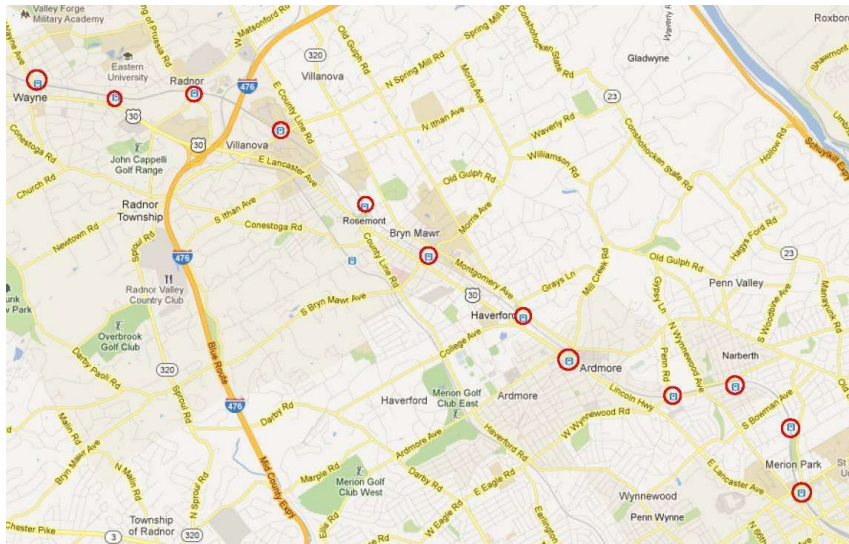


# What does “The Main Line” refer to?



*The map shows the train stations, (circled in red along the Paoli local line). Overbrook (right, bottom) is the last stop before downtown Philadelphia).*

*While it takes about 35 minutes (in no traffic) to drive from Wayne to Overbrook, the train takes 25 minutes. Total distance is about 9 miles. There are also 10 stations west of Wayne.*

One of the best ways to visualize the Main Line and understand some of its physical layout is to learn a little of its history. The moniker “Main Line” refers to the Pennsylvania Railroad train line that was built in the area beginning around the 1850s. Originally, many of the small towns were founded by prominent Philadelphia families who built summer homes “away from the city” but who used the newly built railroad to travel back and forth. So, while the Main Line now refers to areas slightly north or south, most of the towns are laid out along the railroad line, which runs parallel to Lancaster Avenue, also known as Route 30. As a result, many of the Main Line towns have a kind of town center clustered around services and businesses on Lancaster Avenue.

(An aside: Technically, areas including Havertown, Media, Newtown Square, Audubon, Collegeville and Phoenixville are not considered “Main Line”, they are adjacent communities and I work in all of them!)

This mnemonic device has helped generations of riders remember the order of the stations on the Main Line. The first seven depots, comprising what is commonly considered the eastern section of the Main Line (and the oldest) are:

- Old (Overbrook)
- Maids (Merion)
- Never (Narberth)
- Wed (Wynnewood)
- And (Ardmore)
- Have (Haverford)
- Babies (Bryn Mawr)