

**Community Focus Statement B:** Reduce traffic congestion by improving transit services, roadways and recreational networks for pedestrians and bicyclists, and transit riders.

**B**

**Action Statement B.1:** Advocate for improved transportation options and reduced automobile traffic through Big Bear City on State Route 18 and State Route 38, which become congested with tourist traffic during peak holiday weekends and seasons. Solutions should be integrated with valley-wide and regional strategies and may include transit improvements, shuttle services, streetscape improvements (including pedestrian and bicycle facilities), marketing, or transportation access guides implemented in coordination with Mountain Transit, the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority, the City of Big Bear Lake, the California Department of Transportation, the Big Bear Valley Tourism Business Improvement District, and/or other relevant organizations.

**Benchmark:** Transportation needs and an alternatives study completed and regular coordination with local agencies to implement study recommendations occurs.

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

**Estimated Cost:** \$250,000–\$650,000 (for studies only)



Mountain Transit is the primary public transportation service in the Bear Valley area. Photo source: Michael Baker International

Transportation infrastructure and services in the Bear Valley communities were developed to serve the resident population. However, as a tourist and second-home owner destination, Bear Valley’s weekend and holiday population is significantly magnified causing congested roadways and bumper to bumper traffic. State Routes 18 and 38 are the main thoroughfares and are most heavily impacted. Solutions should be integrated with valley-wide

and regional strategies and may include transit improvements, shuttle services, streetscape improvements (including pedestrian and bicycle facilities), marketing, or transportation access guides implemented in coordination with Mountain Transit, California Department of Transportation, and the Big Bear Valley Tourism Business Improvement District, and/or other relevant organizations. Any transportation system must meet the needs of local community members as well as the large number of visitors to the area, as both groups travel between different locations and have different travel schedules. The transportation system must also reflect multiple modes, including non-motorized uses such as bicycles, and ultimately offer an appealing alternative to a single-occupant personal vehicle.

A transportation study for the Bear Valley communities will help identify areas in need of improvement and the most appropriate solutions. Such a study should consider expanded transit and paratransit services, sidewalks, bike lanes, and emerging modes such as transportation network companies (TNCs, also called ride sourcing; for example, Lyft and Uber) and car share systems. The study should look at the effectiveness of Bear Valley’s existing roadway network, including the use of turn lanes and traffic signals. It should evaluate parking in the communities, including whether the parking standards for new homes and businesses should be changed. Additionally, this study should consider solutions such as telecommuting.

Community outreach is a key component of such a study, and thus is an opportunity to create partnerships. Government agencies (such as the City of Big Bear Lake, the San Bernardino National Forest, and the San Bernardino County Public Works Department), business organizations (such as the Big Bear Chamber of Commerce and the Big Bear Lake Tourism Business Improvement District), local businesses, and Mountain Transit can work collaboratively to provide insight and critical input into identifying needs and opportunities. These agencies may also be able to help secure grants or other sources of financing needed for the study.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Hold a meeting to create a group of interested parties.	Champion	Months 1	SBCTA Mountain Area Transportation Study
2. Using the 2016 Mountain Area Transportation Study conducted by SBCTA (formerly SANBAG) as a reference, define the project study area and desired project goals.	Group with Local community leaders and agencies (such as Mountain Area Transportation)	Months 1 – 2	<a href="http://gobcta.com/plans-projects/study-mountain-area.html">http://gobcta.com/plans-projects/study-mountain-area.html</a>  San Bernardino County Transportation Authority, Federal, Local, Measure I, and State Funding
3. Build on existing partnership with interested parties including Mountain Transit, the City of Big Bear Lake, San Bernardino National Forest, San Bernardino County Public Works Department, Big Bear Chamber of Commerce, Big Bear Lake Tourism Business Improvement District, and the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA).	Group with Local community leaders and agencies	Month 3	<a href="http://gobcta.com/plans-projects/index.html">http://gobcta.com/plans-projects/index.html</a>  Federal Highway Administration, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program and State Highway Safety Office grants <a href="http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/?redirect">http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/?redirect</a>
4. Identify potential grant funding for project planning/studies.	Group	Months 4 – 16	



Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
5. Conduct a transportation needs study.	San Bernardino County Transportation Authority	Year 1 – 2	US Department of Agriculture, Rural Business Development Grants
6. Conduct a community meeting to discuss findings and an initial alternatives brainstorming session.	Group with Local community leaders and agencies, San Bernardino County Transportation Authority	Year 2	<a href="https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-business-development-grants">https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-business-development-grants</a>
7. Identify potential grant funding for the alternatives study.	Group	Year 2 – 3	San Bernardino County Community Development Division, Special Purpose Grants administration
8. Conduct an alternatives analysis.	San Bernardino County Transportation Authority consult with County Public Works Department and Mountain Transit	Year 3	<a href="http://www.sbcountyadvantage.com/Community-Development-Housing/Community-Development-Division.aspx">http://www.sbcountyadvantage.com/Community-Development-Housing/Community-Development-Division.aspx</a>
9. Obtain support for potential projects from the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors.	Group	Year 3	Planning for Transportation in Rural Areas, Federal Highway Administration
10. Secure grant funding for design and construction or program implementation.	Group	Year 4 – 5	<a href="https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/publications/rural_areas_planning/ruralguide.pdf">https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/publications/rural_areas_planning/ruralguide.pdf</a>
11. Procure final design plans for proposed improvements.	County Public Works Department	Year 5 – 6	
12. Construct/implement roadway improvements.	County Public Works Department	Year 6	Principles for Improving Transportation Options in Rural and Small Town Communities
13. Implement project programs.	To be determined (based on project type)	Year 6 – 7	<a href="http://t4america.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/T4-Whitepaper-Rural-and-Small-Town-Communities.pdf">http://t4america.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/T4-Whitepaper-Rural-and-Small-Town-Communities.pdf</a>