

# Santa Monica, CA

## Santa Monica Circulation Element

Nelson\Nygaard crafted the Circulation Element of Santa Monica's 2008 General Plan update, steering it through an intense public process, including over a dozen public workshops, Planning Commission and City Council hearings. The plan broke through the city's notorious anti-growth politics, by using new development to fund a package of community benefits, including new bicycle lanes, more gracious sidewalks, more frequent transit and stringent Transportation Demand Management programs. More importantly, the plan commits to capping peak period vehicle trips as part of Santa Monica's commitment to reduce greenhouse gases, air pollution and regional traffic.

The Transportation Element is carefully integrated into the Land Use Element, focusing almost all new growth in the city around its major transit nodes, including a light rail extension from

downtown Los Angeles. In addition to paying new impact fees, development will be required to meet stronger trip reduction requirements, including universal transit passes and parking fees or parking cashout for all new residents and employees. The plan also provides incentives for existing residents and employees to reduce their trips, both through better transportation choices as well as more services within walking distance.

The plan withstood an anti-growth citizens' initiative in the November 2008 elections and is scheduled for adoption in 2009. For more detail, see [www.shapethefuture2025.org](http://www.shapethefuture2025.org).



**Project Duration:**

2007 - 2008

**Total Budget:**

\$310,000

**For more information:**

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Transportation Management Division  
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<http://www01.smgov.net/planning/transportation/transportation.html>

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