

## Community Based Transportation Planning Grants

### Making Regionalism a Reality in Azusa

- **Grant Recipient:** City of Azusa
- **County:** Los Angeles

**Project Area** - Incorporated in 1898, the City of Azusa (City) evolved from a rural agricultural center in Southern California to a present day bedroom community with a strong industrial base. According to the 2000 Census, the City's population was 44,712, with over 30 percent of the population under the age of 18. On November 14, 2001, the San Gabriel Valley Tribune editorial stated, "Azusa is the poorest foothill city in the region, in which growth and wealth are happening." As the City enters into the second century, Azusa and its sister cities in the valley are working hard to pursue economic strategies to balance jobs and housing in the communities.

**Project Focus** - The City's vision of its future is based on the completion of the Gold Line, a light-rail transit extension. This light-rail transit extension project will extend from Pasadena east to Claremont following the Foothill Freeway (Interstate 210). This corridor is 27 miles and will run through 10 cities. Most of the light-rail stations would be in redevelopment zones.

**Project Goals** - The project goal is to educate the community about the Gold Line extension, as there are underlying concerns of residents and elected and appointed City planning officials who question the benefits of this light-rail

extension. While all agree that transit has an important positive effect on regional air quality, they are concerned about the effect of transit and the proposed light rail stations on local safety, air quality, noise, and economic and residential development.

**Community Outreach** - There is no mention in the Final Product of any public participation.

**Project Outcome** - The Downtown Azusa Parking Plan (Plan) is an outgrowth of the recently adopted General Plan and Development Code for the City. The Plan lays out a long-range blueprint for the provision and management of parking in Downtown Azusa, according to the goals and policies of the City's General Plan.

#### **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.

