

## MTA TEA Funding Restores Historic Depot in Whittier



### Restoration Project Saves Whittier Historic Depot

The 1888 Southern Pacific Railroad Depot, a two-story structure in the Victorian-era Stick style, was once the centerpiece of the new community of Whittier and its burgeoning citrus industry. After Southern Pacific curtailed its local service in the 1970s, the depot was privately owned and used as a warehouse. By the mid-1980s the Depot was in danger of demolition for a new shopping center. A grassroots citizens organization, the Save Our Depot Committee, helped rescue the structure, convincing the City of Whittier to assume title to the Depot and relocate it temporarily to a vacant parcel. In the 1995 Call For Projects, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority awarded the City of Whittier \$1.241 million in Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) Funds for the restoration of the train depot.

The station was relocated and turned into the Whittier Transportation Center. As a bus transfer center and office for Whittier bus and dial-a-ride service, the Depot, relocated again to Greenleaf Avenue at the southern gateway of its revitalized "Uptown Whittier" District, has retained its historic link to transportation. The project has brought local history to life for Whittier residents and schoolchildren and is a testament to the power of local grass-roots activism and enlightened city leadership.

The City of Whittier has received three awards for the restoration work from the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Conservancy, and the California State Legislature. -- *from James Rojas, Central Area Transportation Planning Manager.*

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