

CITY OF ORANGE
SANTA FE DEPOT SPECIFIC PLAN UPDATE

Press Release – Community Workshop 5

The fifth Public Workshop for the Santa Fe Depot Specific Plan Update will be held on Thursday, June 25th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Orange City Hall, Council Chambers, 300 East Chapman Avenue, Orange. Residents, business owners, property owners, and community leaders are encouraged to participate in this workshop, whether or not they attended the first four workshops. It is not too late to become a part of this important planning process and contribute your ideas towards the future of the Santa Fe Depot area.

The purpose of this upcoming Workshop is to present the preferred land use concept for the Santa Fe Depot area. The preferred land use concept reflects community input received on the two land use alternatives at Workshop #3 and the walking tour conducted at Workshop #4. At this fifth workshop, participants will have an opportunity to review and refine the preferred land use concept, around which the Specific Plan will be framed. Comments received from the community at each of the above workshops are available on the City's website at www.cityoforange.org.

The Santa Fe Depot Specific Plan was originally adopted in December 1993 with policies and standards for new development in the area immediately surrounding the City of Orange's Santa Fe Depot train station and Orange County Transit Authority (OCTA) bus transfer station. The City of Orange needs to update the Santa Fe Depot Specific Plan in order to respond to the changes that have occurred in the area since the existing Plan was adopted. These changes include: ongoing revitalization of Old Towne and its designation as both a local and National Register Historic District; Metrolink service has been established, with the Orange station experiencing the highest level of use among stations on the Orange County line; OCTA has announced its intent to fund parking improvements at the Metrolink Station to mitigate impacts of future service increases; the Orange Barrio Historical Society has organized to represent a historic Latino neighborhood adjacent to the Specific Plan area; and Chapman University's construction of the Lawrence and Kristina Dodge College of Film and Media Arts directly north of the planning area.

Revitalization of Old Towne, coupled with the phenomenal success of Metrolink and OCTA transit services at the Depot, indicates that there are further opportunities to capitalize on the potential relationship between land use, transportation, and historic preservation in the planning area. The desirability of the Old Towne lifestyle, combined with growing public interest in train commuting and the demand for housing and specialty retail, indicate that the time is right for the City to pursue a viable transit village. The updating of the Specific Plan is important because it will enable the City and its residents to address these changes and establish a clear, refreshed vision and implementation strategy for the area.

The Specific Plan will address market potential, land uses, circulation and parking, economic development and housing strategies, and the visual appearance of area streets, sidewalks, and public spaces. The Specific Plan will recommend planning and development measures and policies that encourage infill development, adaptive reuse of

historic underutilized commercial and industrial buildings, mixed-use/higher density residential developments and pedestrian-oriented activities.

Please join us on June 25th at this important stage of the planning process to review the preferred land use concept. A team of City Staff and consultants will be available at the workshop to provide information, discuss the project, and answer questions.

For more information about the workshop and the Santa Fe Depot Specific Plan Update, please contact Anna Pehoushek, Principal Planner at (714) 744-7228. Also, visit our website at www.cityoforange.org.