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**SCAG RECEIVES LARGEST STATE BLUEPRINT GRANT TO CONTINUE
REGIONAL TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

Los Angeles -The state of California has awarded the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) with Caltrans Year 2 Blueprint Planning grant funding of \$975,000 to continue comprehensive regional growth scenario planning. Complementing last year's \$1.2 million grant, the SCAG award was the largest amount provided to a single metropolitan planning organization. The grant will help SCAG to continue working with local communities to deal with future housing, congestion and air quality challenges driven by population growth, changing demographics, and economic and environmental concerns.

The new grant enables SCAG to continue involving municipalities throughout the region as Demonstration Projects in its Compass Blueprint Program. Compass is SCAG's ongoing growth visioning effort to foster consensus by regional leaders, local governments and stakeholders on a preferred growth scenario - or "blueprint" - for a 20-year planning horizon.

Since last year, SCAG has received proposals for several transit-oriented development and general plan update demonstration projects in cities across the region, such as El Centro, Los Angeles, Ontario and Ventura. Concurrently, SCAG has developed new tools for assessing transit-oriented development impact on growth, development capacity to density analysis and evaluation data for the 2007 Regional Transportation Plan. The Year Two Blueprint Grant will fund additional demonstration projects and will focus on measuring and evaluating the environmental impacts of Compass development. As with the first year, SCAG's new round of Compass Blueprint demonstration projects will stress a continued commitment to public engagement.

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"The state Blueprint grant will allow an increasing number of communities throughout Southern California to access the Compass Blueprint services and support being provided by SCAG," said Yvonne B. Burke, Los Angeles County Supervisor and SCAG President. "In addition to expanding the number of demonstration projects SCAG can accommodate, the Blueprint grant will increase SCAG's outreach to local communities about transit-oriented land use development."

SCAG received numerous applications from cities and subregions within the region to become 2% Strategy Demonstration Communities. Demonstration projects focus on developing strategies for infill development, urban enhancements to downtown districts, multi-family housing, mixed-used development, transit-oriented development, affordable housing and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure. Most demonstration projects will consist of sites that have the potential to make a significant impact on part of the community's physical form. Projects can help local governments explore new development techniques that find creative and beneficial ways to accommodate development. Types of projects could include portions of a general plan update, specific plans, feasibility studies, visioning workshops, redevelopment return on investment analysis and visualization techniques.

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