

Environmental Justice: Context-Sensitive Planning Grants

Healthy Communities and Healthy Economies: A Toolkit for Goods Movement

- **Grant Amount:** \$200,000
- **Grant Recipient:** Orange County Transportation Authority
- **County:** Orange

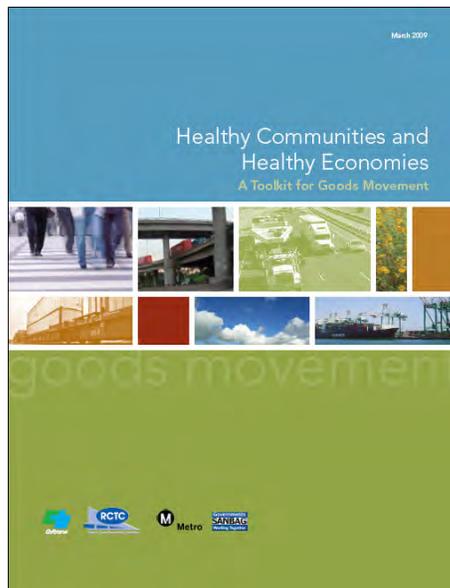
Project Area – Coachella Valley in Riverside County, has over 90% minority populations and more than 50% of household with incomes below \$25,000. Mira Loma, also in Riverside County with adjacent communities comprise 40-49% of households with incomes below \$25,000 and other neighborhoods with more than 50% of households with incomes less than \$25,000. City of Colton in San Bernardino County with many neighborhoods near good movement facilities have 30-39% of household with income below \$25,000 and 80-89% of the populations are minorities. City of South Gate in Los Angeles County. More than 90 % of its residents are minorities. The project areas were selected with feedback from the Technical Advisory Committee, collection of data, and discussions with local communities by transportation commission staff.

Project Focus – The focus of the project was to expand the region’s understanding of goods movement impacts on communities of concern. And, to identify strategies for the region and within prototype communities to address these impacts and maintain or enhance quality-of-life, all while supporting the expansion of goods movements.

Project Goals – The project goals were to collect meaningful environmental justice and goods movement information for the Southern California region. Combine community experiences and insight with goods movement impacts on environmental justice communities with the use of the latest and best data about impacts and mitigation strategies. Create a practical “toolkit” for use among all stakeholders-particularly community members- that address regional and localized needs, grounded in current data, produce measureable and lasting results, and are updateable in the future.

Community Outreach – The Study approach integrated technical analyses from recently-developed plans and best practices and solution for environmental justice issues, all of which was coordinated with a broad-based community outreach approach involving technical experts and representatives of impacted communities. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of experts and community representatives provided overall guidance to the study team in developing data and outcomes. Members included representatives of the participating transportation commissions, Caltrans, staff, from local agencies including planning, public works and public health, representatives of goods movement industries, and community members involved in the Study’s localized analysis of goods movement impacts in case study communities. A total of four Community Feedback Groups (CFG) of experts and community representatives-one group for each case study community-also provided guidance to the Study’s localized analysis of goods movement impacts.

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Project Outcome-Bringing all of the study's work together, the Study team created a Toolkit, titled "Healthy Communities and Healthy Economies" A toolkit for Goods Movement." Throughout the process, the Study team developed and refined an outline for the toolkit based on feedback from the TAC and CFGs. The Toolkit contains components that will serve to guide Economic impacts, in particular the benefits and jobs for the region. In addition, the Toolkit contains specific components and data of goods movement, such as Truck routes, Rail lines, Rail yards, Warehouses and distribution, Ports and approaches to the impacts and strategies for getting involved.

Challenges

- The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) estimates that over the next 20 years, overall freight volumes in the region will at least double and possibly triple.

Successes

- The increase in freight volumes will elevate the region's status as the most important gateway for international trade and the importance of goods movement to the region's economy and overall prosperity.