

Community Based Transportation Planning Grants

Access Metro

- **Grant Recipient:** Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro)
- **County:** Los Angeles County

Project Area - Four Metro stations in the South Bay region of Los Angeles County

Project Focus - Access Metro is a community-based planning effort to improve pedestrian and bicycle access to four key Metro Green Line rail transit stations located in low-income communities of the South Bay region. This project represents a partnership between two entities: L.A. County's Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), and Odyssey, a statewide nonprofit organization whose mission is to increase residents' transportation choices, and who has significant experience with facilitating community-based efforts to improve transit and transit access in communities throughout California.

Project Goals - Bicycling, walking, and transit play an increasingly important role as alternative options to the single occupant vehicle. The project was needed as a first step towards addressing and implementing the viability and safety of pedestrian and bicycle connections for people to access light rail. Unsafe and uncomfortable conditions on the way to stations pose significant barriers for transit-dependent populations in using public transit as a mobility option. Rather than face unsafe and inadequate walking or biking routes to transit, those with

access to vehicles often choose simply to drive to their destinations, reducing the use of existing transit infrastructure, and exacerbating congestion, greenhouse gas emissions, and other problems.

Community Outreach - Based upon site visits, walk and bike audits and intercept interviews, the project team prepared a draft plan for each station area. The plan highlights the key impediments to bicycle and pedestrian access and provides a series of recommendations for coordination, planning, and physical improvements to enhance walking and biking conditions in each station area. The plans were circulated to community leaders, local governments, community groups and participants in the audits, interviews, and surveys for additional comment and feedback.

Project Outcome- The final product is a document that assesses and recommends physical infrastructure and safety improvements to increase walking and bicycling to four selected Metro Green Line stations. The Hawthorne, Crenshaw, Vermont, and Avalon stations were selected for the project because of their ridership and proximity to residential neighborhoods. These stations are also major transit bus hubs for Metro and other transit providers.

Planning Goals Realized -

- Link housing, transportation and land-use planning;
- Increase community livability (by creating an attractive, safe, and cohesive community).

