

Planning/Policy/ Programming

October 2025

Project Title: Governance of Multimodal Planning: Examining Transit Corridor Planning Strategies in California

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Governance of Multimodal Planning: Examining Transit Corridor Planning Strategies in California

This project will evaluate sub-regional corridor-scale multimodal planning processes in California that aim to improve accessibility and other sustainability-oriented objectives.

WHAT IS THE NEED?

Research has demonstrated that transit and active transportation use can be enhanced through coordinated planning of facilities and services on a corridor and/or travel network basis, especially when coordinated with land use strategies. With some new and ambitious corridor/mobility-hub planning efforts currently underway in California, now is a good time to evaluate what makes them succeed or fail. Although the potential benefits from such strategies have been shown to be substantial, corridor-plus-station area planning faces considerable challenges, many of which concern the challenges of institutional coordination. Yet scant research has examined governance challenges of multimodal planning in California.

This research project will address this topic through case study analysis of selected current and past sub-regional corridor planning efforts in California. Through public documents analysis and interviews with stakeholders, the project will examine and compare the selected planning processes in relation to stakeholder's goals, objectives, operational measures established, planning and analytical processes/procedures pursued, stakeholder interests and concerns, policies, programs. The project will identify best practices and obstacles and pitfalls for effective corridor planning and consider how the state government can support multimodal corridor planning.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

This project will evaluate sub-regional corridor-scale multimodal planning processes in California that aim to



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improve accessibility and mobility, along with other sustainability objectives such as reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and associated climate impacts, and improving safety, health, and quality of life.

Research has demonstrated that transit and active transport use can be enhanced through coordinated planning of facilities and services on a corridor and/or travel network basis, such as through signal prioritization for transit or introducing transit-only and bicycle lanes along key routes. To be most effective for mode-shifting and reducing VMT, corridor planning should also address land use and development in addition to transportation.

WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

Through case study research, this project will undertake public documents analysis and interviews with stakeholders for an identified sample of long-term transit corridor planning efforts that have been and/or are being conducted in California. The project will identify best practices and obstacles and pitfalls for effective planning and will consider how and when trade-offs among goals arise and how they are reconciled. It will consider how the state government can aid multimodal corridor planning, and draw broader implications and lessons learned for jurisdictions and efforts outside of California.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

This project will examine how corridor planning strategies have addressed the need for coordination of transit and paratransit service across providers both public and private. This is pertinent to Caltrans priority for examining models for coordinated statewide intercity bus networks based on interconnected regional networks. This project will address the within-region component of this research topic, and in the process will consider the questions that Caltrans raises about examining the roles that public and private partners might want to play, and what could incentivize them to take on new roles, in more coordinated networks.

WHAT IS THE PROGRESS TO DATE?

Project kick off meeting will be scheduled shortly after start date of 10/1/2025.

IMAGES



Image 1: Dutch Kills Green, Queens Plaza, Queens, NY.
Wallace Roberts Todd, Margie Ruddick Landscape,
Michael Singer Studio, Marpillero Pollak Architects / Sam Oberter