

## Community Based Transportation Planning Grants

### Riverbank State Route 108 Pedestrian/Bicycle Enhancement Plan

- **Grant Recipient:** City of Riverbank
- **County:** Stanislaus

**Project Area** - the City of Riverbank (City) is located in Stanislaus County across the Stanislaus River from San Joaquin County. Over the past decade, the population of the City has exploded by over 85%, to 15,826. In fact, Riverbank is now the fastest growing community in the Central Valley. The City unfortunately also has the highest unemployment rate in the county at more than 14%.

**Project Focus** - State Route 108 (SR 108) is the City's main street and commercial corridor. On one side of SR 108 is the Downtown, while the other side holds new commercial activity, including a regional multiplex theatre and park. Housing, schools, and other parks are also present on both sides of SR 108. All destinations generate heavy traffic, which cross SR 108.

**Project Goals** - SR 108 is a busy State Highway, as well as the City's main street. It links the Sierra foothills with the floor of the Central Valley and major employers in the area. All communities along SR 108 are experiencing growth in population and tourism, which places even more traffic on SR 108. Unfortunately, this heavy traffic flow does not mix well with the residential, recreational, and business needs of citizens of Riverbank.

**Community Outreach** - A charrette was held February 6-10, 2003. The Local Government Commission (LGC) assembled a charrette consultant team and invited four additional community groups to help involve the community in the planning process. To ensure maximum exposure of the charrette, advertisements were placed in the local newspaper and an electronic message board that was placed on SR 108 near the intersection of Patterson and Callander. 4500 flyers, printed in English and Spanish, were distributed to every elementary and middle school student to take home. Also, due to the large population of Spanish speakers, a translator was available at all events.

**Project Outcome** - The concepts that evolved from the input gathered over three days of activities led to a vision of future development in the vicinity of SR 108 through the City. The Vision Plan organizes existing and proposed features of Riverbank into two categories, places and connections. Places: The Plan identifies places within the City as prospective "village centers," with future development and planning effort moving away from auto-oriented designs to a more walkable, human scale. Connections: Greenways, walkways, alleys, and sidewalks serve as non-motorized connections between places.

#### **Planning Goals Realized** -

- Foster neighborhoods and project designs that enable more walking and biking;
- Reduce dependence on single occupant vehicle trips;
- Reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality.