



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Riverside County understands the need to promote development of a safe, efficient, and economical community, intercommunity and countywide public transportation system. Due to the interrelationship of urban and rural activities (employment, housing and services), and the low average density of existing land uses, the private automobile is the dominant mode of travel within Riverside County. As the population grows, County roads will become increasingly congested by the automobile. As a result, it is important to encourage increased ridership on public transit systems and increased use of alternative modes of transportation, including bicycles and walking. The public transit system alternatives for Riverside County include: fixed route public transit systems, common bus carriers, AMTRAK (intercity rail service), MetroLink (commuter rail service), and other local agency transit and paratransit services.

Earlier in the Circulation Element, it was discussed that the County is moving away from random growth patterns. Concentrated growth and increased job creation will require a regional and local linkage system between communities in the County. The public transportation system can facilitate those linkages, and help to shape future growth patterns.

Inter and Intra-County/Subregional Systems

The Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) operates fixed bus routes providing public transit service throughout a 2,500-square-mile area of western Riverside County. RTA's fixed routes have been designed to establish transportation connections between all cities and unincorporated communities in western Riverside County. RTA currently operates full-size buses, mini-buses, vans, and trolleys. The system carries approximately 6.4 million passengers annually, which is approximately 18,000 passengers per day. RTA also provides service to San Bernardino and Orange Counties.

SunLine Transit Agency (SunLine) provides public interest transit services for the Coachella Valley and Yucca Valley areas. The service area covers 928 square miles. SunLine operates fixed routes, serving over three million passengers annually. All of SunLine's buses are equipped with front-mounted bicycle racks, and overall the system carries over 6,000 bicycles per month.

SunLine also operates the SunDial System, which provides curb-to-curb demand responsive (dial-a-ride) service for members of the community requiring such assistance.

Community Systems

In addition to fixed route and demand-responsive services provided by RTA and SunLine, specialized public transportation services are also available through services operated by four municipal operators - the Cities of Riverside, Corona, Banning, and Beaumont. Additionally, the Riverside County Transportation Commission supports a number of specialized transportation programs, including shared-ride car and vanpool services, social service dial-a-ride, and specialized services for seniors and persons with disabilities.