

## Community-Based Transportation Planning Grants

### Development of a Smart Code for the City of Livermore

- **Grant Amount:** \$300,000
- **Grant Recipient:** City of Livermore
- **County:** Alameda

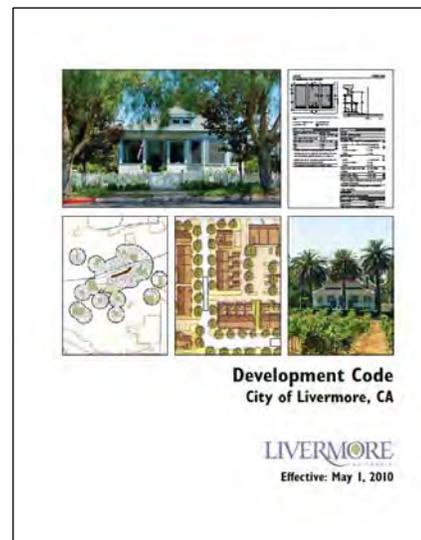
**Project Area** - Within the City of Livermore Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). The UGB surrounds the City, which limits most future urban development to in-fill and redevelopment sites.

**Project Focus** - Although the City of Livermore is well positioned to focus future development around its existing transit facilities, in order to capitalize on these potential investments the City sought to create zoning regulations that emphasize form and encourage walkable and transit oriented development. The City is currently served by the Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) Train, which provides connections between Stockton and San Jose, the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) which connects riders to the Tri-Valley cities of Livermore, Dublin and Pleasanton, Amtrak California and Greyhound buses, and is actively participating in the Regional Rail Plan process with the goal of increasing transit service to Livermore, potentially including High Speed Rail, a BART extension, improved ACE service, and/or bus rapid transit. The City sought to build upon their updated General Plan and the Downtown Specific Plan by updating the Zoning Code. The Zoning Code focuses on accommodating and guiding development to ensure compact, high quality projects that allow for higher densities, and has created a foundation for

smart growth policies and practices within the City.

#### Project Goals -

- Incorporate smart growth principles that would help reduce vehicle trips and facilitate pedestrian and bicycle travel while encouraging sustainable development
- Provide and promote community sensitive infill development regulations
- Develop regulations consistent with the General Plan and the Design Standards and Guidelines
- Develop regulations and update standards which respond to Livermore's particular needs and create standards and procedures which are easy to understand and apply
- Promote an interconnected street network with pedestrian-scaled blocks
- Focus on form and scale rather than use, where appropriate
- Accommodate diversity of housing types
- Streamline the development review process and create a more predictable approval process with a Code.



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Community Outreach - Development of the Smart Code relied upon the community's vision and input to steer the project. In addition to notices published in the local paper, the City utilized a variety of innovative methods to encourage participation and inform the community about the Smart Code project, including: mailing individual notices to all residents and property owners, playing public service announcements on the radio, providing information in the City's quarterly newsletter mailed to all residents and property owners, televising public workshops on the local public access television station, and dedicating a website to the project.

Environmental Justice Community Involvement - The City organized meetings with various interest groups such as bicycle and pedestrian advocates, historic preservation advocates, special needs groups, community based organizations including housing advocates, low income representatives, environmental interest groups, and transit providers.

These meetings were critical because they provided a forum to educate community members and stakeholders about the zoning code's role in determining the form and character of the community and allowed numerous opportunities to gather public input. Responses gathered at these meetings were made available on the project website and documented in the City's newsletter.

Project Outcome - The culmination of the Development of a Smart Code for the City of Livermore project is a document that will guide development and form in Livermore for years to come. Included among the many sections of the code are Building Types, Thoroughfare Types, Civic Spaces, and Subdivisions.

### Challenges

- To develop a code for future development that would receive the support of the many varied interests within Livermore, including citizens, elected officials, developers, and builders.

### Successes

- A document that guides all facets of development within the City of Livermore and received Planning Commission and City Council approval.