

## Community Focus Statement B: Improve the visibility and access to Helendale from Route 66 and Interstate 15

### **Action Statement B.3: Coordinate with the County to re-evaluate an alternative access to Helendale from Wild Road or Shadow Mountain Road.**

B

**Benchmark:** Decision made if proposed project is feasible. If yes, Project is funded, designed, and completed.

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

**Estimated Cost:** \$200,000–\$400,000 for access study; \$8,000,000–\$12,000,000 for connecting roadway (costs exclude right-of-way)



Restored Polly Gas sign along Historic Route 66 (National Trails Highway) in Helendale. Photo source: [Shane Burkhardt](#)

Shadow Mountain Road is an east–west two-lane paved roadway between Helendale Road on the east (west of the Mojave River) and Highway 395 on the west. Shadow Mountain Road borders the south side of the Silver Lakes community and provides access to this community on the south side. Helendale Road connects with Vista Road, which crosses the Mojave River and connects with Route 66 (National Trails Highway) to the east. Connecting Shadow Mountain Road directly to Route 66 would require extending the roadway approximately 0.9–1 mile to the east, involving both a new bridge crossing at the Mojave River and crossing the railroad tracks (at grade or bridge over). County Public Works is currently completing the environmental review for this project, although no ...funding has been identified.

Wild Road is partially paved east–west two-lane road located approximately 0.5 mile northeast of the Silver Lakes community. The paved segment is approximately 0.5 mile long. Wild Road is unpaved and narrow between Mountain Springs Road and Helendale Road and between Helendale Road and Red Butte View/Smithson Road. The paved east end of Wild Road is approximately 1.5 miles from Route 66 and is separated by the Mojave River and railroad tracks.

County Public Works has determined it is not feasible to improve Wild Road.

An alternative access between Helendale and Route 66 via Shadow Mountain Road would have an impact on the traffic flow in the area. Prior to implementation of the new access connection, a traffic study should be conducted to determine whether other improvements may be needed to address the traffic pattern changes.

*Given the similarities between Action Statements B.3, B.4, and B.5, it is recommended that the initial studies consider all of the issues associated with those statements in one study. Study cost savings could be achieved if all actions are studied together.*

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Discuss project goals and what an alternative access would mean for the community. This action item may be closely tied to Action Statements B.4 and B.5, as the alternative access would likely be ideal to connect to Interstate 15.	Champion with Helendale Community Services District and Silver Lakes Association	Months 1-6	Helendale Community Services District <a href="http://www.helendalecsd.org/">http://www.helendalecsd.org/</a>
2. Approach the County Public Works Department to discuss the project and next step.	Local community leaders	Months 7-8	San Bernardino County, County Standard Plans <a href="http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/LandDevelopment/CountyStandards.aspx">http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/LandDevelopment/CountyStandards.aspx</a>
3. Obtain project funding for right of way purchase and project construction.	County Public Works	Year 1-3	
4. Conduct the appropriate environmental study, prepare preliminary design documents, and conduct the traffic study required for the project to proceed.	County Public Works	Year 3-4	
5. Conduct public outreach and required public meetings to obtain support for the project.	County Public Works	Year 4	
6. Obtain right-of-way.	County Public Works	Year 5-7	
7. Procure final design plans for proposed improvements.	County Public Works	Year 6-8	
8. Construct/implement corridor improvements.	County Public Works	Year 8-10	