

## Community Based Transportation Planning Grants

### (Arroyo Seco) Northeast Los Angeles Community Linkages

- **Grant Recipient:** City of Los Angeles  
Department of Recreation and Parks
- **County:** Los Angeles

**Project Area** - The historic Arroyo Seco Parkway, linking the communities of Pasadena, South Pasadena, and Downtown Los Angeles through the communities of Garvanza, Highland Park, Mount Washington, Cypress Park, Lincoln heights and Solano Canyon.

**Project Focus** - Feasibility studies to reclaim the natural, recreational and aesthetic functions of the Arroyo Seco, one of California's most significant watersheds, are occurring in tandem with regional transportation planning. Flood control, freeways, parkland and railways flank this constricted geographic corridor, where due to their close proximity, work on one element automatically involves the others.

**Project Goals** - In anticipation of a programmed soundwall project, Caltrans is proposing to explore alternative noise mitigation measures that could leverage significant community benefits in combination with other needed or desired infrastructure improvements. Other improvements include a regional bicycle transportation facility, additional parkland and open space, and a naturalized flood control diversion channel and storm water treatment ponds. This proposal is proactively seeking environmentally superior alternatives to legislatively required mitigation and storm water treatment.

**Community Outreach** - Two community workshops and three charrettes were held as a way to involve the affected communities in this project. The first workshop was designed to provide information and elicit feedback from prospective participants. The first charrette was held for the purpose of gaining as much information as possible about community resources such as historical, cultural, and recreational features that exist within the study area. The next charrette was used to gain information from stakeholders on circulation matters including bicycle, pedestrian, and transit, as well as motor vehicles in the study area. The final charrette was held to engage elected officials and representatives of agencies having jurisdiction within the study area. The second workshop was used to unveil the Linkages Concept Plan, which was the result of the previous workshop and charrettes.

**Project Outcome** - The Linkages Concept Plans have been developed to serve as "system-wide" improvements for pedestrian and bicycle circulation; transit system (routes and facilities); parkway connections (better integration of the Arroyo Seco Parkway into northeast Los Angeles); and parks and open space.

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

- Reduce dependence on single occupant vehicle trips;
- Foster neighborhoods and project designs that enable more walking and biking;
- Increase resources use efficiency, including energy, water and building materials conservation.