



# Disadvantaged Communities Active Transportation Planning Initiative

TRB Annual Meeting | P21-20284

Tuesday | 1/26/2021 | 2:30 - 4:00 PM EST

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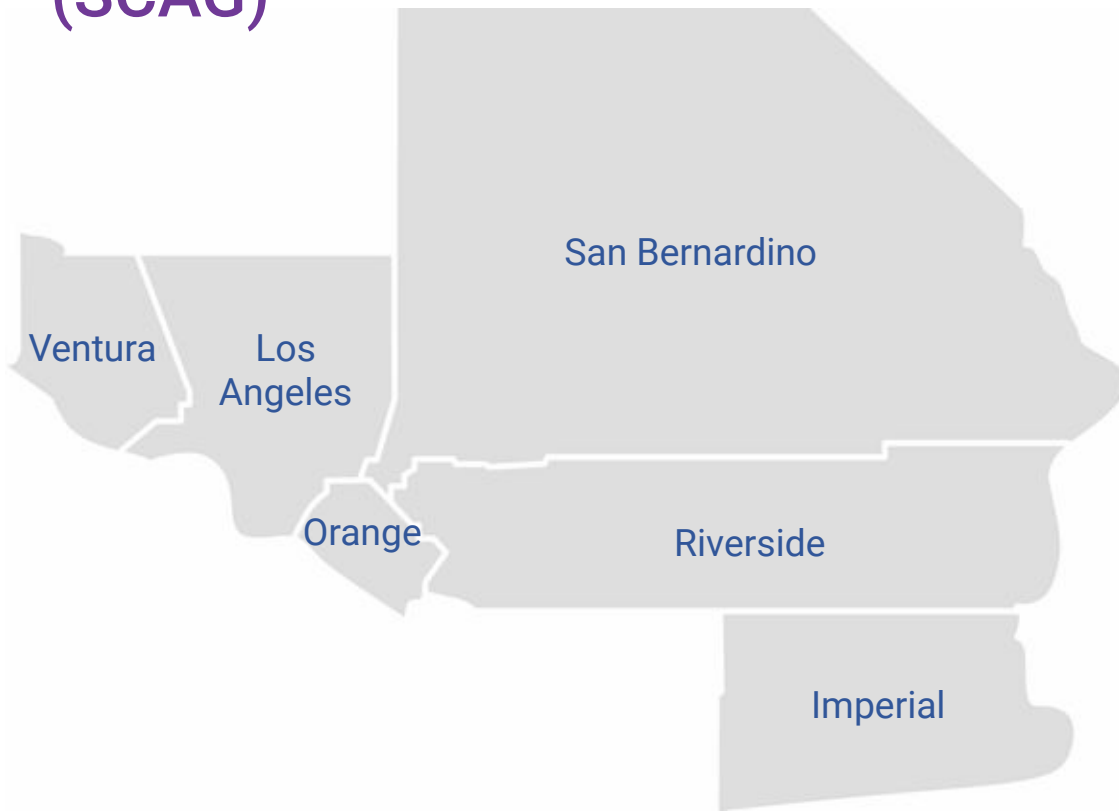
**Active Transportation Plan**  
TOOLKIT

# Abstract



Launched in the beginning of 2019, the Disadvantaged Communities Planning Initiative (DCPI) seeks to make active transportation plans and their implementation accessible to all jurisdictions within the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region. The DCPI involved background research on best practices, data automation, and better understanding community needs to devise a preliminary Active Transportation Toolkit (“Toolkit”). The project team then piloted the Toolkit in seven disadvantaged communities within the SCAG region, developing seven adopted plans and refining the Toolkit along the way. The DCPI found a large appetite for active transportation improvements throughout the seven communities, and reiterates the importance of robust, tailored engagement approaches, including partnering with community-based organizations (CBOs). The Toolkit includes all materials needed to help under-resourced communities envision and implement their own plans for walking and biking, but still requires resources and staff commitments that may be in short supply. The Toolkit will be released for public use in spring 2021.

# Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)



Nation's  
Largest  
MPO

191 Cities  
6 Counties

18.9  
Million  
People

16th  
Largest  
Economy  
in the  
World

# Planning Impetus



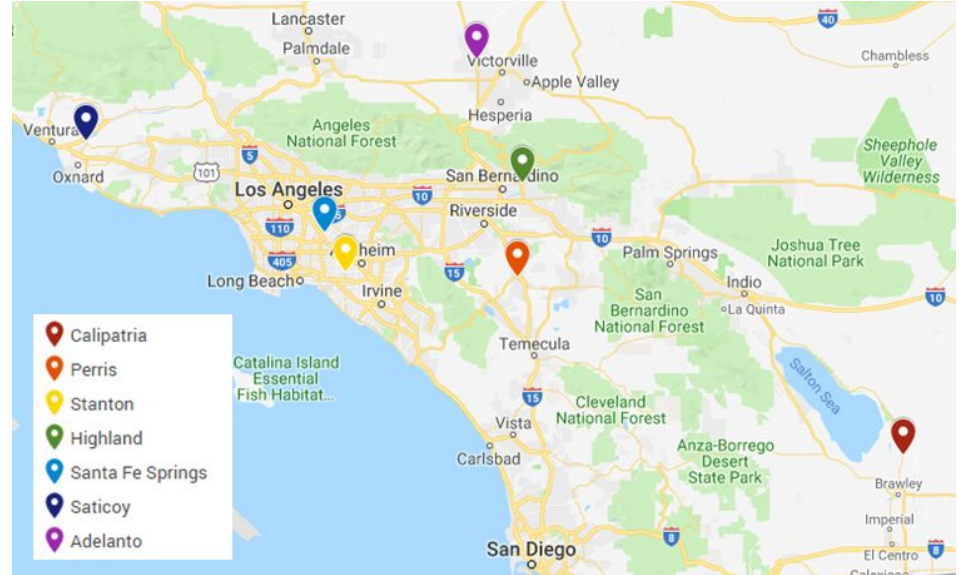
- Fatalities and serious injuries disproportionately impact people walking and bicycling
- 66% of SCAG's High Injury Network is in disadvantaged communities
- Disadvantaged communities face a greater pollution burden and worse public health outcomes than other communities throughout the state
- 56% of jurisdictions within SCAG meet the thresholds for disadvantaged status
- **Of these communities, less than 26% have existing active transportation plans**

# Project Background



Active Transportation Plan  
TOOLKIT

- SCAG's Disadvantaged Communities Planning Initiative (DCPI): 2 year planning effort (2019-2021)
- Develop an Active Transportation Plan Toolkit
- Toolkit approach was piloted in 7 communities
  - Urban, suburban, rural
- Project Team:



# DCPI Goals



1. Develop **low-cost model** for delivering active transportation plan in low-resourced communities;
2. **Expand use and value** of SCAG's existing active transportation resources;
3. Ensure approach is **applicable in a variety of contexts**, recognizing the diversity of the SCAG region;
4. Align planning products with the requirements of the **California Active Transportation Program for funding**;
5. Go beyond the current state-of-practice to produce **data-driven and innovative planning solutions**;
6. Design for **long-term sustainability**; provide guidance and recommendations to support use of the Toolkit beyond the life of the project.

# Toolkit Preparation

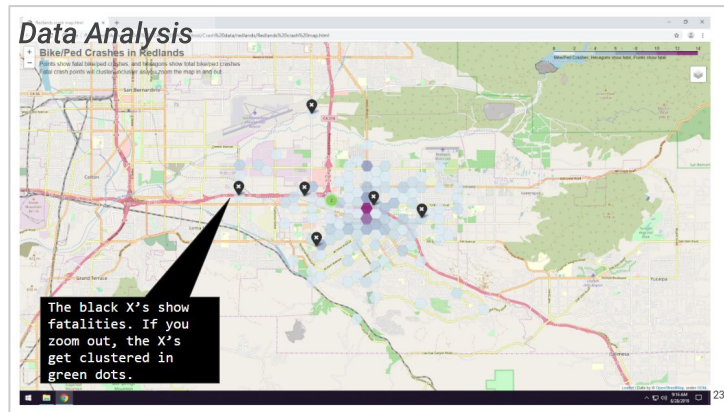
- National Scan of Best Practices
- Outreach + Equity Framework
- Expert Focus Group
- Data Analysis Tools
  - Includes public health assessment

= Preliminary Toolkit



Active Transportation Plan

TOOLKIT



## Equity Framework

### 2. The Vision

#### EQUITY FRAMEWORK

The Plan is guided by an Equity Framework, which asks:

- Who are the most vulnerable groups in the community?
- What outcomes do the most vulnerable residents want to see come from this planning effort?
- How can implementation of the Plan work towards these outcomes?

The Plan identified vulnerable user groups as well as a vision and supporting goals that we believe will advance equity, safety and health, access and comfort, affordability, and an enhanced network. The Plan also defined future actions and ways to measure progress on these four goals.

#### Focusing on Vulnerable Residents

Some groups of people experience greater vulnerabilities and disparities in **COMMUNITY LINKS** transportation system—at times as a result of the system itself. The more groups a person identifies with, the greater the disparity. These groups include:

- Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and other people of color
- People identifying as women, queer, and transgender

*Equity in this Plan means that community members who have historically been left out of transportation investments and decisions will be prioritized, engaged, and included.*



This Plan works to improve transportation for all residents of our community, especially those who have historically been excluded from transportation decisions and investments. [ATIS](#)

## Health Assessment

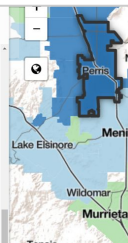
### Neighborhood

This city has healthier neighborhood conditions than just 24.9% of other California cities.

Indicator Percentile Ranking

Tree Canopy 4

Supermarket Access 50.2



# Toolkit Piloting Process



Active Transportation Plan  
TOOLKIT

- Community Advisory Committees
- Partnerships with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)
- Engagement Activities
  - Interactive Web Map
  - Walk Audits
  - Art Installation
  - Project Website
  - Social Media Advertisements
  - Community Surveys
  - Virtual Town Hall
  - Curbside Displays





# Toolkit Piloting Process - Go Human

- SCAG's community outreach + advertising campaign to reduce traffic collisions and encourage walking/biking
- Hosted 2 capacity-building trainings per community
- Planned community demonstration events



= Capacity Building + Public Input

# Toolkit Piloting Process - COVID-19

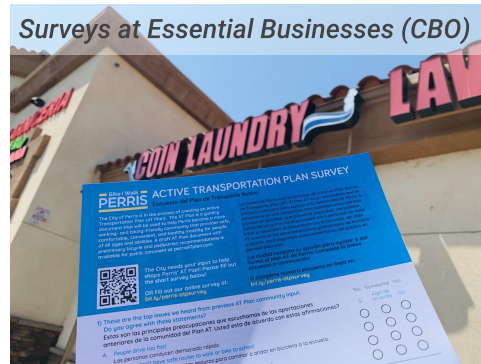


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- Cancelled Activities
  - Bicycle + Pedestrian Counts
  - *Go Human* Demonstration Events
- Transition to Virtual Engagement
  - Social Media Advertisements
  - Recommendations Survey [Online + Print]
  - Virtual Town Hall
  - Call-in Office Hours
  - Curbside Displays

- Paper / In-Person Activities
  - Support from CBOs

= Importance of Partnerships with CBOs

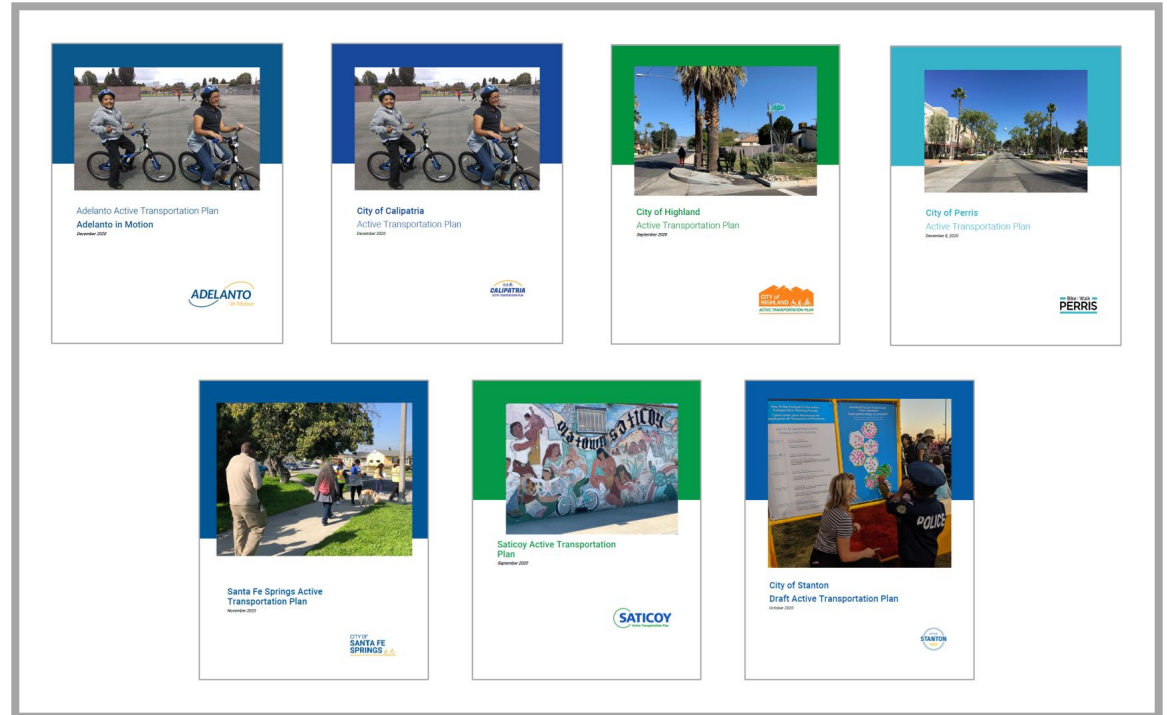


# Toolkit Piloting Process - Completion



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- 7 adopted Active Transportation Plans (expected by Feb 2021)
- Roadmap for securing funding, implementing recommendations
- Lasting community support for walking and biking
- Allowed for continuous improvements to Toolkit



# Key Lessons Learned



1. **There is a big appetite for AT improvements.** All 7 communities saw a strong desire for improvements to make walking and biking more comfortable, convenient, and safe.
2. **City staff are resource-constrained.** Even with Toolkit, cities may not have the resources to complete their Plans without additional support (especially mapping and network development).
3. **Successful community engagement approaches included partnerships with CBOs, social media advertisements, and going to the people.** Engagement needs to be tailored for each community and take a variety of approaches (i.e., high / low / no tech).
4. **Planning efforts can adjust to a pandemic** while still engaging vulnerable residents.

# Toolkit Final Components



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- DCPI Background
- How-to Guide
- Planning Tips

## MANUAL



### Manual

#### Active Transportation Plan Toolkit User Guide

December 2020

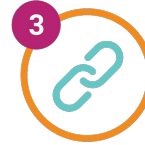
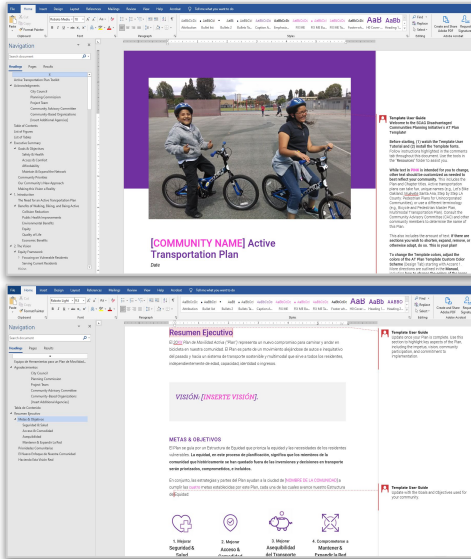
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- Customizable Plan
- Spanish Executive Summary
- Template Tutorial

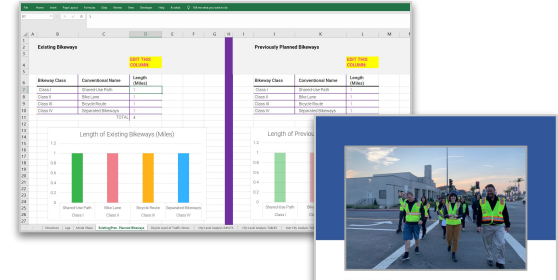
## TEMPLATE



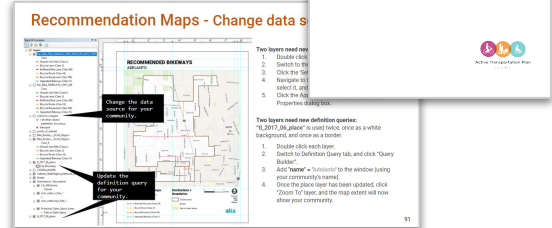
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- Data Analysis, Outreach
- Graphics Library
- Recommendations
- Adoption, Implementation
- + more

## RESOURCES



Resources  
Outreach Toolkit



# Toolkit Launch

- Coming Spring 2021
- Includes all materials for jurisdictions to develop their own active transportation plans
- Visit [scag.ca.gov](http://scag.ca.gov) to learn more!



# Questions?



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