

## Community Focus Statement A: Improve the overall safety of the community.

### A2

**Action Statement A.2: Coordinate with the County to improve safety issues caused by Route 66 tourism on National Trails Highway by advocating for speed limit reductions, potential road improvements in high crash areas, targeted traffic enforcement, and an education program in conjunction with Route 66 tourism groups to educate tourists on road safety and high-risk behaviors caused by driver inattention or distraction.**

**Benchmark:** Creation of community group who coordinates with County Public Works and Sheriff's Departments to secure funding and implements safety improvements.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$100,000–\$400,000 for safety study, additional costs for improvements dependent upon amount and extent



Photo source: California Department of Transportation 2016

Route 66 was one of the original federal highway routes, established on November 11, 1926. It extended 2,347 miles from Chicago through Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona before ending in Santa Monica, California. Route 66 served as a major migratory road west, especially during the Great Depression. Currently it exists as Historic Route 66, a National Scenic Byway, and is commemorated by various organizations along the way, including the California Historic Route 66 Association.

A safe and effective transportation network is critical to the function of any community. Helendale community members anticipate an increase in safety concerns along the portion of Route 66 traversing the community. Community members often observe motorists driving in an unsafe manner, which is of concern to Helendale residents. An increase in traffic law enforcement in the area could potentially help reinforce existing safety regulations along Route 66, which would in turn improve the safety and well-being of both residents and tourists.

The San Bernardino County Public Works Department is responsible for maintaining Route 66. The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Victor Valley Station, provides law enforcement services to Helendale and other communities in the area. The Victor Valley Station is located in Adelanto, with substations in Lucerne Valley and Phelan. A full-time deputy sheriff (40 hours per week) is allocated to serve the Helendale Community Services District and Spring Valley Lake.

In order to identify current and potential future performance and safety issues, a corridor study could be undertaken to evaluate Route 66 in Helendale. The study could provide recommendations for future infrastructure improvements to improve service and safety levels along the roadway. A corridor analysis for Route 66 could cost approximately \$100,000–\$400,000, depending on the length of the roadway segment to be studied.

The community should coordinate a meeting with County Public Works and local Sheriff's Departments staff where safety concerns are voiced in order to allow law enforcement to better allocate available personnel to areas of concern and possible traffic improvements can occur. Open and constant communication with the County Public Works and law enforcement is key to the increase in safety along Route 66.

*Note: Focus Statements A.1, B.1, and B.2 are similar and could be addressed as part of one planning process. The community should consider all three objectives at once when considering implementation of these focus statements.*

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Objective Resources
1. Creation of community group to lead the actions.	Champion	Month 1	San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department
2. Define project study area and the desired project safety goals. Refer to the California Historic Route 66 Association efforts.	Community group	Months 1–3	<a href="http://cms.sbcounty.gov/sheriff/PatrolStations/VictorValley.aspx">http://cms.sbcounty.gov/sheriff/PatrolStations/VictorValley.aspx</a>
3. Conduct initial coordination with the County Department of Public Works and the Helendale Community Services District.	Community group	Months 4–5	Helendale Community Services District
4. Conduct a meeting with the County Sheriff's Department to discuss specific safety concerns and locations, as well as opportunities to better allocate law enforcement resources in the area.	Community Group with support from local community leaders and CSD	Months 4–5	<a href="http://www.helendalecsd.org/">http://www.helendalecsd.org/</a>
5. Identify potential corridor Study funding options including grants and funding through the Community Services District. Prepare grant applications as needed.	Community Group with support from local community leaders and CSD	Months 6–12	California Historic Route 66 Association, Needles to Barstow Corridor Management <a href="http://route66ca.org/corridor-management-plan/">http://route66ca.org/corridor-management-plan/</a>
6. Conduct a corridor study to determine existing conditions, future needs, and potential improvements. The study should include conceptual cost estimates for improvements.	Community Group	Months 13–24	Federal Highway Administration Innovative Intersection Safety Improvement Strategies and Management Practices
7. Obtain community and stakeholder input on proposed improvements.	Community Group and CSD	Months 25–36	<a href="http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/intersection/other_topics/fhwas06016/">http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/intersection/other_topics/fhwas06016/</a>
8. Coordinate with the County Department of Public Works to implement recommended improvements.	Community Group and CSD	Month 37	
9. Procure final design plans for proposed improvements.	County Public Works Department	Months 38–60	Caltrans Scenic Highways <a href="http://www.dot.ca.gov/desig/lap/livability/scenic-highways/index.html">http://www.dot.ca.gov/desig/lap/livability/scenic-highways/index.html</a>
10. Construct/implement corridor improvements.	County Public Works Department	Months 61–78	Route 66 BLM Link <a href="http://route66ca.org/corridor-management-plan/">http://route66ca.org/corridor-management-plan/</a>