Disadvantaged Communities Active Transportation Planning Initiative

Toolbox Tuesday

3/30/2021

Active Transportation Plan
TOOLKIT

Panelists

Active Transportation Plan
T O O L K I T

Sam Corbett

Principal and Project Manager

Alta Planning + Design

Courtney Banker

Planner, Lead for Perris and Calipatria
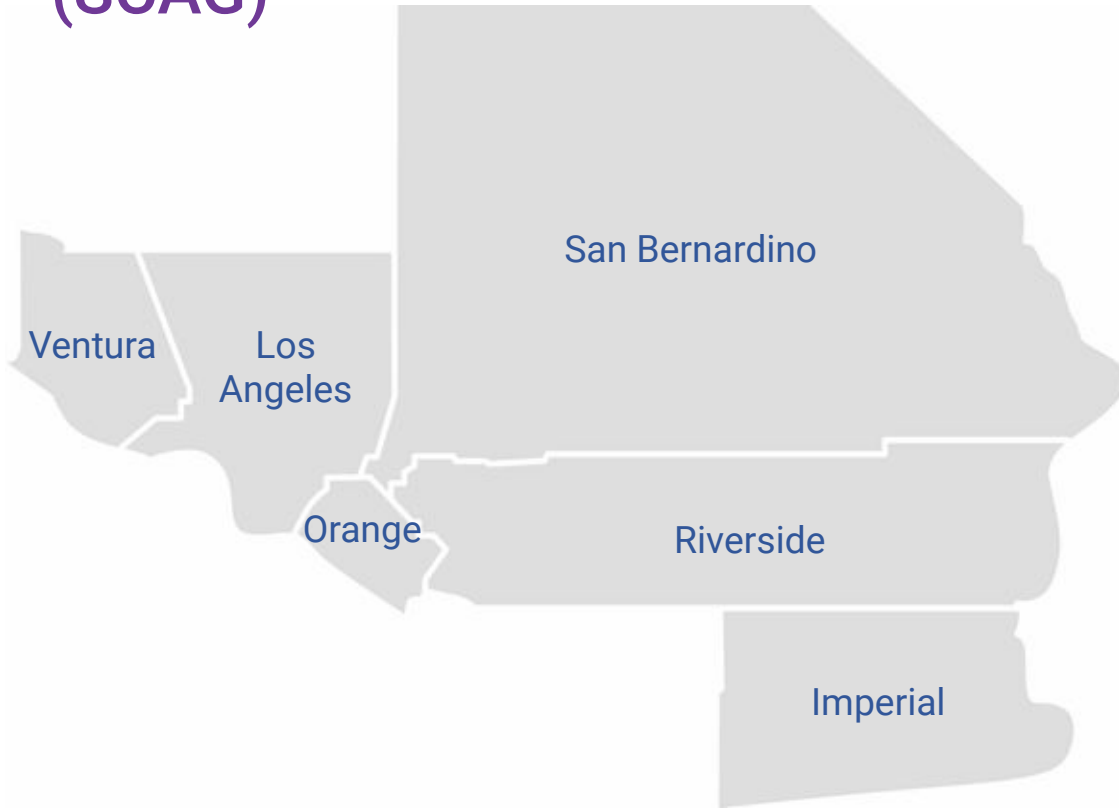
Alta Planning + Design

Wendy Romero

Founder and Chief Executive Officer

Love 4 Life Association

Jennifer Lilley, AICP

Community and Economic Development Director

City of Stanton

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)

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Ventura

Los Angeles

San Bernardino

Orange

Riverside

Imperial

Nation's Largest MPO

191 Cities
6 Counties

18.9 Million People

16th Largest Economy in the World

Planning Impetus

- Fatalities and serious injuries disproportionately impact people walking and bicycling

- 66% of SCAG's High Injury Network is in disadvantaged communities

- Disadvantaged communities face a greater pollution burden and worse public health outcomes than other communities throughout the state

- 56% of jurisdictions within SCAG meet the thresholds for disadvantaged status

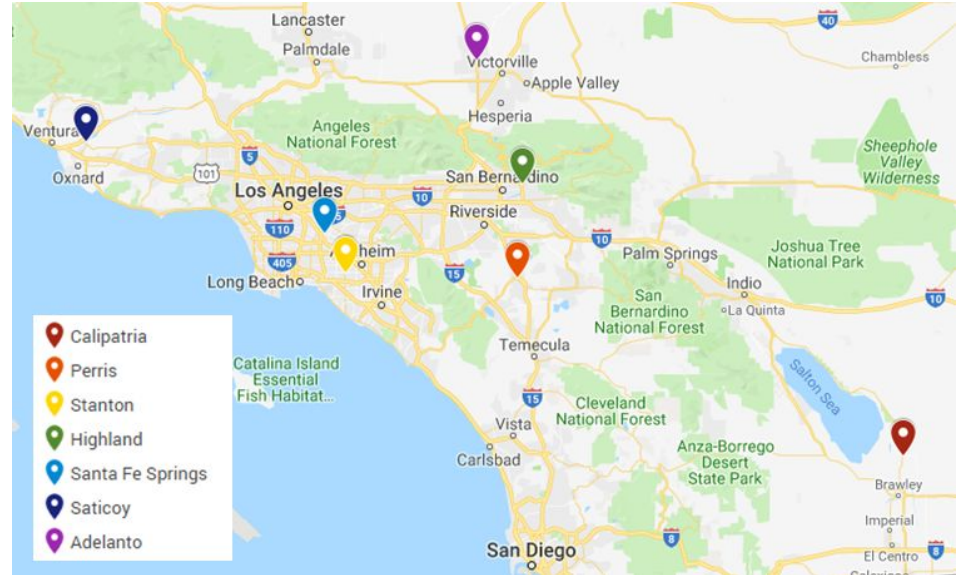- **Of these communities, less than 26% have active transportation plans**

Project Background

- SCAG's Disadvantaged Communities Planning Initiative (DCPI): 2 year planning effort (2019-2021)

- Develop an Active Transportation Plan Toolkit

- Toolkit approach was piloted in 7 communities
  - Urban, suburban, rural

- Project Team:

DCPI Goals

1. Develop **low-cost model** for delivering active transportation plan in low-resourced communities;

2. **Expand use and value** of SCAG's existing active transportation resources;

3. Ensure approach is **applicable in a variety of contexts**, recognizing the diversity of the SCAG region;

4. Align planning products with the requirements of the **California Active Transportation Program for funding**;

5. Go beyond the current state-of-practice to produce **data-driven and innovative planning solutions**;

6. Design for **long-term sustainability**; provide guidance and recommendations to support use of the Toolkit beyond the life of the project.

Toolkit Preparation

- National Scan of Best Practices

- Outreach + Equity Framework

- Expert Focus Group

- Data Analysis Tools
  - Includes public health assessment

= Preliminary Toolkit

Expert Focus Group

Data Analysis

The black X's show fatalities. If you zoom out, the X's get clustered in green dots.

Equity Framework

Health Assessment

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Toolkit Piloting Process

- Community Advisory Committees

- Partnerships with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)

- Engagement Activities
  - Interactive Web Map
  - Walk Audits
  - Art Installation
  - Project Website
  - Social Media Advertisements
  - Community Surveys
  - Virtual Town Hall
  - Curbside Displays

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Community Advisory Committee

Community Walk Audit

Art Installation - Halloween Festival

Toolkit Piloting Process - *Go Human*

- SCAG's community outreach + advertising campaign to reduce traffic collisions and encourage walking/biking

- Hosted 2 capacity-building trainings per community

- Planned community demonstration events

= Capacity Building + Public Input

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Go Human *Trainings*

*Anticipated* Go Human *Events*

Go Human *Trainings*

Anticipated Go Human *Events*

Toolkit Piloting Process - COVID-19

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- Cancelled Activities
  - Bicycle + Pedestrian Counts
  - *Go Human* Demonstration Events

- Transition to Virtual Engagement
  - Social Media Advertisements
  - Recommendations Survey
    [Online + Print]
  - Virtual Town Hall
  - Call-in Office Hours
  - Curbside Displays

- Paper / In-Person Activities
  - Support from CBOs

= Importance of Partnerships with CBOs

Surveys at Food, Clothing, and Diaper Distributions (CBO)

Surveys at Essential Businesses (CBO)

Bilingual Virtual Town Hall

Toolkit Piloting Process - Completion

- 7 completed Active Transportation Plans

- Roadmap for securing funding, implementing recommendations

- Built community support for walking and biking

- Allowed for continuous improvements to Toolkit
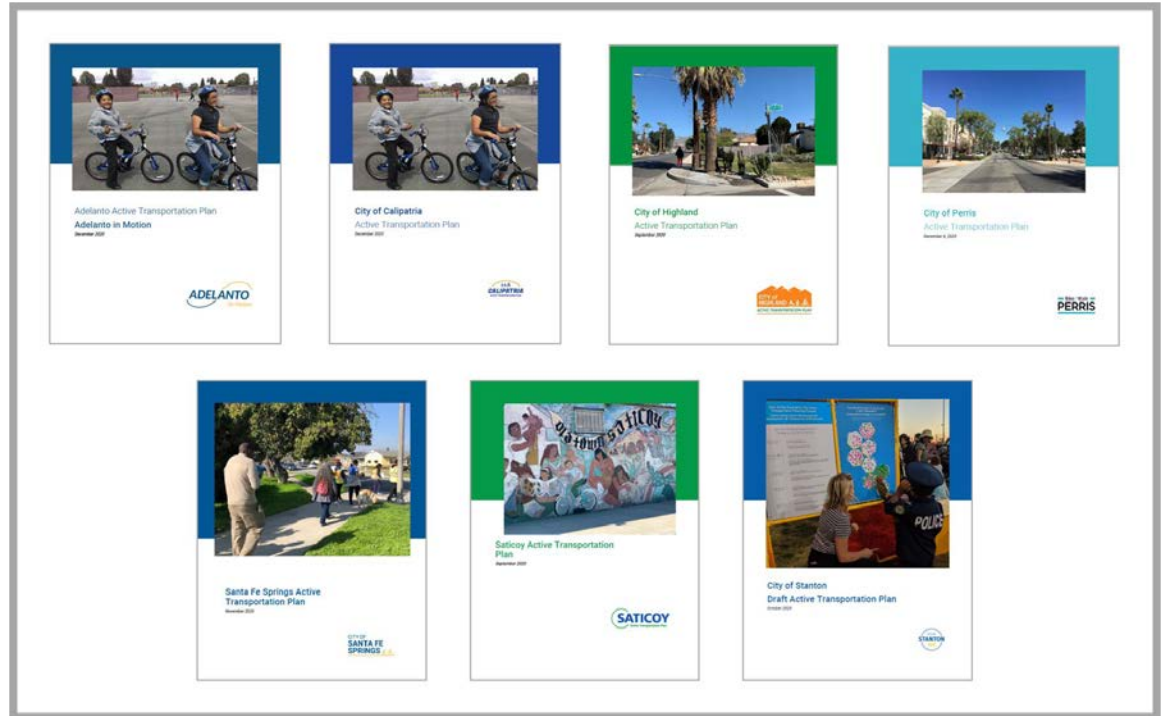
Key Lessons Learned

1. **There is a big appetite for AT improvements.** All 7 communities saw a strong desire for improvements to make walking and biking more comfortable, convenient, and safe.

2. **City staff are resource-constrained.** Even with Toolkit, cities may not have the resources to complete their Plans without additional support (especially mapping and network development).

3. **Successful community engagement approaches included partnerships with CBOs, social media advertisements, and going to the people**. Engagement needs to be tailored for each community and take a variety of approaches (i.e., high / low / no tech).

4. **Planning efforts can adjust to a pandemic** while still engaging vulnerable residents.

The Toolkit

Active Transportation Plan

TOOLKIT

Toolkit Final Components

Active Transportation Plan
TOOLKIT

1

- DCPI Background
- How-to Guide
- Planning Tips

MANUAL

Manual

Active Transportation Plan Toolkit User Guide

December 2020

Prepared by Alta Planning + Design for
the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)

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2
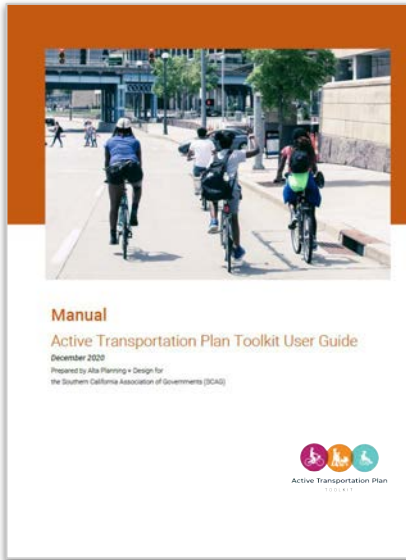
- Customizable Plan
- Spanish Executive Summary
- Template Tutorial

TEMPLATE

3
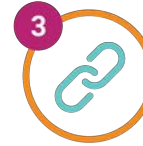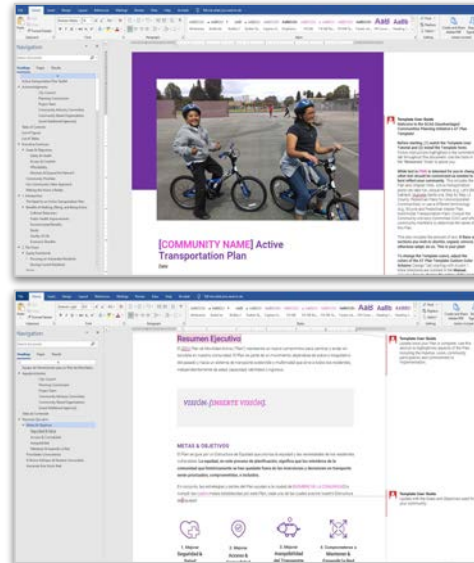
- Data Analysis, Outreach
- Graphics Library
- Recommendations
- Adoption, Implementation
- *+ more*

RESOURCES

Toolkit Final Components

1_Manual

2_Template

3_Resources

AT_Plan_Toolkit_Introduction
Length: 00:05:12

AT Plan Toolkit
AT_Plan_Toolkit_Introduction

0:00:06

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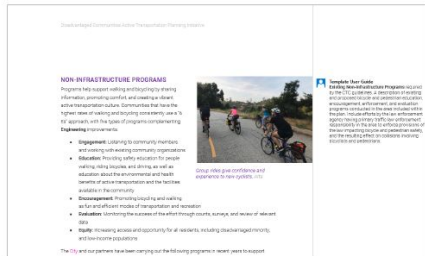
1. Manual

Active Transportation Plan
T O O L K I T

How to Use the Template

The Active Transportation Plan Template is a Microsoft Word document organized with all of the required elements of an AT Plan, and additional elements to enhance analysis, engagement, and corresponding recommendations. The Template provides the basic structure and content for completing an AT Plan, while the Resources help communities customize the content and fill in placeholder text. The Toolkit also includes a Spanish version of the Executive Summary which can be updated when the Plan is ready to share with the public. If languages other than Spanish and English are prevalent in your community, consider translating the Executive Summary to additional languages.

This section provides details on the key elements of the Template.

Items required by the CTC guidelines are called out in the Comments sidebar.

- Invite volunteers to help if needed, particularly with outreach events and collecting count data.

Determine whether consultant support is needed. Consulting firms can assist with all aspects of the planning and implementation process (see Table 2). If consulting assistance is desired, work with your procurement and contracting department to determine the best approach to hire a consultant.

Table 2. Consultant Services for Active Transportation Planning

Service	Pre-Plan	Plan Creation	Implementation
Visioning	✓	✓	
Outreach	✓	✓	✓
Data Analysis	✓	✓	✓
Mapping		✓	
Graphic Design	✓	✓	✓
Concept Design		✓	✓
Recommendations		✓	✓
Cost Estimates		✓	✓
Feasibility Assessments		✓	✓
Engineering		✓	✓
Programs	✓	✓	✓
Grant Writing	✓	✓	✓

3) GUIDE

Convene a **Community Advisory Committee (CAC)** to help guide your community throughout this planning process. CAC members should represent various sectors, groups, and stakeholders in order to be able to best articulate the many needs of the community, including:

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) members provide invaluable insights.

Adopting and Implementing the Plan

A completed AT Plan provides a crucial foundation for communities. Once the plan is completed, work must continue to implement the plan and ensure the vision set forth in the plan comes to fruition.

TAKE THE PLAN TO CITY COUNCIL

Bring the plan to the appropriate governing body (e.g., Planning Commission and City Council) for approval and adoption. Include a resolution of adoption in the public-facing document.

APPLY FOR FUNDING

Contact SCAG or the county's transportation authority and/or regional planning agency for grant writing assistance. Caltrans's Active Transportation Resource Center (ATRC) also provides resources, technical assistance, and training to transportation partners across California to increase opportunities for the success of active transportation projects.

Once funding has been secured, it is important to conduct additional outreach when implementing facilities at each stage of the process:

- Concept
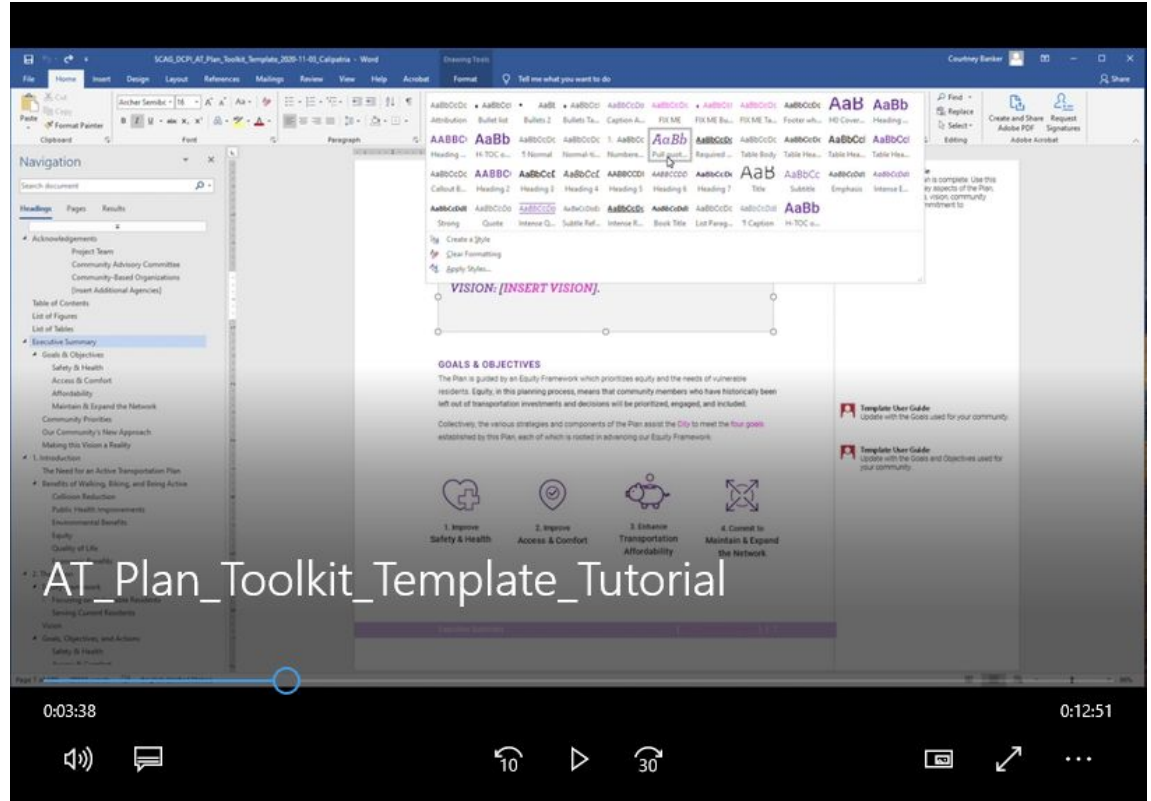- Design
- Construction

GOOD TO KNOW

Caltrans's Active Transportation Resource Center (ATRC) utilizes a combination of subject matter experts from state agencies, universities, and consultants to provide active transportation training, tools, and technical assistance that support the ATP. Contact the ATRC for grant writing assistance and more.

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2. Template

Step 1_Watch Template Tutorial

Step 2_Install Fonts

Step 3_Build Your Plan

Active Transportation Plan
T O O L K I T

2. Template

Step 1_Watch Template Tutorial

Step 2_Install Fonts

Step 3_Build Your Plan

3. Resources

Using the Automated Data Tool

Select a Place within the county and click "Submit"

3. Resources

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Active Transportation Program Grant Technical Assistance

Completed AT Plans

Data Analysis

DCPI Lessons Learned

Facility Design Guidelines

Graphics Library

Needs Assessment

Outreach

Plan Adoption

Recommendations

Word Tips and Tricks

Work Plan

Making Maps with the Outputs

Accessibility - BLTS
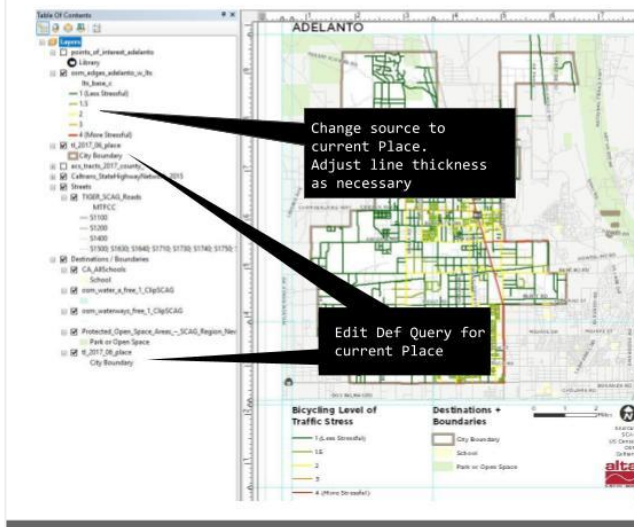
The filepath of the new source is within the "Accessibility Maps" folder

Then select the file that starts with "osm...": Accessibility Maps\YOUR_CITY\SHAPEFILE_EXPORTS\osm_edges_YOUR_CITY_w_lts.shp

To calculate the percentage of roadways within each category:

1. "Select by attribute" for BLTS of 1 (Field: "lts_base_c"). Calculate sum of roadway length using "Statistics" option on "Length" field.

2. Input the values into the Data Workbook. Repeat for BLTS 1.5 - 4.

3. Update the chart in the Template (right click on chart → Edit Data → Edit Data in Excel → Paste in values).

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3. Resources

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Active Transportation Program Grant Technical Assistance

Completed AT Plans

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Word Tips and Tricks

Work Plan

Using the Data Workbook

3. Resources

Active Transportation Program Grant Technical Assistance

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Word Tips and Tricks

Work Plan

Conducting the Health Assessment

Asthma & Particulate Matter 2.5

If no PM 2.5 appears in your community, turn on the by Quantiles layer to see PM 2.5 values.
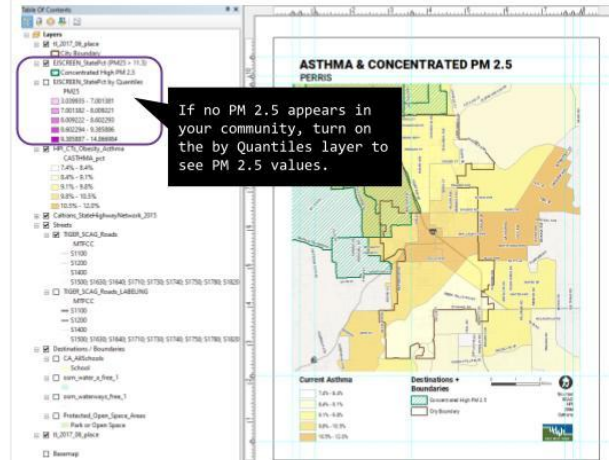
Update the queries and zoom to your community.

If no areas of Concentrated High PM 2.5 are shaded, turn on the **EJSCREEN_StatePCT by Quantiles** layer. Determine if areas in the community are just below the threshold (PM25 > 11.5). Adjust the definition query as appropriate, or if PM 2.5 is not of high concern in the community, disregard this map.

Adjust this query if appropriate.

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3. Resources

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Active Transportation Program Grant Technical Assistance
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Data Analysis
DCPI Lessons Learned
Facility Design Guidelines
Graphics Library
Needs Assessment
Outreach
Plan Adoption
Recommendations
Word Tips and Tricks
Work Plan

Sample Materials
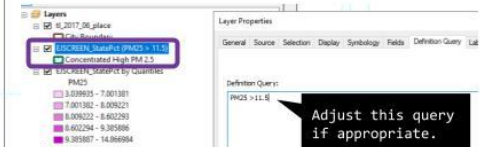AT_Plan_Toolkit_Engagement_Tracker
AT_Plan_Toolkit_Resources_Outreach_and_Equity_Framework
AT_Plan_Toolkit_Resources_Outreach_Toolkit

Using the Outreach Materials

3. Resources

Active Transportation Program Grant Technical Assistance
Completed AT Plans
Data Analysis
DCPI Lessons Learned
Facility Design Guidelines
Graphics Library
Needs Assessment
Outreach
Plan Adoption
Recommendations
Word Tips and Tricks
Work Plan

Sample City Council Materials
Sample Planning Commission Materials

Adopting + Implementing the Plan

alta

Crafting Your ATP Application

Tips from an ATP Reviewer

Prepared by: *Marc Caswell, Planning Associate*
MarcCaswell@altago.com
Alta Planning + Design
December 2020
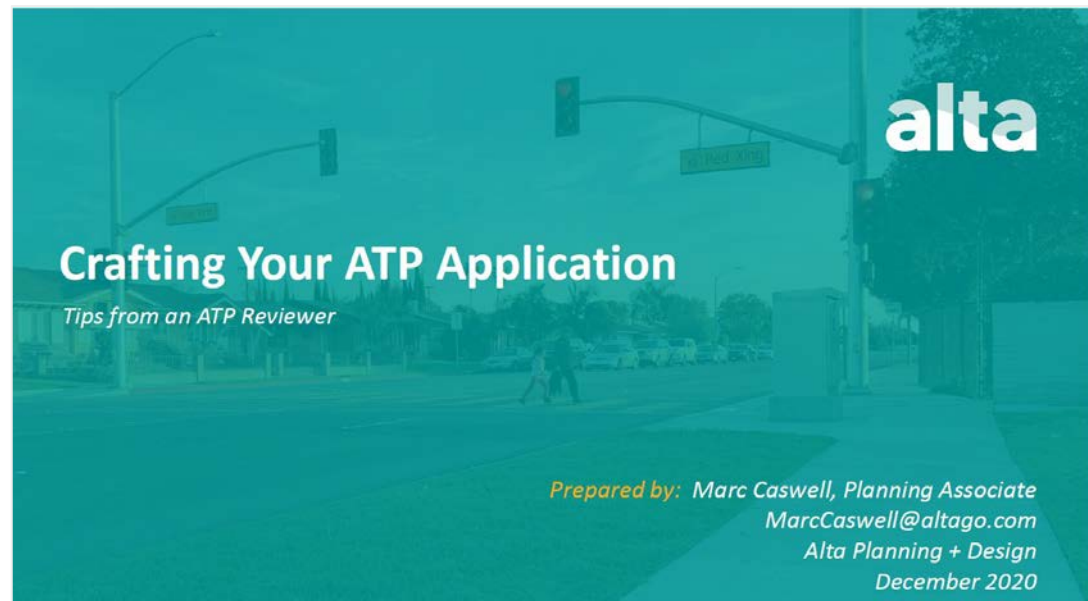
Toolkit Launch

- Coming Summer 2021

- Includes all materials for jurisdictions to develop their own active transportation plans

- Visit scag.ca.gov to learn more!

Active Transportation Plan
TOOLKIT

Engage

Excite

Implement

Partnering with Community-Based Organizations

Love 4 Life

Communication

- Project Team
- Marketing outlets
- Active communication with the community

Demographic

- Language preferences
- Communication preferences

Local Partnerships

- City
- Businesses
- Education system
- Local organizations

Outreach

- Social Media:
- Facebook, Instagram, Twitter
    - Polls
    - Posts
    - Stories
    - Local groups
- Email and Phone conversations

Community Engagement

- Families involvement
  - Parent Leadership
  - Youth Leadership
  - Love 4 Life Chapters
- Local events

Community Voice

- Community Feedback
- Residents were part of the process
- Building a sense of community

Bringing the Toolkit to Life

CITY OF
STANTON
1956

Stanton Active Transportation Plan

Stanton is a community where streets promote walking and biking in a **safe and convenient** atmosphere for **all ages and abilities**.

Safety & Health

This Plan will empower residents to live a more active lifestyle by providing a network of safe and comfortable walking routes and bikeways for everyone to enjoy.

Access & Comfort

This Plan will support increased access to neighborhood destinations such as grocery stores, libraries, schools, recreation centers, and transit stops. Pedestrian and bicycle facilities will be accessible and comfortable for people of all ages and abilities to use.

Affordability

This Plan will work to reduce the burden of transportation costs on households.

Maintain & Expand the Network

This Plan will help our community identify, develop, and maintain a complete and convenient bicycle and pedestrian network.
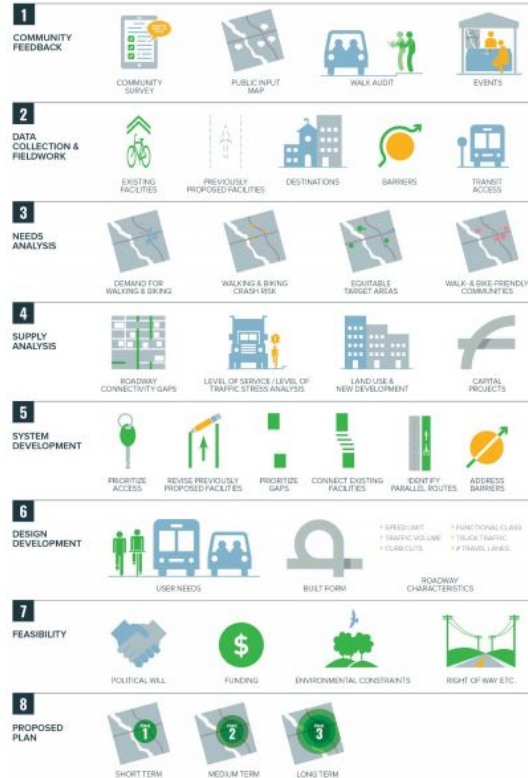
34

RECOMMENDATIONS

Development Process

- Community Feedback

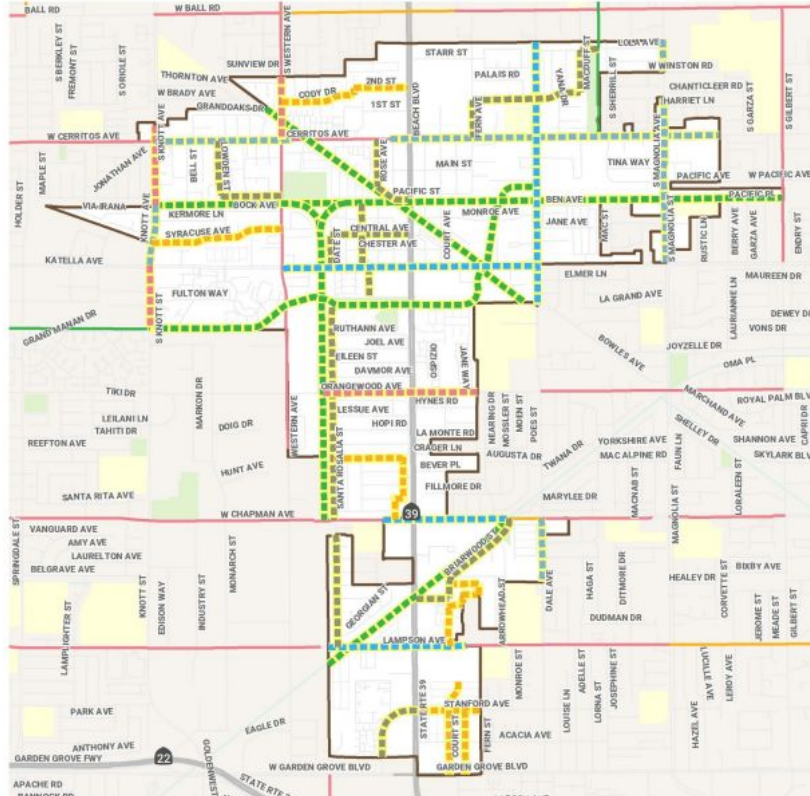| What We Heard	What We Propose
Our streets do not support safe walking and biking	**Make it Safe**
People drive too fast	**Make it Comfortable**
Facilities do not serve all users' needs	**Make it Accessible**

- Existing Conditions
- Previously Planned Facilities
- Project Feasibility + More

Biking Recommendations

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Recommended Bikeways

- Shared-Use Path (Class I)
- Bicycle Lane (Class II)
- Buffered Bike Lane (Class IIB)
- Bicycle Route (Class III)
- Bicycle Boulevard (Class IIIB)
- Separated Bikeway (Class IV)

Existing Bikeways

- Shared-Use Path (Class I)
- Bicycle Lane (Class II)
- Bicycle Route (Class III)

Destinations + Boundaries

- City Boundary
- School
- Park or Open Space

0   0.25   0.5 Miles

Biking Recommendations

CLASS I
Shared-Use Path

CLASS II
Bicycle Lane

CLASS IIB
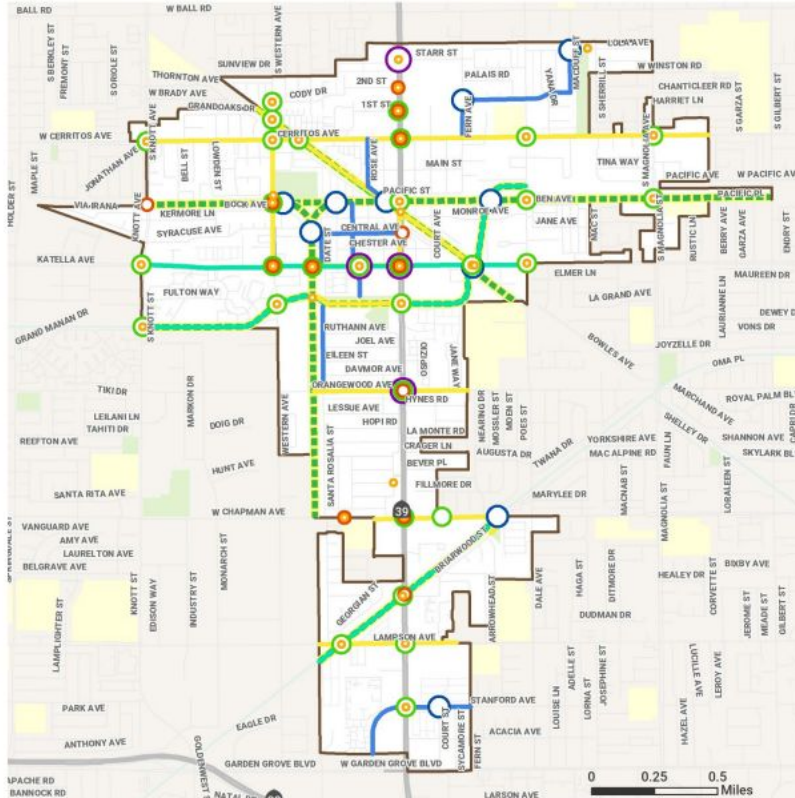**Buffered Bicycle Lane**

CLASS III
Bicycle Route

CLASS IIIB
Bicycle Boulevard

CLASS IV
Separated Bikeway

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Pedestrian Recommendations

Pedestrian Recommendations

Active Transportation Plan
T O O L K I T

Sidewalks & Paths

Crossing Facilities

Curb Treatments

Beacons & Signals

Traffic Calming

Pedestrian-scale Lighting

Challenges
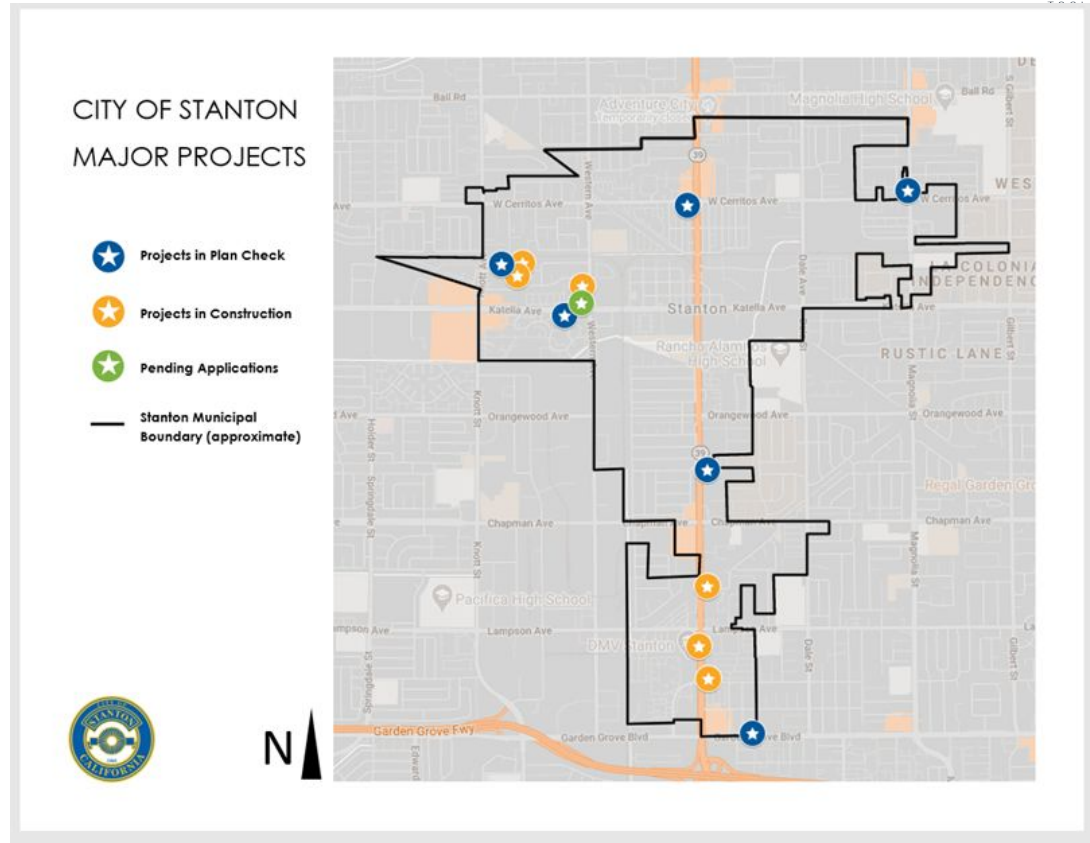
Opportunities

Opportunities

Next Steps

Livable Beach Boulevard Mobility Plan - 2013

Town Center Specific Plan
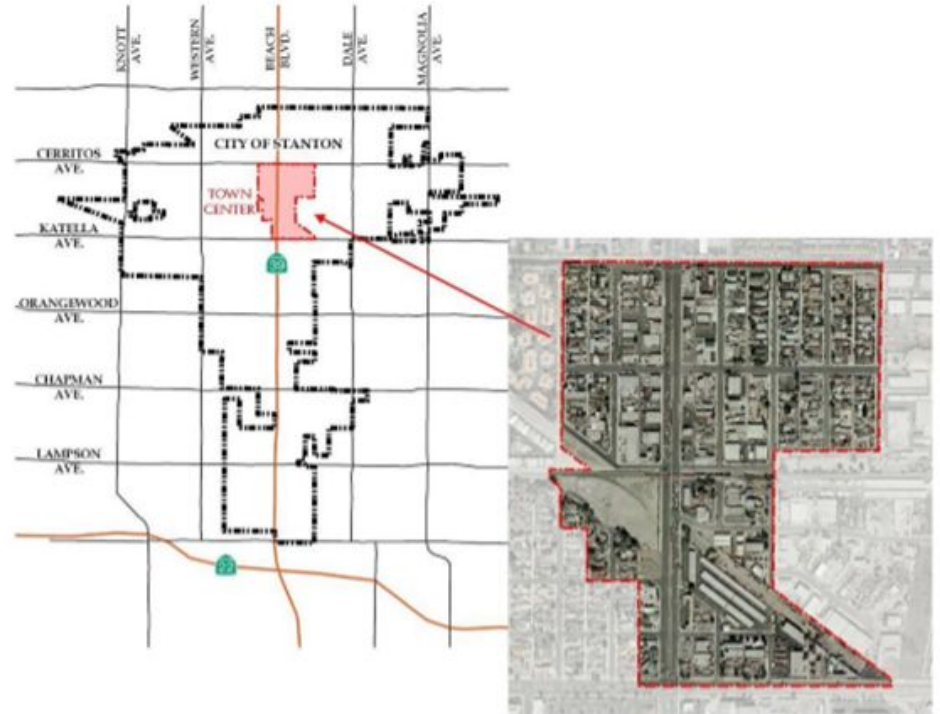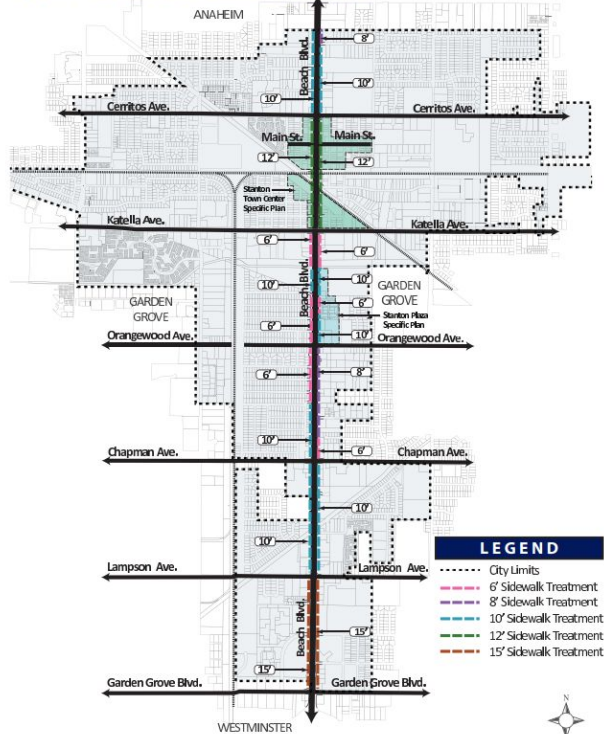
Questions?

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