

**Santa Fe Depot**  
Specific Plan Update

# The Benefits of Public Transit

The Santa Fe Depot Specific Plan is centered around the City of Orange’s historic Santa Fe Depot, which was built in 1880 by Southern Pacific Railroad. In 1887, the Santa Fe Railroad constructed a second line that extended through town, and the City of Orange, along with the rest of Southern California, experienced a tremendous real estate boom leading to the incorporation of the City of Orange in 1888.

Today, the Santa Fe Depot is still the heart of the City’s public transportation system, functioning as a modern-day



*Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Bus*

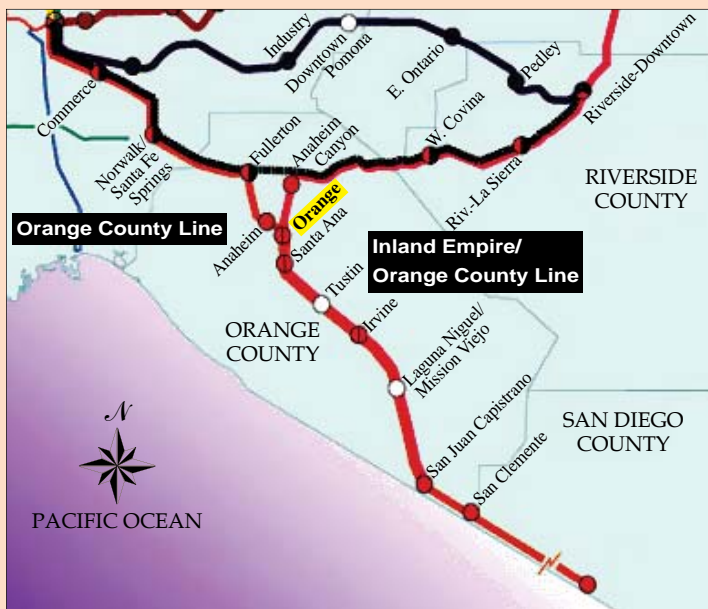


*Orange Metrolink Station*

Metrolink station and Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) bus transit center. In its 11th year with Metrolink service, it is a heavily utilized station, providing commuters on the Orange County Line with service to downtown Los Angeles, and acting as a transfer station for Inland Empire commuters who work in Anaheim. The Santa Fe Depot is also a destination station, bringing visitors into the City for antiquing, specialty shopping, dining and other special events in Old Towne

Orange. Metrolink will be dramatically expanding their service in Orange with longer weekday hours and the addition of weekend service over the next several years.

The intent of the Santa Fe Depot Specific Plan Update is to build an environment around the Santa Fe Depot that supports and facilitates transit use by encouraging a mix of employment, shopping and residential uses within easy walking distance of the station. Development should be designed for pedestrians, with pedestrian linkages to the station and connections to the city’s downtown, surrounding neighborhoods, and Chapman University.



*Santa Fe Depot as constructed in 1938*



*Santa Fe Depot as renovated in the 1990s*

# FACT SHEET

## HOW PUBLIC TRANSIT BENEFITS THE COMMUNITY

Throughout the U.S., public transportation is undergoing a renaissance. Steady increases in transit investment have dramatically improved and expanded public transportation services, attracting record numbers of riders on state-of-the-art systems. The rebirth of public transportation is a critically important part of America's future, providing more capacity, creating more choices and helping address the needs of a growing and changing population. Public transit provides a myriad of benefits for metropolitan, small urban and rural communities alike:

### Safety and security

Compared to road systems, transit systems are significantly safer. Trips with similar destinations result in 200,000 fewer deaths, injuries and accidents per year when made by public transit than by car. The National Safety Council estimates that riding the bus is over 170 times safer than automobile travel.

### A cleaner environment

Emissions from road vehicles are the largest contributors to smog and air pollution. Use of public transportation reduces smog-producing pollutants, thus providing significant, direct environmental and public health benefits.

### Energy conservation

The supply of oil is finite. Public transportation is crucial in helping to save energy by using it wisely.

### Improved mobility

For some, transit systems provide options, luring many riders from their cars. For others, such as disabled and seniors, public transportation is a necessity. Of current transit riders, over 20% would not have made the trip without transit and nearly 70% do not have access to cars at the time the trip was made. One-third have yearly household incomes below the poverty level.

### Reduced road congestion and travel time

Public transportation takes cars off the road. If all Americans who take transit to work drove alone, they would fill a nine-lane freeway from Boston to Los Angeles. Fewer cars on the road would significantly reduce the commuting time of urban drivers. The average driver in Southern California spends 56 hours a year stuck in traffic, considerably above the national average. Traffic jams statewide cost \$21 billion a year in lost time and wasted fuel. Communities that invest in public transportation realize enhanced development and prosperity.

### Enhanced economic opportunity

Public transportation use lowers household expenses and frees up more income for other needs. Gas prices recently hit an all-time high, and they show no sign of coming down. Today the average U.S. family with two drivers pays \$1,500 more annually for gas than it did just 12 months ago.

Drivers in Southern California waste over half a gallon of gas a day due to traffic congestion.

### Revitalized business districts and activity centers

Public transit helps in revitalizing downtowns, activity centers, shopping areas and business districts by bringing more people to the area. An investment in public transportation translates into significant increases in business revenues and profits.

### Expanded labor pool, job accessibility and reliability

Employers around the country are taking advantage of the expanded labor pool that public transportation provides. Increased congestion on the roadways threatens the economic future and the quality of life for urban residents. The Southern California Association of Governments predicts that daily commute times could double by 2025 and that Southern California drivers could spend 32% of their driving time in stop-and-go traffic, compared to 17% today.

**The benefits that public transportation provides are key ingredients in sustaining the small town, urban character of Old Towne Orange. The update to the Santa Fe Depot Specific Plan will help the area become a prominent transit-oriented district that facilitates the use of public transportation.**

Sources: American Public Transportation Association  
Texas Transportation Institute  
American Automobile Association (AAA)



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