

## Community Based Transportation Planning Grants

### Stockton Depot Neighborhood Revitalization Planning

- **Grant Recipient:** San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission
- **County:** San Joaquin

**Project Area** – Stockton, CA

**Project Focus** - In response to the high cost of housing and highway congestion in the Silicon Valley, many Bay Area workers have moved to the Central Valley (Valley) and now rely on the Altamont Commuter Express rail service from Stockton to San Jose to travel to jobs in the Bay Area. This trend has benefited the Valley and the Stockton region in many ways. However, without concurrent planning that incorporates community design principles and transit oriented development concepts, the neighborhoods surrounding the new transit hubs have not yet benefited as much as they could from these trends.

**Project Goals**- The neighborhood surrounding the Depot is generally categorized as part of "old downtown Stockton." Between the downtown area and the Southern Pacific Depot are a considerable number of run-down, abandoned properties, and vacant lots. The high crime rates and low property values associated with the area do not serve as an inviting gateway to what could be the City's newly revitalized downtown. If passenger rail continues to grow as a viable form of transportation within California, the probability of the Southern Pacific Depot becoming a major hub within the Valley appears high.

**Community Outreach** – A site tour was organized with the Rail Commission and City representatives prior to the initial stakeholder kickoff meeting. The kickoff meeting included neighborhood residents, representatives of City agencies, a Neighborhood City Council member, Downtown Action Team, Amtrak, Caltrans, affordable housing organizations, and other interested parties. After introductions and a brief presentation about the project, stakeholders were asked to identify strengths and weaknesses, as well as their desires and visions for the neighborhood.

**Project Outcome** - The analysis illustrated that the neighborhood possesses many physical characteristics that are incompatible with high-quality, mixed-use neighborhoods, such as a lack of neighborhood-serving commercial uses and a high concentration of industrial properties and streets that lack pedestrian-friendly design. However, the analysis also illustrates that the neighborhood has several positive physical characteristics that can serve as a catalyst to revitalization: It is served excellently by local and regional transit, and it is well within walking distance of Stockton's primary business district.

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

- Develop more efficient land use patterns accommodating a sufficient housing supply to match population increases and workforce needs for the full spectrum of the population;
- Minimize impacts on valuable habitat and productive farmland.