



Final Report  
Commuter Rail First Mile/Last Mile Active  
Transportation Strategies  
MSRC Contract No. MS16094

Prepared for the Mobile Source Air Pollution Review Committee (MSRC)  
under the AB 2766 Discretionary Fund Work Program.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was submitted in fulfillment of Contract No. MS16094 and the First Mile/Last Mile Improvements by RCTC under the partial sponsorship of the Mobile Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC). Work was completed as of January 4, 2024.

The improvements and projects funded by MSRC were completed as a coordinated effort between the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) and the City of Riverside. Gary Ratliff, the Facilities Administrator in the Project Delivery Department at RCTC, worked diligently to deliver the projects located at the Metrolink stations throughout Riverside County. RCTC also acknowledges Farshid Mohammadi and David Hatch from the City of Riverside Public Works Department who carried out a vicinity improvement project in the City of Riverside.

**Disclaimer:** The statement and conclusions in this report are those of the contractor and not necessarily those of the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) or the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD). The mention of commercial products, their sources or their uses in connection with material reported is not to be construed as either an actual or implied endorsement of such products.

## Project Background

In 2018, RCTC completed the Active Transportation Strategies Technical Memorandum, which aimed to provide pedestrians and cyclists safe access to the nine RCTC owned Metrolink stations located throughout Western Riverside County. The memorandum provided a conceptual framework of projects that facilitate safe and efficient non-motorized circulation within each station site and provide safe and effective bike storage. This framework was presented in three separate plans, each with its own objective:

- **Part 1: Bicycle Storage Plan** – The Bicycle Storage Plan will evaluate the most appropriate options for bicycle storage at each station, such as expanded racks, shells, or an enclosed bike station facility. Some form of bicycle storage will be added at each of the nine stations.
- **Part 2: Station Active Transportation Access Plan** – The Station Active Transportation Access Plan focuses on pedestrian and bicycle facilities at the station, including the immediately adjacent perimeter streets. It evaluates pedestrian and bicycle access at each station and identifies the stations with the greatest need for improvements, as well as the most appropriate options for each station. The goal is to add and enhance pedestrian and bicycle facilities to encourage easy and safe access to stations that were originally designed with a focus on automobile access only. The Plan will identify specific improvements that will be implemented at no less than two of the nine stations.
- **Part 3: Vicinity Active Transportation Plan** – The Vicinity Active Transportation Plan will evaluate pedestrian and bicycle access to the stations from surrounding areas. Access to transit for pedestrians is typically considered acceptable within one-half mile of the station (approximately a 10-minute walk), and within three miles for cyclists (approximately a 10-minute ride). The goal is to evaluate the most appropriate options to enhance the safety and efficiency of pedestrian and bicycle travel. It will identify specific improvements that will be implemented at no less than two of the nine stations.



## **Project Description and Work Performed**

With help of the conceptual framework provided by the memorandum, RCTC and the City of Riverside staff completed the following projects under each plan:

- **Part 1: Bicycle Storage Plan**
  - 46 bike lids were installed at the RCTC owned Metrolink stations.
  - One bike hut was installed at the Riverside-Downtown Metrolink station.
- **Part 2: Station Active Transportation Access Plan**
  - New sidewalk from Vine Street to bus island at the Riverside-Downtown Metrolink Station.
  - New sidewalk from the north entrance from Vine Street to bus island at the Riverside-Downtown Metrolink Station.
  - Sidewalk improvements for bike hut foundation at the Riverside-Downtown Metrolink Station.
  - New sidewalk from southern entrance to the platform at the Corona-West Metrolink Station.
  - New sidewalk from the station entrance to Mapes Road at the Perris-South Metrolink Station.
  - New bike path from the station entrance to Mapes Road to connect with City active transportation trail at the Perris-South Metrolink Station.
- **Part 3: Vicinity Active Transportation Plan**
  - New sidewalk on Commerce Street between Mission Inn Avenue and University Avenue.
  - New sidewalk on Rustin Avenue between Marlborough Avenue and Spruce Street. Two cross walks were also installed as part of this project.

## **Problems Encountered**

In January 2023, RCTC requested a 10-month extension to Contract No. MS16094, which was set to expire in April 2023. This request was submitted on behalf of the City of Riverside, which experienced delays during the vicinity improvement project at Rustin Avenue. These delays were a result of additional coordination efforts required with the California Public Utilities Commission due to the project's proximity to the rail line. Although this caused a delay in the delivery of the project, City staff provided accurate projected construction schedules and were able to deliver project completion on January 4th, 2024, as anticipated.

## Photographs



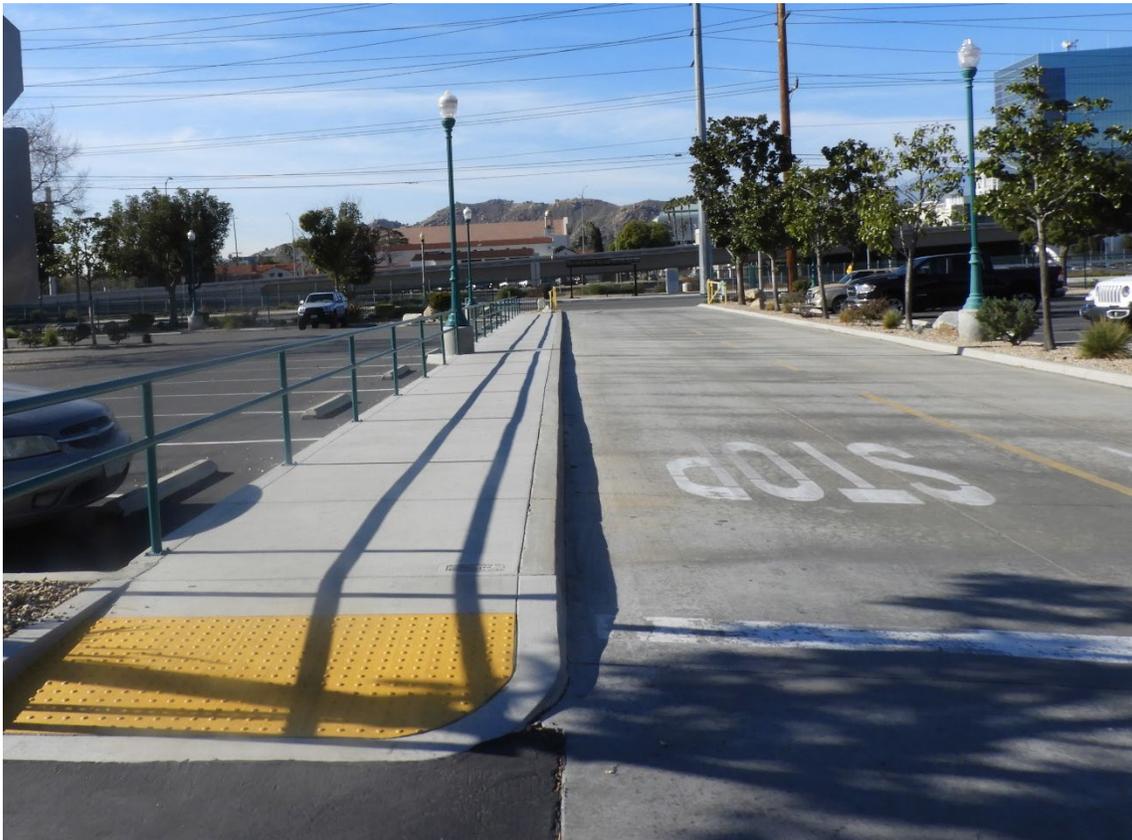
**Bike Lids at the Hunter Park Metrolink Station**



**Bike Hut Storage outside of the Riverside-Downtown Metrolink Station**



**New Sidewalk Connecting the Riverside-Downtown Station to the Vine Street Mobility Hub**



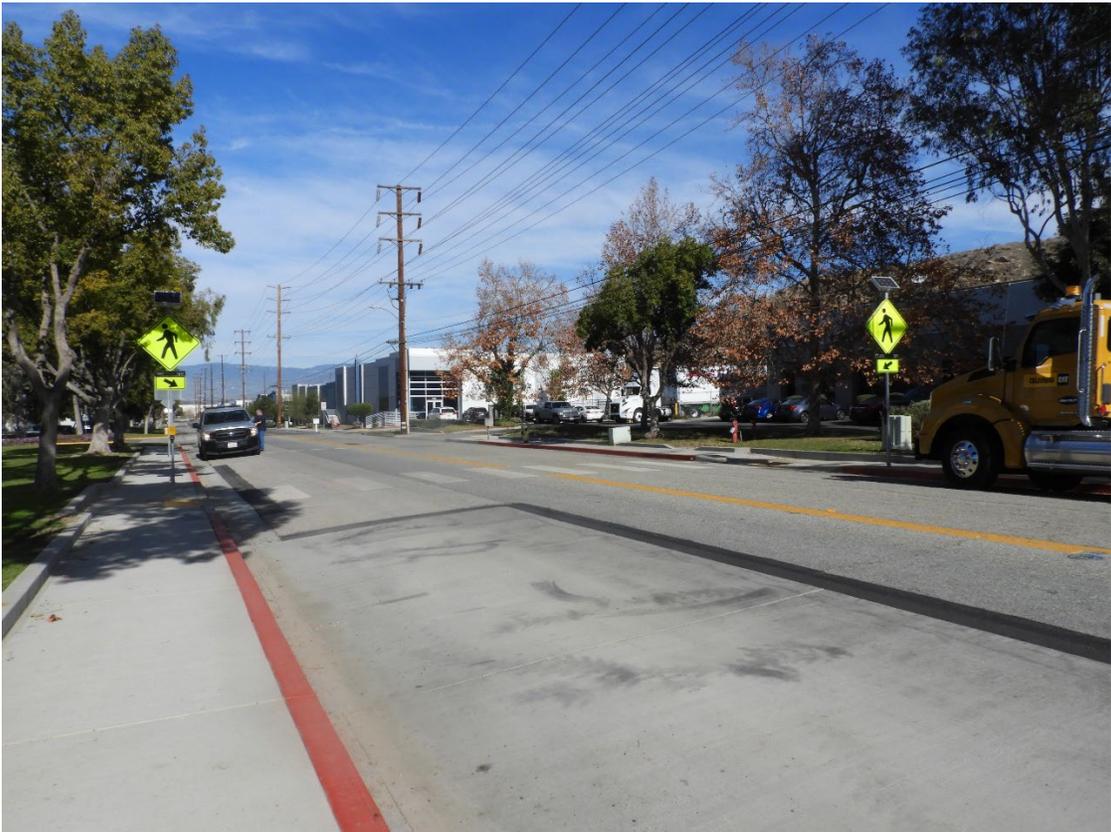
**New Sidewalk Connecting the Riverside-Downtown Station to the Vine Street Mobility Hub**



**New Sidewalk at the Perris-South Metrolink Station**



**New Bike Lane at the Perris-South Metrolink Station**



**New Sidewalk and Rapid-Flashing Pedestrian Crosswalk at Rustin Ave.**



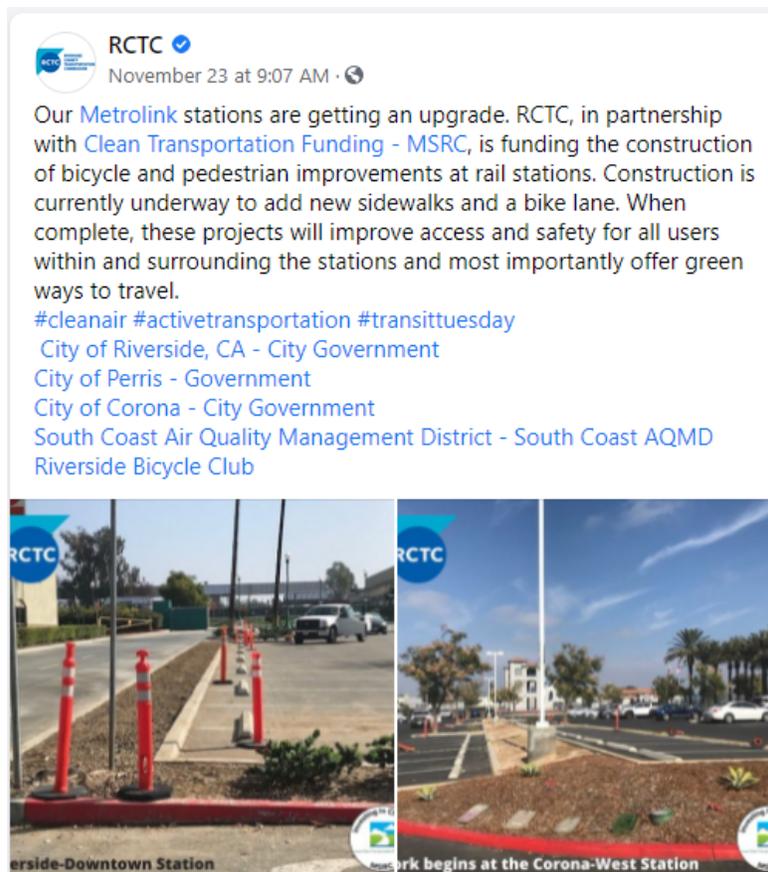
**New sidewalk from southern entrance to the platform at the Corona-West Metrolink Station.**

## Outreach

As part of outreach efforts related to the Commuter Rail First Mile/Last Mile Active Transportation Strategies Project, RCTC completed a Public Outreach Plan that was used to develop an approach to reaching current and prospective riders within the region to promote the first mile/last mile improvements at the stations. The plan had the following goals:

1. Educate the public about the various first mile/last mile improvements.
2. Communicate the benefits of the improvements.
3. Educate the public about the use of MSRC funds to construct the improvements.

To meet these goals, RCTC completed social media and newsletter posts prior, during, and post-construction. RCTC began its outreach through social media in November 2021 and continued through 2022. Completion of projects were presented on Facebook and Instagram in January 2024. The project completion posts reached a total of 38,270 impressions and 1,715 engagements from the public.



**First Facebook post November 2021**

**RCTC** **MOVING IN CHARGE**  
MSRC

**therctc** • Follow

**therctc** In partnership with the @southcoastqmd Mobile Source Air Pollution Committee (MSRC), RCTC implemented numerous pedestrian and bicycle improvements at the West Corona, Downtown Riverside, and South Perris @metrolink stations. These upgrades included new sidewalks and bike paths for improved safety and accessibility. 🚶 🚲

Additionally, the @cityofriverside recently constructed a new sidewalk

38 likes  
1 day ago

Log in to like or comment.

**Final Facebook Post January 2023**

### **Summary and Conclusions**

The improvements funded in part by the MSRC have helped RCTC and the City of Riverside make great strides towards their goal of providing safe and efficient routes for those utilizing active transportation in their first mile/last mile travels. The bicycle storage additions completed as part of this project have provided bike shelters to those using bicycles as part of their daily commute and have granted a sense of security in knowing that their property is protected and will be available upon their return. The success of the projects is evident in the number of bicycle riders who utilize overnight storage of bikes at stations. Bike counts taken prior and post construction during a span of 14 days each showed a substantial increase of overnight storage. Additionally, new sidewalks provide ADA compliant connections to and from Metrolink stations and to the newly built Vine St. Mobility Hub that began service in January 2024. These improvements will encourage the use of active transportation as part of first mile/last mile connections to mass transit such as buses and passenger rail.