



COASTER Fact Sheet

History: After years of planning and preparation by the North County Transit District, the COASTER rolled into the station for its first day of service on February 27, 1995. The COAST Express Rail, as it is formerly referred to, became a popular transportation alternative for daily commuters and weekend sight-seers alike in North San Diego County.

The Riders: The COASTER has transported millions of passengers along San Diego's scenic coastal railroad. Over 700,000 riders took the COASTER in its first year of service and in 2009, the COASTER had more than 1.5 million boardings.

Park, those heading downtown to the airport and those exploring North County's coastal communities and beaches. The COASTER currently averages 6,000 passengers every weekday and 1,200+ riders on Saturdays.

The Equipment: The COASTER has 7 locomotives and 28 bi-level passenger coaches. Each coach has approximately 135 seats. Most trains are operated with five coaches.

The Schedule: The COASTER effortlessly transports passengers along its 41 mile route in under 60 minutes. During peak commute times, trains run every 30 minutes.

On Friday nights, in Spring and Summer, extra trains run until 1 a.m. and on Saturdays, eight to twelve trains operate.

In all, 122 regularly scheduled trains run every week. Extra trains are sometimes added to handle special events.

The Stations: The COASTER serves eight stations in four zones: Oceanside and Carlsbad Village are in zone 1, Carlsbad Poinsettia, Encinitas and Solana Beach are in zone 2, Sorrento Valley is in zone 3, Old Town, and Santa Fe Depot (downtown San Diego) are in zone 4. Each station features ample parking (metered parking only at Santa Fe Depot) and numerous attractions within walking distance.

ZONES



IN 14 YEARS OF SERVICE, THE COASTER HAS TRANSPORTED MORE THAN 18 MILLION PASSENGERS ALONG SAN DIEGO'S SCENIC COASTAL RAILROAD.

Many riders use the COASTER to get to and from places of employment, but the train also transports passengers visiting entertainment hubs and venues such as PETCO

The Fares: COASTER fares vary depending on the number of zones traveled. Regular one-way fares range from \$5.00 for a one-zone trip to \$6.50 for a four-zone trip. Senior or disabled fares are available from \$2.50 to \$3.25. Monthly passes are also available for regular passengers, youth and senior or people with disabilities.



THE COASTER OFFERS SOME OF THE BEST VIEWS OF ANY TRAIN IN THE WORLD.

The Route: The COASTER offers some of the best views of any train in the world. It crosses coastal lagoons and operates next to the Pacific Ocean through San Diego's classic North County coastal towns. Between Del Mar and Oceanside, passengers can enjoy eye-popping scenery while sitting back, relaxing and looking out the window.

The Benefits:

- **Alternative to Interstate-5:** the COASTER provides reliable, stress-free transit options in a heavy traffic corridor.
- **Increased mobility:** provides rail customers with access to Amtrak, Metrolink, BREEZE buses, SPRINTER trains, San Diego MTS buses, and the San Diego Trolley.

- **Improved air quality:** reduces emissions from vehicles caught in Interstate 5 traffic.
- **Guaranteed Ride Home Program:** this service is available to commuters who take the COASTER at least three times per week to use in the event of an illness, emergency, or unscheduled overtime. SANDAG provides a \$3 ride home for either a taxi ride or 24 hour rental car up to three rides home per year. If you are interested, please enroll by visiting www.511sd.com/iCommute. If you have any questions or need additional assistance, dial 511 and say "Guaranteed Ride Home" to speak with a customer service representative.
- **Tax benefits for COASTER Riders:** employers can take advantage of employee and employer payroll tax savings offered through the IRS's Commuter Fringe Benefit Program (IRS Section 132). The IRS allows employers to offer employees

the opportunity to set aside a portion of their salary, pretax, to pay for transit and vanpooling, up to \$230 per month per employee (effective Jan. 2009). Employers benefit by not paying payroll taxes, while in effect adding value to their employee's compensation package."

Information: For schedules or more information about the COASTER, call 1-800-COASTER or visit www.gonctd.com.

For trip planning and other transit information call 511 or visit www.511sd.com.

Transit trip planning is also available on Google Maps.

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