



include simultaneous vehicle counts so that more accurate vehicle ratios may be used in modeling ambient noise levels. (AI 106)

### Mass Transit

Currently, the County does not participate in or provide any rail transit services though public transportation is becoming a more desirable option for many travelers and commuters in Riverside County. Transit can be an alternative to driving a car through congested Riverside County freeways. Currently, the noise generated by public transportation within Riverside County affects only a very small percentage of the total residential population. As years pass, and the need for public transportation increases, there will be a greater number of residents affected by the noise that buses, transit oases shuttles, light rail, and trains will produce. The following policies address the issues of noise related to public transit.



Please see the **Circulation Element** for additional policies related to transit development and rail systems.

#### Policies:

- N 9.1 Encourage local and regional public transit providers to ensure that the equipment they operate and purchase is state-of-the-art and does not generate excessive noise impacts on the community. (AI 108)
- N 9.2 Encourage the use of quieter electric-powered vehicles. (AI 108)
- N 9.3 Encourage the development and use of alternative transportation modes including bicycle paths and pedestrian walkways to minimize vehicular noise within sensitive receptor areas.
- N 9.4 Actively participate in the development of noise abatement plans for freeways and rapid transit. (AI 108)

### Rail

The rail system within Riverside County criss-crosses its way through communities, industrial areas, rural areas, and urban centers. Trains carry passengers, freight, and cargo to local and regional destinations day and night. Rail transportation may become more popular in the future if a mass public transportation system is implemented within Riverside County. Currently, daily train traffic produces noise that may disrupt activities in proximity to railroad tracks. For instance, trains are required to sound their horns at all at-grade crossings, and they may also be required to slow their speed through residential areas. These types of noise disturbances can interfere with activities conducted on noise-sensitive land uses. Exhibits showing existing railroad noise contours can be found in Appendix I. These exhibits provide purely illustrative contours along rail lines throughout the County. The following policies suggest actions that could minimize the impacts of train noise on noise-sensitive land uses.



An **at-grade railroad crossing** is one where the street and the rail line form an intersection, and physically cross one-another.

#### Policies:

- N 10.1 Check all proposed projects for possible location within railroad noise contours using typical noise contour diagrams. (AI 106, 109)