Disadvantaged Communities Active Transportation Planning Initiative

Toolbox Tuesday

3/30/2021
Panelists

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Alta Planning + Design

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Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Love 4 Life Association

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Planner, Lead for Perris and Calipatria
Alta Planning + Design

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City of Stanton
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)

191 Cities
6 Counties
16th Largest Economy in the World
18.9 Million People
Nation's Largest MPO
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 active transportation plans
Project Background

- 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
Toolkit Piloting Process

- 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

● 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

- 7 completed Active Transportation Plans
- Roadmap for securing funding, implementing recommendations
- Built 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.
The Toolkit

Active Transportation Plan Toolkit
Toolkit Final Components

1. MANUAL
   - DCPI Background
   - How-to Guide
   - Planning Tips

2. TEMPLATE
   - Customizable Plan
   - Spanish Executive Summary
   - Template Tutorial

3. RESOURCES
   - Data Analysis, Outreach
   - Graphics Library
   - Recommendations
   - Adoption, Implementation
   - + more
Toolkit Final Components

1. Manual
2. Template
3. Resources

AT_Plan_Toolkit_Introduction
Length: 00:05:12

AT Plan Toolkit

AT_Plan_Toolkit_Introduction
1. Manual

Disadvantaged Communities Active Transportation Planning Initiative

How to Use the Template
This Active Transportation Plan Template is a Microsoft Word document organized with all of the required elements of an AT Plan, and additional elements to enhance analysis, engagement, and corresponding recommendations. The Template provides the basic structure and content for completing an AT Plan, while the Resources help communities customize the content and fill in placeholder text. The Template also includes a Spanish version of the Executive Summary which can be updated when the Plan needs to share with the public. Languages other than Spanish and English are prevalent in your community, consider translating the Executive Summary to additional languages.

This section provides details on the key elements of the Template.

Disadvantaged Communities Active Transportation Planning Initiative

- Invite volunteers to help needed, particularly with outreach events and collecting count data.
- Determine whether consultant support is needed: Consulting firms can assist with all aspects of the planning and implementation process (see Table 2). Consulting assistance is desired, work with your procurement and contracting department to determine the best approach to hire a consultant.

Table 2: Consultant Services for Active Transportation Planning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Pre-Plan</th>
<th>Plan Creation</th>
<th>Implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visioning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outreach</td>
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<td>Data Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mapping</td>
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<td>Cost Estimates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant Writing</td>
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<td>✔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3) GUIDE
Community Advisory Committee (CAC) helps guide your community throughout the planning process. CAC members should represent various sectors, groups, and stakeholders in order to be able to attend to the needs of the community, including:

- Concept
- Design
- Construction

Adopting and implementing the Plan
A completed AT Plan provides a roadmap for communities. Once the plan is completed, work must continue to implement the plan and ensure the vision set forth in the plan comes to fruition.

TAKE THE PLAN TO CITY COUNCIL
Bring the plan to the appropriate governing body (e.g., Planning Commission and City Council) for approval and adoption. Include a resolution of adoption in the public hearing document.

APPLY FOR FUNDING
Contact SCAG or the county’s transportation authority and/or regional planning agency for grant writing assistance. California Active Transportation Resource Center (ATRC) also provides resources, technical assistance, and training to transportation partners across California to increase opportunities for the success of active transportation projects.

Good to know
• Concept
• Design
• Construction
2. Template

- Step 1: Watch Template Tutorial
- Step 2: Install Fonts
- Step 3: Build Your Plan
2. Template

Step 1: Watch Template Tutorial
Step 2: Install Fonts
Step 3: Build Your Plan
3. Resources

Using the Automated Data Tool

Select a Place within the county and click “Submit”
3. Resources

Making Maps with the Outputs

Accessibility - BLTS

The filepath of the new source is within the "Accessibility Maps" folder.

Then select the file that starts with "osm...": Accessibility
Maps\YOUR_CITY\SHAPEFILE_EXPORTS\osm_edges\YOUR_CITY_w_lits.shp

To calculate the percentage of roadways within each category:
1. "Select by attribute" for BLTS of 1 (Field: "its_base_c"). Calculate sum of roadway length using "Statistics" option on "Length" field.
2. Input the values into the Data Workbook. Repeat for BLTS 1.5-4.
3. Update the chart in the Template (right click on chart → Edit Data → Edit Data in Excel → Paste in values).
3. Resources

Using the Data Workbook
3. Resources

- Active Transportation Program Grant Technical Assistance
- Completed AT Plans
- Data Analysis
- DCPI Lessons Learned
- Facility Design Guidelines
- Graphics Library
- Needs Assessment
- Outreach
- Plan Adoption
- Recommendations
- Word Tips and Tricks
- Work Plan

Conducting the Health Assessment

Asthma & Particulate Matter 2.5

If no PM 2.5 appears in your community, turn on the by Quantiles layer to see PM 2.5 values.

Update the queries and zoom to your community.

If no areas of Concentrated High PM 2.5 are shaded, turn on the EJSCREEN_StatePCT by Quantiles layer. Determine if areas in the community are just below the threshold (PM25 > 11.5). Adjust the definition query as appropriate, or if PM 2.5 is not of high concern in the community, disregard this map.

Adjust this query if appropriate.
3. Resources

Using the Outreach Materials
3. Resources

- Active Transportation Program Grant Technical Assistance
- Completed AT Plans
- Data Analysis
- DCPI Lessons Learned
- Facility Design Guidelines
- Graphics Library
- Needs Assessment
- Outreach
- Plan Adoption
- Recommendations
- Word Tips and Tricks
- Work Plan

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**Crafting Your ATP Application**

*Tips from an ATP Reviewer*

Prepared by: Marc Caswell, Planning Associate
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Alta Planning + Design
December 2020

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Adopting + Implementing the Plan
Toolkit Launch

- Coming Summer 2021
- Includes all materials for jurisdictions to develop their own active transportation plans
- Visit scag.ca.gov to learn more!
Partnering with Community-Based Organizations

Love 4 Life
Communication

- Project Team
- Marketing outlets
- Active communication with the community
Demographic

- Language preferences
- Communication preferences
Local Partnerships

- City
- Businesses
- Education system
- Local organizations
Outreach

● Social Media:
  - Facebook, Instagram, Twitter
  - Polls
  - Posts
  - Stories
  - Local groups
● Email and Phone conversations
Community Engagement

- Families involvement
  - Parent Leadership
  - Youth Leadership
  - Love 4 Life Chapters
- Local events
Community Voice

- Community Feedback
- Residents were part of the process
- Building a sense of community
Bringing the Toolkit to Life
Stanton Active Transportation Plan

Stanton is a community where streets promote walking and biking in a safe and convenient atmosphere for all ages and abilities.

Safety & Health
This Plan will empower residents to live a more active lifestyle by providing a network of safe and comfortable walking routes and bikeways for everyone to enjoy.

Access & Comfort
This Plan will support increased access to neighborhood destinations such as grocery stores, libraries, schools, recreation centers, and transit stops. Pedestrian and bicycle facilities will be accessible and comfortable for people of all ages and abilities to use.

Affordability
This Plan will work to reduce the burden of transportation costs on households.

Maintain & Expand the Network
This Plan will help our community identify, develop, and maintain a complete and convenient bicycle and pedestrian network.
RECOMMENDATIONS

Development Process

• Community Feedback

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What We Heard</th>
<th>What We Propose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Our streets do not support safe walking and biking</td>
<td>Make it Safe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People drive too fast</td>
<td>Make it Comfortable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities do not serve all users’ needs</td>
<td>Make it Accessible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Existing Conditions
• Previously Planned Facilities
• Project Feasibility + More
Biking Recommendations

**Recommended Bikeways**
- Shared-Use Path (Class I)
- Bicycle Lane (Class II)
- Buffered Bike Lane (Class IIB)
- Bicycle Route (Class III)
- Bicycle Boulevard (Class IIIB)
- Separated Bikeway (Class IV)

**Existing Bikeways**
- Shared-Use Path (Class I)
- Bicycle Lane (Class II)
- Bicycle Route (Class III)

**Destinations + Boundaries**
- City Boundary
- School
- Park or Open Space

[Map of recommended bikeways and existing bikeways]
Biking Recommendations

CLASS I
- Shared-Use Path

CLASS II
- Bicycle Lane

CLASS IIB
- Buffered Bicycle Lane

CLASS III
- Bicycle Route

CLASS IIIB
- Bicycle Boulevard

CLASS IV
- Separated Bikeway
Pedestrian Recommendations

Pedestrian Recommendations
- Crossing Facilities
- Curb Treatments
- Signals & Beacons
- Traffic Calming
- Transit Stop Amenities

Destinations + Boundaries
- City Boundary
- School
- Park or Open Space
Pedestrian Recommendations

- Sidewalks & Paths
- Crossing Facilities
- Curb Treatments
- Beacons & Signals
- Traffic Calming
- Pedestrian-scale Lighting
Opportunities
Opportunities
Next Steps

Livable Beach Boulevard Mobility Plan - 2013

Town Center Specific Plan
Questions?

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