

Sustainable Communities Strategies for the San Joaquin Valley

Making it easier to get around

Right now, when people want to go somewhere, they have little choice but to drive. That doesn't work well for everyone -- the youth, seniors, families that have only one car. We need a strategy that gives people more viable options.



Build healthy places to live

By building shops and jobs closer to where people live, and by making streets safer for walking and biking, we could create more walkable neighborhoods and reduce air pollution related to traffic. Cleaner air and more daily activity help us all be healthier, especially children!



Saving families money

Driving is expensive. Without other options, people have no choice but to pay whatever price they see on the gas pump. And if their car breaks down, they have to pay that major repair bill, or they're stuck. Having choices can save that money. Households that have the best public transportation access spend 39% less on transportation than other households, on average.



What is the Sustainable Communities Strategy?

- The Sustainable Communities Strategies and Regional Transportation Plans will determine how your tax dollars are spent.. For example, over 25 years, San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties together will spend around \$14 billion on transportation.
- Between now and December 2013, each of the Councils of Governments in the Valley will create a Sustainable Communities Strategy / Regional Transportation Plan. They will offer the public an opportunity to have input – and need to hear from you!
- A Sustainable Communities Strategy will include detail on where growth and development will occur, and how the region's transportation system can support that growth in a way that reduces air pollution.
- The Sustainable Communities Strategy was created by SB 375 – The Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act, designed to reduce greenhouse gas pollution. This fall, the California Air Resources Board set the San Joaquin's Valley's SB 375 greenhouse gas reduction goals as 5% by 2020 and 10% by 2035.
- Around the state and across the San Joaquin Valley, advocates are teaming up to make their voices heard. Diverse coalitions with expertise in health, housing, clean air, social equity, conservation, and transportation have come together to lend their voice.

What can we achieve?

- In Sacramento, their new regional plan will be their first ever to actually **reduce** per capita traffic congestion. It also provides better access by transit to jobs, medical services, and higher education, and emphasizes the need to ensure all communities, especially disadvantaged communities, benefit from the improvements.
- In Fresno County, advocates are using the process to draw attention to transportation and other daily needs in disadvantaged rural communities.
- A recently adopted plan in Southern California quadrupled the amount of money they're planning to spend over the next 20 years on sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes, and other amenities to make streets safe for families to walk and bike to their destination.
- Bay Area agencies made special grants available to help cities working to build walkable communities – but only if those cities meet state laws to plan housing for people of all incomes. The Bay Area plan will also reduce particulate air pollutants, with greater reductions in communities with sensitive populations and higher exposures.

***How can better transportation and city planning
make life better for those you serve?***