



City of Arts & Innovation

Transportation Board

TO: TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DATE: AUGUST 5, 2026

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

WARDS: ALL

SUBJECT: CITYWIDE SIGNAL PRIORITY LIST FOR 2026

ISSUE:

City staff routinely receive requests for the installation of traffic signals at unsignalized intersections. To ensure these requests are evaluated consistently and objectively, a signal priority ranking list is needed to assess requests, support planning efforts, and prioritize intersections which represent the highest need based on various factors.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the Transportation Board receive and file the report and utilize the Signal Priority Ranking as a planning tool for consideration of future traffic signal installations.

BACKGROUND:

Given routine requests to signalize intersections citywide and the high cost of these improvements, it is important to establish an objective and consistent rating system to impartially evaluate and rank qualifying intersections. This system assists staff in developing recommendations for signal installation and provides an accounting of requested locations. There is no maximum score under the ranking system, as it is designed to comparatively assess intersections based on overall need.

DISCUSSION:

The Intersection Signal Priority Rankings List (Attachment 1) is used by City Staff to monitor and review traffic conditions at unsignalized intersections. Intersections are added to the list if there are requests from residents for the installation of a traffic signal or when staff observe operational issues that should be monitored.

The rankings system is based on Caltrans traffic signal warrants as outlined in the California Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices and incorporates additional operational, safety and contextual factors. These include traffic volume, pedestrian/bicycles volumes, adjacent signal spacing, collision history, and other special conditions. Each of these factors is converted to points using the methodology found in Attachment 2 for evaluation and ranking purposes. Streetlight data ("Big Data") software has been utilized to determine predictive intersection turning movement counts for the traffic signal warrant analysis.

The ranking list originated as a “Traffic Signal Priority List” when new traffic signals were installed to support new or expanding neighborhoods. Many of the intersections that have previously warranted traffic signals have already been installed. Remaining intersections generally do not warrant the installation of traffic signals, or do not have a pattern of broadside collisions which are considered to be correctible with the installation of traffic controls. Meeting a warrant alone does not, by itself, require installation of a signal. While constructing traffic signals at these locations may not be practical, other options such as full or partial median closures, turn restrictions, left-turn refuges, acceleration lanes or neighborhood traffic circles could be considered.

The City of Riverside regularly reviews traffic conditions at unsignalized intersections where traffic signals have been requested. This report is an update on the priority ranking system, and staff is not recommending the construction of any new traffic signals. New signals are constructed as funding becomes available and may require additional community input or right of way acquisition prior to implementation. Alternative traffic controls may be considered at locations where traffic signal warrants are not met and there is not a pattern of broadside collisions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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Certified as to	
Availability of funds:	Julie Nemes, Finance Director
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Attachments:

1. City of Riverside 2026 Signal Priority Rankings List
2. Traffic Signal Prioritization Methodology
3. CA MUTCD Excerpt – Traffic Signal Warrants
4. Traffic Signal Warrants Example
5. Victoria Avenue Policy
6. Presentation