

Community Based Transportation Planning Grants

Smart Growth Strategy Regional Livability Footprint Project

Grant Recipient: Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)

County: Nine-counties Bay Area

Project Focus - Over the next 20 years, the San Francisco Bay Area is projected to grow by over one million residents. If growth follows the current trend, the Bay Area will experience 250,000 new "in-commuters," loss of open space, eroding housing affordability, and deterioration in air quality, among other significant impacts. The project area covers all nine Bay Area counties. This region-wide approach will look beyond one city or county's boundaries to evaluate the potential inter-county and sub-regional impacts and benefits of growth scenarios that offer alternatives to current trend projections.

Project Goals – The Smart Growth Strategy/Regional Livability Footprint Project will engage locally elected officials and their staffs, private developers, stakeholder group representatives, and the public at large throughout the nine county Bay Area to: Create a smart growth land use vision for the Bay Area to minimize sprawl, provide adequate and affordable housing, improve mobility, protect the environmental quality, and preserve open space. Also, to develop a 20-year land use and transportation projections based on the vision and the likely impact of the new incentives - projections that may in turn guide the infrastructure investments of the co-applicant, the Metropolitan

Transportation Commission and other regional partners.

Community Outreach -In two series of public workshops throughout Bay Area counties the project engaged locally elected officials; their staff; developers; neighborhood groups; and community based stakeholder groups. The purpose was to identify the most appropriate locations, types, and densities for future growth, as well as to identify the regulatory changes and fiscal incentives needed to implement this vision.

Project Outcome - One of ABAG's primary project goals was to develop and obtain regulatory changes and fiscal incentives necessary to implement smarter growth in the Bay Area, including land use, transportation and open space standards. ABAG staff facilitated steering committee meetings that were comprised of regional agencies, state government, community based organizations, and environmental interests in order to: (1) Identify potential sources of financial support from the State for regional smart growth; and (2) develop innovative ways to help local governments modify their General Plans to promote smart growth.

Planning Goals Realized -

- Develop more efficient land use patterns to accommodate a sufficient housing supply to match population increases and workforce needs for the full spectrum of the population;
- Reduce dependence on single occupant vehicle trips;
- Foster neighborhoods and project designs that enable more walking and biking;
- Reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality