

Community Based Transportation Planning Grants

Mixed Use and Pedestrian Linkages Plan

- **Grant Recipient:** City of Monterey Park
- **County:** Los Angeles

Project Area - Downtown Monterey Park

Project Focus - Downtown Monterey Park recently adopted a Master Plan that proposes the creation of a pedestrian-friendly environment. The City of Monterey Park (City) is in the process of updating the General Plan that includes the Downtown Master Plan element. Grant funding will make possible a conceptual design that encourages pedestrian and transit usage that is the primary focus of the Master Plan. Business vitality in the downtown area has been poor for the last two decades due to aging structures and small lots that are unattractive for developers. As a result, revenue has been limited, making grant funding necessary to jump-start the Master Plan

Project Goals – Land use changes within the City, coupled with a comprehensive pedestrian circulation plan, will improve patronage and access to the Downtown area that will attract local as well as regional patrons to the commercial establishments. Business vitality and subsequently local economics will improve, as will the quality of life. Specifically, accessibility for the transit-dependent will be improved while congestion will be reduced.

Community Outreach – The Project began with "stakeholder meetings," small focused meetings with varied, knowledgeable cross-section of the community. A steering committee of community members was established to guide the planning process. Along with the steering committee meetings, each major milestone in the project was accompanied with a large public meeting open to the community. The three workshops provided invaluable comments at each project milestone. Noticing for public meetings and translation services at each meeting were available in three languages, English, Chinese, and Spanish, in order to include all interested parties.

Project Outcome - The Mixed-use and Pedestrian Linkages Plan addresses multiple types of development and investment in downtown Monterey Park. Therefore, the Plan includes several types of recommendations. For the various types of development and investment which will occur in downtown Monterey Park, different sections of the Plan contain the key relevant recommendations for that development type. One of the unique features of the Mixed-Use and Linkages Plan is that it contains recommendations for both the public and private realm. In this Plan, both the public and private realms have been considered as parts of a whole, the livable community.

Planning Goals Realized -

- Reduce dependence on single occupant vehicle trips;
- Foster neighborhoods and project designs that enable more walking and biking;
- Reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality.