

Community Based Transportation Planning Grants

It Is About Building Sustainable Communities

- **Grant Recipient:** San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG)
- **County:** San Joaquin

Project Area - Throughout San Joaquin County

Project Focus - Given the rapid pace of growth in San Joaquin County, it becomes imperative for communities and policy makers to collaborate on a comprehensive community planning strategy. This strategy would stir discussion on community goals and build the foundation for better regional planning. Needs of the project include: Improving regional transportation planning by building on community concepts including sustainability, transportation choice, jobs/housing balance, and transit oriented development; and strengthen and encourage growth in existing communities and reduce urban sprawl.

Project Goals – The rate of growth in San Joaquin County is among the highest in the region, and it inevitably creates profound effects on the ability to finance, deliver, and maintain the infrastructure needed to support the growth. The issues that will be addressed by this project are increased population and employment growth, poor air quality, and the need to bring new stakeholders and minority/low-income groups to the table.

Community Outreach – SJCOG strives to address the transportation needs of the traditionally underserved through the public hearing process of the Unmet Transit Needs. SJCOG does not exclude anyone from participation in, nor does it deny the benefit of, or otherwise subject to discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, or physical handicap for any program receiving assistance from USDOT. SJCOG has an extensive Public Participation Plan, which was followed throughout this project.

Project Outcome - The single recommendation offered out of the report is for San Joaquin County to consider the benefits of smart growth and take action. As a concept, smart growth makes sense. Not only is it a growing movement across the country, but also communities in Northern California and the San Joaquin Valley are beginning to see both the direct and indirect benefits. SJCOG staff is embarking on the next update to the Regional Transportation Plan and will use the lessons learned from this study.

Planning Goals Realized -

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