

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

### **Action Statement A.6: Enhance the bridge across the Mojave River on Vista Road to meet minimum ADA criteria for pedestrian access.**

# A<sub>6</sub>

**Benchmark:** Achieve community support and coordinate with appropriate agencies to study, fund and construct bridge improvements.

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

**Estimated Cost:** \$100,000–\$200,000 for bridge improvement study; \$2.5 million–\$10 million to widen/replace bridge; \$800,000–\$1,200,000 for dedicated bicycle/pedestrian bridge; additional costs may be incurred for the bridge approaches



*Retrofit of an aluminum bridge to an existing highway bridge with inadequate pedestrian facilities. This is typically a less expensive option than widening of an existing bridge. Photo source: MAADI Group*

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became law in 1990. The ADA is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public. The purpose of the law is to provide that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else. The ADA gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion. It guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications.

The community of Helendale has identified as a priority improved pedestrian access on the bridge along Vista Road crossing the Mojave River to meet minimum ADA criteria. The bridge along Vista Road is a two-way undivided roadway traveling in an east–west direction over the Mojave River. A narrow, slightly elevated sidewalk is provided on one side of the bridge with a metal railing separating the sidewalk from vehicular traffic. However, current conditions suggest that since there is only one way to cross the bridge, a conflict would arise if pedestrians, bicyclists, and a disabled person are all traveling on the relatively narrow sidewalk at the same time. In addition, there are no sidewalks and no clear protected pedestrian pathways along the roadway on either side of the bridge that could transition to a protected pedestrian path on the bridge itself. Currently, the Vista Road crossing of the Mojave River is the only river crossing in Helendale.

Vista Road and the existing bridge are currently maintained by the County Public Works Department. The current bridge appears to be too narrow to safely narrow the vehicle travel lanes and attempt to widen the current pedestrian walkway. To adequately provide for a protected and ADA-compliant pedestrian way on the bridge, it may be necessary to widen the entire bridge, if feasible, or replace it with a larger bridge, in addition to improving the bridge

approaches on both sides. An alternative to widening or replacing the existing bridge would be to provide a dedicated bicycle and pedestrian bridge crossing. A detailed study and analysis of the bridge and roadway would need to be performed to understand what may be feasible.

**Estimated Infrastructure Costs**

Type	Typical Cost
Bridge Improvement Study	\$100,000–\$200,000
Bridge Widening Reconstruction (if feasible)	\$2.5 million–\$5 million
Bridge Replacement Construction	\$5 million–\$10 million
Dedicated Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge	\$800,000–\$1,200,000
Sidewalk	\$20 per square foot

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Establish local support for potential ADA improvements and create Bridge Committee	Champion	Months 1–3	Helendale Community Services District <a href="http://www.helendalecsd.org/">http://www.helendalecsd.org/</a>
2. Coordinate with the Helendale Community Services District and County Public Works regarding a bridge improvement study.	Bridge committee	Months 4–6	AASHTO Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities
3. Identify potential bridge improvement study funding options including grants and funding through the Community Services District. Prepare grant applications if available.	Bridge committee, Community Services District	Months 7–18	Caltrans Complete Streets Program <a href="http://www.dot.ca.gov/transplanning/ocp/complete-streets.html">http://www.dot.ca.gov/transplanning/ocp/complete-streets.html</a>
4. Conduct a bridge improvement study to determine the feasibility of widening the bridge, or potentially replacing it, in order to satisfy ADA requirements. The study should consider pedestrian connections on either side of the bridge, a potential bicycle/pedestrian bridge, potential environmental impacts/studies, and conceptual cost estimates.	Helendale Community Services District	Months 19–30	United States Access Board, Public Rights-of-Way Proposed Guidelines <a href="https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/streets-sidewalks/public-rights-of-way">https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/streets-sidewalks/public-rights-of-way</a>
5. Coordinate among responsible groups to determine the level of community support and potential bridge widening/replacement funding opportunities.	Bridge committee with local leaders, Community Services District, County Public Works	Months 28–34	FHWA Bicycle and Pedestrian Program, Designing Sidewalks and Trails for Access <a href="https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/publications/sidewalks/chap4b.cfm">https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/publications/sidewalks/chap4b.cfm</a>
6. Procure final design plans for proposed improvements.	County Public Works	Months 35–60	
7. Construct/implement corridor improvements.	County Public Works	Months 61–84	