

Community Based Transportation Planning Grants

Enhanced Public Outreach For the Countywide Bicycle Master Plan

- **Grant Recipient:** Los Angeles MTA/Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition
- **County:** Los Angeles

Project Area - Throughout Los Angeles County

Project Focus - Most cities in Los Angeles County (County) have failed to adequately plan for bicycle transportation, which resulted in severely underdeveloped bicycle facilities and infrastructure. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) is planning to allocate \$250,000 to compile a Countywide Bicycle Master Plan (BMP). The BMP will help make up for the lack of bicycle planning on the local level in the County.

Project Goals - The purpose of the project is to significantly enhance the technical scope of the planned MTA BMP process by enhancing the MTA's understanding of bicyclists' needs, and actively involve bicyclists and the public in the BMP process. An updated countywide plan is essential to planning for additional bicycle facilities that will increase transportation choices for a wide variety of users, especially those that are transit oriented and of lower income. The enhanced community outreach for BMP will ensure that the communities form the base of the BMP. The BMP is set to begin an 18-month process in July 2002.

Community Outreach - Rather than hold traditional public meetings or workshops

where interested community members are invited to attend, this project chose to identify strategic locations within the community where it was believed the greatest number of affected people could be reached. Location sites included street festivals, local farmers' markets, transit stations, day labor sites, and metro trains. These sites were used in conjunction with mail/online surveys to assess the improvements needed to the bicycle infrastructure within the study area.

Project Outcome - The enhanced public outreach plan allows MTA to develop a BMP that reflects the needs and desires of each community. An MTA BMP with significant input from the public will establish policies and priorities for bicycling in the County. Ultimately, the BMP will enable cities throughout the County to build a needed bicycle infrastructure, making bicycling a more attractive, accessible, and safe form of transportation.

Planning Goals Realized -

- 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.