City Best Practices to Improve Transit Operations and Safety

Identify city policies and practices which facilitate and foster public transit to encourage cities to proactively work with their local transit provider to improve transit operations and safety.

WHAT IS THE NEED?

Many policies and infrastructure options that would improve transit operations and passenger safety are totally within the purview of cities, not transit agencies. This project would identify the city policies and practices which facilitate and foster public transit to encourage cities to proactively work with their local transit provider to improve transit operations and safety; this in turn would result in better transit service, increased transit ridership, less automobile dependency, and the environmental benefits that would follow.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

This initial task has three components that are essential for the remainder of the project. These are the identification of transit agencies, transit experts, and cities from whom the researchers can learn what is needed and what they can do to facilitate public transit.

The next task is to perform a Literature Review:

- Review the Transit Capacity and Quality of Service Manual and assess whether any of these measures are or could be within the purview of a city and not the transit agency.
- Review the findings of the Institute of Transportation Engineer - State of the Practice report on Transit and Traffic Impact Studies, (published February 2019) for ideas on both current good practices, and gaps in practice on the part of cities in coordinating with and considering transit in the area of land development impact analysis.
WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

The objectives of this project are to:

- **Promote standards and best practices:** Identify and promote innovative practices and standards for what constitutes a transit-friendly city policy environment.
- **Promote transit funding:** Influence decisions on how cities allocate their resources to address transit needs, both capital and operations as well as passenger access.
- **Motivate advocates:** Inspire action and involvement among city officials and staff as well as citizens who want to improve conditions for transit.
- **Offer strategies:** Guide progress by providing concrete steps and actions that communities can take to not hinder public transit.
- **Raise expectations:** Raise expectations as to what is involved in becoming transit-friendly community.
- **Recognize improvements:** The identification of best practices could be the basis for a future audit and certification program, like LEEDs and BFC. This would reward positive steps toward improvements; cities would be motivated to improve their award rating, make changes, and come back again for a new certification.
- **Inspire friendly competition:** Provide an opportunity for peer pressure and friendly competition among adjacent cities to inspire city officials to create transit-friendly policies.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

This research will assist in the better understanding of best practices within the purview of cities and local agencies, which will improve transit operations and safety.

The contents of this document reflect the views of the authors, who are responsible for the facts and accuracy of the data presented herein. The contents do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the California Department of Transportation, the State of California, or the Federal Highway Administration. This document does not constitute a standard, specification, or regulation. No part of this publication should be construed as an endorsement for a commercial product, manufacturer, contractor, or consultant. Any trade names or photos of commercial products appearing in this document are for clarity only.

© Copyright 2021 California Department of Transportation ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
WHAT IS THE PROGRESS TO DATE?

Resubmitted the revised deliverable for Task 2 “Literature Review Memo”. Wrote draft report documenting the study methodology and findings from each phase and made recommendations for future research. Prepared the revised list of City Best Practices to improve transit operations.