✓ Yield to pedestrians
- ✓ Keep noise and dust down
- ✓ Obey all signs and speed limits

- ⊘ NO off-route riding
- ⊘ NO racing or reckless behavior
- ⊘ NO riding during hours of darkness
- ⊘ NO operation without operational brake light
- ⊘ NO operation without rubber tires

SHARE THE ROAD

You will be riding with pedestrians, bicyclists, passenger vehicles, and commercial trucks. Drive cautiously and obey all traffic laws.

Unsafe or illegal riding threatens the future of the program.

Enforcement

Local law enforcement actively patrols OHMV routes.
Violations may result in:

- Citations
 - Fines
 - Removal from routes
 - Loss of OHMV access privileges
-

Remember

This OHMV system exists **because riders follow the rules**.
Help keep Needles open, safe, and OHMV-friendly.





**Needles Off-Highway Motor Vehicles (OHMV)
Master Plan and Routes – Pilot Project
Final Technical Memorandum
City of Needles, CA**



11. NEEDLES SUNDAY MARKET EXTENSION

NOW EXTENDED THROUGH APRIL !!



SANTA FE PARK
950 FRONT ST. NEEDLES, CA
EVERY SUNDAY FROM 8AM - 12PM PST

TODAY IS MARKET DAY!

**NEEDLES
SUNDAY
MARKET**

8AM ~ Noon
Santa Fe Park • Needles, CA



13. ICMA CREDENTIALLED MANAGER CANDIDATE

Members Recommended to Receive Credential in April 2026

These ICMA members have been recommended by the Credentialing Advisory Board to receive ICMA Credentialed Manager or Candidate status in April 2026.

Feb 19, 2026 | MEMBER NEWS - ARTICLE



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The ICMA Credentialed Manager (ICMA-CM) designation has become widely respected, frequently requested in recruitment of positions and cited in positive media coverage of public stewardship. Congratulations to the following members, who have been recommended by the Credentialing Advisory Board to receive ICMA Credentialed Manager or Candidate status in April 2026.

PUBLISH WITH ICMA!

We're searching for interesting and insightful stories that can help others learn a memorable takeaway to serve their communities better.