

Community-Based Transportation Planning Grants

San Diego Regional Bike Plan

- **Grant Amount:** \$160,000
- **Grant Recipient:** San Diego Association of Governments
- **County:** San Diego

Project Area – The project area encompasses 4,300 square miles and includes the 19 local jurisdictions in the San Diego region.

Project Focus – SANDAG forecasts an 18.5 percent increase in trips from about 13.5 million to 16 million daily trips by the year 2030. San Diego residents clearly need more transportation alternatives to meet this increasing travel demand alternatives that allow people to travel without increasing vehicle emissions or congestion. Recent national and local surveys found that more people are willing to bicycle and bicycle more frequently when better and more bicycle facilities are provided. When these facilities are provided more people are apt to ride bicycles for transportation purposes.

Project Goals – The main purpose of the plan is to encourage the development of a unified bicycle system throughout the San Diego region that serves the needs of bicycle commuters and recreational bicyclists with connections to other regional non-motorized systems. The underlying principle of the *San Diego Regional Bicycle Plan* is derived from the federal and state directives placing greater emphasis on accommodating pedestrians and bicyclists when designing roadway facilities.

Community Outreach – Four public workshops were planned. The first two were held early in the process to explain the project and gather information from locals and citizens that live in the project area. The second two workshops were used to share the draft plan of recommendations and the design guidelines before they were finalized. A mailing list was formed so that all interested parties were informed and updated on the purpose and progress of the *San Diego Regional Bicycle Plan*. A project website and on-line survey were also established. This allowed members of the public to receive up to date project information and post questions. Two newsletters were also published for placement in local media outlets during specific points during the project.



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Project Outcome – The San Diego Regional Bicycle Plan proposes a vision for a diverse regional bicycle system of interconnected bicycle corridors, support facilities, and programs to make bicycling more practical and desirable to a broader range of people in the San Diego region. The plan outlines a range of recommendations to facilitate accomplishing the regional goals of increasing the number of people who bike and frequency of bicycle trips for all purposes, encouraging the development of Complete Streets, improving safety for bicyclists, and increasing public awareness and support for bicycling in the San Diego region. The Plan is a complementary document to the existing 2030 RTP, the transportation component of the RCP and will be fully integrated into the 2050 RTP currently under development. The RCP

establishes a vision for transportation in the region. A part of this vision is a transportation system that makes walking, biking and using transit more convenient and a desirable option. The Plan contains goals and recommendations that are regional in scope and provides a planning framework to guide decision-making. While bicycle planning and policymaking is primarily focused on the local level, the development of the Plan provides an opportunity to improve regional coordination and connectivity of bicycle facilities between jurisdictions. The Plan also provides guidance to local decision-makers on the design of bicycle facilities, development of programs, and prioritization of improvement projects.

Challenges

- According to the bicycle user questionnaire distributed for the Regional Bicycle Plan planning process, 43% of respondents indicated that they would bike more if more bike parking was available. If bicycle parking is not provided, bicyclists are left to lock their bikes to street signs, parking meters, lampposts or trees, which are all unsecure and may interfere with pedestrian traffic. It is important that this plan take measures to avoid these situations and improve upon the lack of parking options.

Successes

- The SANDAG iCommute bike locker program continues to advance bicycle transit integration in the region by managing 872 spaces in bike lockers at 60 transit centers and Park and Ride lots throughout San Diego County.