

Community Based Transportation Planning Grants

Santa Fe Depot Area Reuse Plan

- **Grant Recipient:** City of San Bernardino
- **County:** San Bernardino

Project Area - The Historic Santa Fe Depot District Area Plan project is bound by 3rd Street on the north, Mount Vernon Avenue on the west, Rialto Avenue on the south, and Interstate 215 on the east.

Project Focus - Built in 1918, the Santa Fe Depot (SFD) is one of the largest and most historical facilities in Southern California at 55,000 square feet. Both state historians and the California Department of Transportation recognize the depot to be of structural historic significance. The depot started to deteriorate, however, when the Santa Fe Railroad vacated the depot and its railroad maintenance yard facilities. This deterioration also started the progressive economic decline in the neighboring community. The depot is now located in one of the most blighted areas of San Bernardino County.

Project Goals - In 1993, the City of San Bernardino (City) applied for and was awarded a Transportation Enhancement Activity (TEA) Grant by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to fund the Depot Rehabilitation and Adaptive Reuse Study. The Mayor, City Council, the San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG), and numerous citizen and business stakeholders groups endorsed the study. The intent of the study was to develop and evaluate several reuse alternatives for the depot and to

expand upon the depot's sole function as a railroad station for AMTRAK passenger service, with adjacent Metrolink service.

The City of San Bernardino and its partners did not stop there. They wanted to do more. Hence, they requested funds to develop the Santa Fe Depot Area Plan. This Santa Fe Depot Area Plan will develop a land use plan and a multi-modal transit plan to guide future development and provide transportation enhancement alternatives. The plan will also expand upon the aforementioned Santa Fe Depot Adaptive Reuse Study.

Community Outreach - There is nothing in the final Report that mentions public participation.

Project Outcome - The vision of the Area Plan is to revitalize the Depot District over the course of the next decade by promoting transit-oriented; mixed-use housing and commercial activity in the neighborhood that will significantly raise density, variety, quality of housing stock and employment base; and thereby raise the volume and value of economic activity.

Planning Goals Realized -

- Develop more efficient land use patterns accommodating 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.