

# GROSSMONT STATION PEDESTRIAN ENHANCEMENTS: A MODEL FOR SMART GROWTH FACT SHEET



## The Project

Located off Fletcher Parkway in the City of La Mesa, the Grossmont Station Pedestrian Enhancements are part of a \$7.9 million project to make the transit center more pedestrian friendly and bring it into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The project is a coordinated effort between SANDAG, the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS), the City of La Mesa, and Fairfield Residential Company LLC.

Completed in November 2011, this project is part of a larger regional effort to promote smart growth, an urban planning strategy that calls for compact, walkable, and transit-oriented development along major transportation corridors.

The transit center improvements include:

- » A tower with two elevators and stairway
- » A pedestrian bridge
- » Bike lockers

- » Landscaping, including palm trees
- » A station plaza with decorative paving and colonnades
- » Benches
- » An enhanced bus staging area

The goal of the improvements is to create permanent, easy access between the station and the major retail, commercial, and medical facilities located on the mesa above the station. The project also includes enhancing the station by creating an attractive plaza with decorative paving, landscaping, and colonnades.

## The Need

Although the Grossmont Transit Center serves major activity hubs on the mesa above it, no direct, ADA-compliant access links the station to these hubs. ADA access to the mesa is accomplished through bus and Trolley transfers. A heavily used wooden stairway had been the only direct access to the mesa from the station.

*(Continued on reverse)*



401 B Street, Suite 800  
San Diego, CA 92101  
(619) 699-1900  
Fax (619) 699-1905  
www.sandag.org





### **Transit-oriented Development**

The Grossmont Transit Center is at the heart of what is considered one of the finest examples of smart growth in the region.

In 2010, an eight-acre MTS surface parking lot next to the transit center was transformed into a mixed-use development with housing and retail. The residential component featured 527 apartment units, called Alterra and Pravada. Both apartment complexes earned gold certification for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). Also included in the development was 2,700 square feet of retail space fronting the transit center.

Ten years in the making, the development was built by Fairfield Residential Company LLC in partnership with the La Mesa Community Redevelopment Agency, the City of La Mesa, MTS, and SANDAG.

The transit center is accessible by many forms of transportation. It has more than one million boardings per year. Buses, shuttles, and multiple lines of the San Diego Trolley pick up and drop off passengers there. The station is within a quarter-mile of two major freeways – Interstate 8 and State Route 125. It is also integrated into the regional bike system via bike lanes on Fletcher Parkway.

### **Funding for the Project**

The Grossmont Transit Center upgrades are made possible in part by \$4 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The City of La Mesa contributed \$540,000. The rest of the funds came from federal and state transportation programs.

SANDAG oversaw the project that was built by La Mesa-based Riha Construction. MTS owns and maintains the transit center.