

Community Based Transportation Planning Grants

San Francisco County Transportation Authority Bicycle Plan Update

- **Grant Recipient** -San Francisco County Transportation Authority/San Francisco Bicycle Coalition and San Francisco Department of Parking and Traffic
- **County:** San Francisco

Project Area - San Francisco, California is a high-density urban environment. In this type of setting a bicycle is more effective in moving about the city than an automobile. In addition to the congestion caused by autos, parking is severely limited in San Francisco.

Project Focus – In citywide poll of 600 voters, 75% responded that they were in favor of adding more bicycle lanes on city streets. The City has experienced substantial increases in bicycling following the installation of bike lanes, with a citywide average increase of 55%, including a 144% increase in bicycle trips on Valencia Street. Currently, nearly half of all adults own bicycles, but only 3-4% use them for commuting due to fear of traffic. The Bicycle Plan Update is expected to propose improvements to approximately 150 miles of streets throughout San Francisco.

Project Goals – The project proposes community outreach and planning by the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition (SFBC) in conjunction with the Department of Parking and traffic (DPT) for the purpose of developing a citywide bicycle network. The successful development of this bicycle network will result in a more

efficient and affordable transportation system, a better urban environment, and greater health and mobility for San Franciscans.

Community Outreach –The first public meeting on the overall Bicycle Plan update was held in February 2003. Public input from this first series of meetings was utilized to generate a list of potential Bicycle route network improvements. This list was combined with other existing project lists; remaining recommendations from the 1997 Plan. The SFBC began outreach to hundreds of individual community groups, seeking input and comments on the potential project concepts that were developed. The SFBC then held five highly advertised citywide meetings, again focusing on network improvements that were developed.

Project Outcome- The San Francisco Bicycle Plan update presents a framework for the City to provide the safe and attractive environment needed to promote bicycling as a transportation mode. These updated goals and objectives reflect the City's commitment to improving the quality of life of its residents and expanding the role and importance of bicycle transportation in the City of San Francisco. The goals and objectives were developed and refined based on comments from City staff from numerous departments, the SFBC and the public.

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