



## How Eight California Communities Improved Walkability in their Neighborhoods:



### WALKABLE COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Community	Objectives	Immediate Accomplishments
<b>San Jose</b> <i>Safe Routes to School (SR2S)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify solutions to alleviate safety and congestion concerns. Apply and extrapolate the results to encourage a county-wide collaborative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-Chairs of the Traffic Safe Communities Network (TSCN) – a countywide collaborative – have taken the recommendations to the San Jose City Council and Deputy Director of Planning and encouraged them to take action.</li> </ul>
<b>Berkeley</b> <i>Safe Routes to Transit (SR2T)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise awareness and gather input on issues related to walkability and design for the central business district, and influence and motivate policy makers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The workshop recommendations have been taken to the Transportation Commission and will be incorporated into the city's new Pedestrian Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Alameda</b> <i>SR2S</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create recommendations applicable to multiple school sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The workshop helped kick off a citywide Safe Routes to School campaign and further built political will and momentum, especially among school district representatives.</li> <li>Recommendations are being considered as part of the city's General Plan update and included in physical improvements funded through block grant money.</li> </ul>
<b>Eureka</b> <i>SR2S</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address the significant amount of vehicular traffic at a school site and find ways to alleviate the drop-off and pick-up zone.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prioritized recommendations will be considered for adoption by the City Council for incorporation into the city's capital/infrastructure improvements. The workshop also strengthened efforts by local public health officials to address walkability issues as part of their agenda.</li> </ul>

**California** is the first state in the nation to offer Walkable Community Workshops led by trained, in-state walkability experts. In 2002 the California Department of Transportation provided the California Center for Physical Activity with a grant to implement a Walkable Community Workshop project.

#### Project Objectives:

1. Create a cadre of California-based walkability experts, and
2. Implement a total of eight workshops throughout the state that addressed Safe Routes to School and Safe Routes to Transit, co-facilitated by the California Walkability Experts to ensure hands-on experience.



“The workshop brought together people with the ability to take action rather than the general community who can express their needs, but are often powerless to implement those actions.”

- City of Alameda





## Walkable Community

**Workshops** bring together stakeholders including elected officials, local government staff, transportation engineers, land use planners, business owners and citizens, to analyze their community's design and identify needed improvements. Communities have created successful traffic calming projects, designed pedestrian-friendly intersections, and launched safe routes to school campaigns. Most importantly, more people in these communities are walking, biking and riding public transit!



**“Marrying these two concepts (theory and practice) really helped me in applying an action plan to downtown.”**

*– City Manager, Lemon Grove*

**“This type of ‘hands-on’ workshop is an excellent opportunity to engage key stakeholders and non-traditional players such as students and local residents in the process.”**

*- East Los Angeles*

## WALKABLE COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS (CONT.)

Community	Objectives	Immediate Accomplishments
<b>East Los Angeles SR2T</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address pedestrian safety and transit access concerns stemming from a future light rail extension and close proximity to a major freeway. Wide streets and heavy commuter traffic created hazardous conditions for a primarily pedestrian and transit-dependent community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The workshop served as a great visioning process. The ideas generated are being incorporated into larger area plans associated with the light rail extension. Various funding sources are being pursued by different partners, and graduate students from the local college have been brought into the planning process.</li> </ul>
<b>Central Los Angeles SR2S</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Find alternative transportation options for a proposed high school in a congested area with a student body not allowed to drive to school.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ideas for a traffic circle, trees and beautification efforts, enhanced crossings, and signage are being incorporated into planning and construction processes, and various funding sources brought up during the workshop are being pursued.</li> </ul>
<b>Santa Monica SR2S and SR2T</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The goal was to jump-start efforts concerning pedestrian accessibility to schools and transit. Although very alert to walkability issues, the city had never hosted a community event such as the workshop.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ideas have been incorporated into the city's new circulation element. The workshop may generate new partners in support of pedestrian issues and walkability. The workshop fed into the development of a citywide 10,000 steps program.</li> </ul>
<b>Lemon Grove SR2T</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As part of a redevelopment plan for the area, the city was seeking assistance to ensure that a more walkable community approach around the community/civic core would be pursued.</li> <li>The goal was to help further educate the community and build support for pedestrian-friendly planning and design concepts. Traffic congestion and auto-dependence had been of major concern, and improving access to the San Diego trolley serving the town was a major objective.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All workshop recommendations are being incorporated into the city's redevelopment plan. The workshop helped identify various sidewalk and crosswalk solutions ranging from mid-block crossings to innovative sidewalk materials, landscaping and beautification efforts, and more. Funding is being pursued for several of these initiatives and a pilot project is underway using rubberized sidewalk material to address the issue of sidewalk disruption by street trees – an idea from the workshop.</li> </ul>

