

# OCME NEEDS YOUR HELP TO REPAIR THE TRESTLE

The Hank Hornsveld Memorial Trestle was dedicated in 1991 and was constructed using whatever materials the volunteer members could acquire. The city was in the process of building a new facility and incorrect material was delivered to the job site which could not be used or repurposed. Hank Hornsveld, local entrepreneur and club member, was working closely with city staff at that time and was able to get them to donate the unusable lumber to OCME to build the new trestle. The downside to this gracious gift to the club was that it was of a wood laminate which was rated for interior use.... however, Hank took it anyway and with his talent for planning and ingenuity made a stunning trestle for us that has lasted for decades!



In the intervening 30 years, however, weather and pests have taken their toll. At the request of the Board of Directors, Andy Romer, a licensed California Civil Engineer and long-time member, inspected the trestle and prepared a report dated September 16, 2020 titled: ***“Visual Condition Assessment of Hank Hornsveld Memorial Trestle in Fairview Park”***. The report concluded: *“In summary, the deterioration of the trestle is more significant than cosmetic. Structural members whose performance is important for the long-term integrity of the trestle are compromised. Considerations for actions of course should be a matter for the OCME board to address. Recommendations regarding alternatives can be presented, upon review of this report”*.



Based on Andy's observations and recommendations, and out of concern for the safety of the general public as well as our own members, the Board of Directors decided to close the trestle until decisions could be made regarding how best to proceed. Based upon the potential impact of 2016 Costa Mesa Ballot Measure AA, which requires voter approval for changes at Fairview Park, material costs, and the estimated time to complete the project, Andy's Alternative #3 was selected as the most practical alternative. OCME would need to reconstruct the trestle to like-new condition without modifying the dimensions, or footprint, of the existing structure. Further inspection revealed that the existing trestle was not constructed according to the original drawings requiring new "as-built" prints to be generated for presentation to the city engineering staff.

A preliminary cost estimate was produced based on replacing the deteriorated elements with the same dimensional lumber rated for exterior applications. The estimated cost of material alone is \$24,500.00 and a fundraising goal of \$30,000.00 has been established to cover other unspecified contingencies such as permit fees/inspection, equipment rental, and unforeseen code requirements.



The OCME Board of Directors has agreed to dedicate \$7,500.00 of existing funds to the trestle account. These funds had been set aside for a future locomotive purchase, but the board agreed that the trestle rehabilitation project has a much higher priority. Unfortunately, committing these funds could not come at a worse time since public donations, which are the Club's only source of income, have been eliminated since the pandemic forced the shutdown of operations in March. Right now, the Club's finances are severely strained.

Therefore, the Club is reaching out to you, our members, for help before expanding fundraising efforts to the general public. We need to show that members of the Orange County Model Engineers have a solid commitment to preserve our organization for millennia prior to making an outside appeal.

To assist fundraising, the OCME webpage now has a PayPal and credit card link to facilitate donations from all sources. So, in addition to cash and checks, anyone wishing to donate using a credit card may simply visit [ocmetrains.org](http://ocmetrains.org) and click the "DONATE" button. Funds generated will go directly into the club Treasury and are tax deductible!

In addition to this appeal, the club will also prepare grant applications and pursue other charitable donations from local benefactors and civic organizations.

If fundraising is successful, and members volunteer in sufficient numbers to provide the necessary manpower, we hope to begin work by this summer.

Thank you all for your continued generosity and commitment to one of the most rewarding and compelling activities you could ever pursue. It is only through the efforts of generations of volunteers like you that the Goat Hill Junction Railroad has become a unique Costa Mesa icon, a prized community amenity, and a rewarding pastime for our members!

Sincerely,  
Dennis Neil  
President  
Orange County Model Engineers  
Founded 1985