

Environmental Justice Planning Grants

Bayview/Hunters Point Neighborhood Transportation Plan

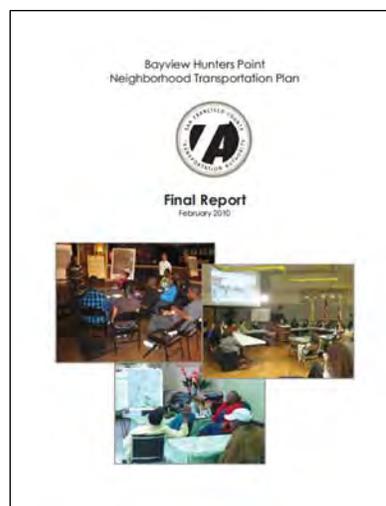
- **Grant Amount:** \$99,000
- **Grant Recipient:** San Francisco County Transportation Authority
- **County:** Bayview and Hunters Point neighborhoods of San Francisco

Project Area – Case Studies in the city of Richmond, Contra Costa County, and the East 14th/International Boulevard Corridor in the cities of Oakland and San Leandro, Alameda County

Project Focus – The Bayview/Hunters Point community is located in the southeast area of San Francisco. At roughly 2.0 square miles in size, approximately 33,000 persons lived in Bayview/Hunters Point in 2000. The area is the largest environmental justice community in San Francisco, with around 95 percent minority residents and 21% of residents under the Federal poverty line. The majority of residents are African-American (47%) and Asian (28%). Historically, the Bayview/Hunters Point neighborhood was an industrial part of the city and as a result is somewhat disconnected from the downtown grid and radial transit network. This underserved community deserves a voice in addressing key mobility, access, safety and economic concerns.

Project Goals – The purpose of the study is to develop a community-based Neighborhood Transportation Plan (NTP) for the Bayview/Hunters Point community. The proposed study will identify the community's highest priority transportation needs, including

pedestrian safety, traffic calming and transit connectivity. This effort will build on past and current investments in the neighborhood, and result in a prioritized list of transportation solutions that respond to key transportation needs and can be realistically implemented in three to five years. Over the past 20 years, public agencies and community groups have studied various aspects of transportation conditions in the Bayview/Hunters Point area. Unfortunately, these studies frequently lacked a multimodal focus and often did not result in needed improvements. In this time, the Bayview/Hunters Point community has become increasingly sophisticated and has developed the capacity to participate meaningfully in the transportation planning process. The Bayview/Hunters Point project will take a multimodal approach to understanding transportation needs, and will be most focused on local deficiencies, which are frequently short trips best served by walking and bicycling.



The goal is to find opportunities to increase connectivity to existing transit, and to improve the comfort and safety of transit passengers. The NTP would also

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identify and address specific bicycle and pedestrian facilities that serve the institutional, recreational and educational facilities in the neighborhood. The neighborhood plan would support these future efforts and work on specific context-sensitive design solutions.

Community Outreach – As part of the Neighborhood Transportation Plan's overall workplan, a Community Involvement Plan (CIP) was developed to ensure that community input would be integrated into the development of each element of the neighborhood plan. The central elements of the CIP were to: Build on and develop productive relationships between the Authority and the Bayview Hunters Point community to ensure that the community takes early and active ownership in the study and its recommendations; and employ non-traditional outreach strategies that focused on small-group interactive techniques conducted at a grassroots, sub-neighborhood, or interest-group level. In contrast to more traditional public involvement approaches, which typically rely primarily on inviting the community to public workshops or neighborhood meetings to receive input, the community-based process for the

NTP focused on activities that required seeking opportunities to engage members of the community in small-group and community-led settings.

Environmental Justice Community Involvement - Outreach activities were conducted where people live, work, or are involved in community activities, such as offices of community-based organizations (CBOs), community facilities, community gardens, churches, or businesses within the study area.

Project Outcome- The Bayview Hunters Point Neighborhood Transportation Plan is a community based study designed to prioritize transportation needs and develop near and mid-term improvements in the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood of San Francisco. The NTP program is designed to be flexible, in order to respond to the unique context of individual neighborhoods. In the case of the Bayview NTP, particular concern was given to tailor the study approach, in order to develop a meaningful community-based transportation plan for Bayview Hunters Point, a neighborhood with many distinct characteristics as compared to other areas of San Francisco.

Challenges

- The neighborhood's topography and development history have resulted in a poorly connected network of streets. Isolated by freeways, waterways, and industrial areas to the north and west, the neighborhood is connected to the rest of the city by a limited set of thoroughfares.

Successes

- In conjunction with identifying the NTP's focus issues, a set of associated community transportation goals was developed. These goals reflect the community's input and were developed to guide the NTP's technical analysis and development of solutions.