



The 50-year-old Imperial Valley College campus is in the midst of dramatic transformation, adding facilities as it redefines itself as an institution committed to both sustainability and mobility for future generations.

The mobility and 10-year campus expansion plan is drastically changing the footprint of this 9,000 student college. Xeriscape landscaping and people scaled features have not only altered the aesthetics of this campus, but have redefined the pivotal role integrated uses can play with the incorporation of expanded public transit facilities.

Funding has come through a variety of sources including a \$58.6 million bond issue. Transportation improvements have been funded in partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC), formerly known as the Imperial Valley Association of Governments. Clearly, the Imperial Valley, recognizes the regional significance of its only community college.

IVC, for many years, has fostered the development of mass transit. One third of the ridership of Imperial County's public transit system is IVC students traveling to classes. Of the 32,000 monthly passenger trips on Imperial Valley Transit, there are 10,000 which embark and debark from IVC.

IVC and the ICTC have partnered to develop a \$2.8 million Transit Center which will open in Spring 2010. It will improve the safety and security of transit riders by separating the college's bus drop off from passenger vehicle areas. It will include six shaded structures, enhanced lighting, security cameras and a panic button. Other circulation improvements include two new entrances to the campus. This \$712,000 project, funded by the Federal Transportation Department, will eliminate congestion at the college's existing entrances.

The first new building in this expansion, a 70,000 square foot two-story science building, opened to students in January 2010. IVC has integrated a number of key sustainable green building features that utilize the Imperial Valley's finite resources in the most efficient manner. This building will become the first LEED certified science building in Southern California and the first publicly-owned LEED certified building in Imperial County. It contains 700 classroom seats in 12 laboratories, 9 classrooms and a 124 seat lecture hall. There also is a 69-seat hi-tech planetarium. Instructional spaces are equipped with "Smart" classroom technology, including video projection equipment and ceiling-mounted document cameras.

The science building was a major component of construction authorized on November 2, 2004 when 63.5 percent of Imperial County voters approved a \$58.6 Million Bond Measure after an extensive community visioning process that included 18 forums in all communities served by the college. Additional bond projects included new energy efficient sloped roofing throughout the campus, new perimeter access roads and parking lot improvements. As the 10-year facilities expansion plan continues, a major project is the development of a 12-acre solar energy field. This will provide IVC students with a solar "lab" as well as produce energy for the campus.

IVC is positioning itself as an educational facility that promotes balanced growth with an eye toward greater diversification of the regional economy.



## Evaluation Criteria

The comprehensive planning approach of this project includes special innovative and distinguishing characteristics that address Compass Blueprint Principles and other selection Criteria.

1. **Mobility/Transit.** Improved mobility for all Imperial County Residents through transit-oriented development and promotion of a variety of travel choices. This project demonstrates the importance of linking transit with regionally significant institutions and is a model for strategies associated with SB 375 and carbon foot-print reduction.
  - Project includes a \$2.8 million transportation terminal that will open this spring to serve a third of the ridership of Imperial Valley Transit with a safe, attractive and energy efficient location to embark and disembark from mass transit.
  - With the growth of IVC and continued emphasis upon use of mass transit, ridership will increase in future years. IVC today has about 9,000 students and that will increase to 12,000 by 2019.
  - Two new vehicular and paratransit drop off points have been added to the campus to separate them from bus traffic.
  - The completed transit center will have six shade structures, chilled water drinking fountains, enhanced lighting, enhanced security to include cameras and a panic button, and desert compatible landscaping.
  - New perimeter roads and directional signage throughout the IVC campus will improve circulation.
  - Doubling of entry points to campus from Aten Road and Old Highway 111 will eliminate traffic congestion and improve safety.
  - Circulation enhancements will integrate with bicycle paths developed to IVC by the City of Imperial.
  
2. **Livability/Walkable Communities.** New sidewalks, parking lots, perimeter roads and directional signage provide excellent access to interior buildings thereby fostering livability through promotion of a “people-scaled” walkable campus community. These circulation improvements comply with the American Institute of Architects criteria for “Walkable Communities:”
  - The additions create a clear, understandable, and organized sidewalk, street, and land-use system consistent with the scale and function of the surrounding context.
  - They create a pattern of design and usage that unifies the pedestrian system.

- They provide a balance among transportation modes that will accommodate and encourage pedestrian participation.
- They protect pedestrians from automobiles and bicycles; provide adequate time to cross intersections without interference, and physical separation from fast-moving cars.
- They provide comfortable, secure, and negotiable paving materials for sidewalks and unobstructed passage on the sidewalk and at corners.
- They provide opportunities for social interactions including sidewalks that support a variety of uses and activities.
- They create the opportunity for people to utilize the pedestrian environment as fully as possible.
- They incorporate design and functional elements that are simple, efficient, and cost-effective.
- They maintain clean and efficient surroundings with adjacent buildings and activities that provide sidewalk interest.

3. **Promotion of regional prosperity.** With the opening of the new state of art science building, the future career technology building and introduction of new courses that train the workforce for emerging industries, IVC promotes regional prosperity.

- The new science building adds 700 new classroom seats, a planetarium, labs for molecular biology, micro biology, organismal biology and general biology; organic chemistry and inorganic chemistry, geology/soils, botany, physics/engineering, and anatomy/physiology.
- The planned career technology facility will provide classrooms and labs for career training in solar and other alternative energy fields, automotive repair and construction when funding becomes available. Possibility of a new bond issue is currently under review.
- IVC over the past few years has added new courses to accommodate Imperial County's emerging alternative energy industry, including subjects in solar energy production.
- IVC is a major provider of healthcare workers to area hospitals and other medical providers, through its Health Technologies education program that uses sophisticated mannequins and other high tech equipment to train future nurses.
- Through its transfer education, computer science, administration of justice, business and other career programs, IVC has trained generations of local professionals and technicians.
- Hispanic students account for 86 percent of IVC's student population and 32 percent of the student population are English Language Learners.
- The percentage of students who received a Cal Grant B in 2008-09 was more than 10 percent, one of the highest levels among California community colleges.

- Nearly 35 percent of IVC students received a Pell Grant (federal financial aid) which is the highest percentage among all California community colleges. Over all, 80 percent of IVC students are on some kind of financial assistance.
- Studies have shown that graduates holding Associates Degrees generally earn \$8,150 more per year than those with just a high school diploma and twice as much more than a worker without a high school diploma.
- One in 7 jobs in Imperial County has some connection to IVC, including direct college employees, student workers and graduates of IVC who are in the local workforce. The basis of this study includes graduates only since 2001, which indicates this number is most likely much higher.
- A recent economic analysis shows that the total economic impact of IVC on the Imperial Valley region's economic over the next 13 years will exceed \$5.9 billion with an average annual economic impact over the same period of \$456.6 million. This includes potential new construction projects to build out the 10 year facilities plan.

4. **Sustainability.** This project is a real life example of sustainable construction in the Valley's challenging climate.

- The 10 Year Facilities Plan is utilizing "green" development techniques as exemplified by the new Science Building which will become Imperial County's first public-owned LEED certified building and the first LEED Certified Science Building in Southern California.
- Transportation improvements and green development techniques provide a model for carbon footprint reduction in Imperial County.
- Future expansion plans call for development of a 12-acre solar field that will provide electrical power to the campus as well as serve as a laboratory for future classes.
- Plants whose natural requirements are appropriate to our local climate are emphasized in xeriscaping, with special care taken to avoid losing water to evaporation and run-off.
- In a future effort to reduce greenhouse emissions, the IVC parking control department will rely on campus bicycle patrols.

5. **Civic Engagement.** This has been and will continue to be a project that has been built around partnerships and community engagement, demonstrating that the Imperial Valley recognizes the regional significance of IVC.

- In 2004, voters approved Measure L, the \$58.6 million bond measure that has funded much of the work so far. This occurred after an extensive civic engagement process that included 18 community meetings throughout the IVC service area.

- An additional community visioning project was held in 2007 and another is scheduled for June 2010 to discuss future funding of the 10 year facilities plan as well as other needs of the college.
- The college is currently evaluating a new bond issue to fund additional buildings outlined in the 10 year plan.
- The mobility portion of the plan has been in partnership with the Imperial County Transportation Commission as well as the Federal Department of Transportation.
- IVC has encouraged civic engagement of its students through an active student government program and organizations such as Students for Political Action that work throughout the county advocating for environmental and economic justice
- Future civic engagement will include community use of the science building and other buildings developed in the plan. For example, the planetarium will be utilized in an ongoing program to encourage elementary school students to explore science. The science building also will be the site of the Rotary International District Conference in May 2010 and was the site of the regional Salton Sea International Bird Festival in February 2010.