Creating Walkable, Bikeable Communities
Developing Effective Active Transportation Projects and Programs

Module 1: Working Within your Policy and Planning Context

Overview
- Why the Planning Context Matters
- What Plans Do You Have In Place?
- Inventory Your Existing Programs
- Consider Applying for Planning Funds

Why the Planning Context Matters
- ATP Guidelines (Screening Criteria, pg. 13): Project applications will be screened for “consistency with an adopted regional transportation plan”

Why the Planning Context Matters
- ATP Guidelines (Public Participation & Planning, pg. 14), for projects over $1 million: “...emphasis will be placed on projects that are prioritized in an adopted city or county bicycle transportation plan, pursuant to Section 891.2, pedestrian plan, safe routes to school plan, active transportation plan, trail plan, or circulation element of a general plan that incorporated elements of an active transportation plan.”
What Plans Do You Have In Place?

- Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy
- City/County General Plan
  - Look at Circulation OR Health Element
  - Look for explicit complete streets or multi-modal language
- Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan
- City/County Complete Streets Resolution/Policy
- Area Specific Plans

Complete Streets policies

Ensure that the entire right-of-way is planned, designed, constructed, operated, and maintained to provide safe access for all users

What Plans Do You Have In Place?

- Existing Modal Plans
  - Bicycle Master Plan
  - Pedestrian Master Plan
  - Trails Master Plan
  - Safe Routes to School Plan
  - Active Transportation Plan
- Public Health Plans
  - Physical Activity Plan
  - Injury Prevention Plan
  - Community Health Needs Assessments

Community Health Needs Assessment

- Included comprehensive neighborhood profiles touching upon community needs and concerns related to active transportation
Inventory Your Existing Programs

- Capital Improvement Program (CIP)
  - Does your CIP contain specific allocations to pedestrian and/or bicycle improvements?
- Traffic Monitoring Program
  - Do you have an ongoing traffic monitoring program?
  - Does your program collect count data on pedestrians and bicyclists?
- Transportation Development Act, Article 3 Funds (TDA-3)
  - Does your community already leverage TDA-3 funds for walking and biking improvements?

Consider Applying for Planning Funds

- Planning funds available for “community-wide active transportation plans within or, for area-wide plans, encompassing disadvantaged communities, including bike, pedestrian, safe routes to schools, or comprehensive active transportation plans”
- Plans can help:
  - Organize all relevant community policies related to active transportation into a single document;
  - Identify and prioritize specific projects and/or broad program categories for the community to pursue;
  - Document community engagement, input, and support; and
  - Strengthen grant applications.

Consider Applying for Planning Funds

- ATP Guidelines (Public Participation & Planning, pg. 14), for projects over $1 million:
  - “In future funding cycles, the Commission expects to make consistency with an approved active transportation plan a requirement for large projects.”
- Alternative Sources for Planning Funds
  - Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants
  - Regional MPO Programs
  - Public Health Grants
  - Foundation Grants
Questions/Comments?