
Press Release

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THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS ANNOUNCES AN OPEN CALL FOR DEMONSTRATION PROJECT PROPOSALS

Los Angeles – August 20, 2010 – The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) announced today it will partner with a select group of cities on innovative “demonstration” projects, via the Compass Blueprint program.

Demonstration projects benefit cities by providing consultant services as well as financial and technical resources to selected projects, free of charge. Demonstration projects are identified through an application process, with SCAG looking for creative sustainable solutions to local growth challenges. Application materials can be found on the Compass Blueprint Web page at www.compassblueprint.org.

Some past recipients of demonstration project services include the cities of Redlands and Calimesa, and the County of Ventura. The suite of planning and consultant services offered by Compass Blueprint include; economic modeling, visualization and urban design software and more; providing cities a quick yet comprehensive analysis of local projects to enhance the decision-making process.

With the recent passage of Senate Bill 375, this year’s program will focus on projects that seek to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. “We are looking for cities to think outside the box,” said Mark Butala, Manager of Comprehensive Planning and the Compass Blueprint Program at SCAG, “projects that use sustainable development to meet local needs, promote regional values and address our state’s mandates--in a way that makes sense for their community.”

Proposals are evaluated by SCAG staff and selected based on a project's ability to provide balanced transportation choices and a mixture of land uses and housing types consistent with Compass Blueprint principles of livability, mobility, prosperity and sustainability.

The Compass Blueprint program was founded in 2000 to promote sustainability through smart planning at the local level. The deadline for submitting a project for consideration is October 21, 2010.

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About SCAG

SCAG is the nation’s largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 190 cities and more than 19 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable and sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG’s regional efforts, please visit www.scag.ca.gov.