

What would happen if we create an abundance of affordable, wonderful places where *everyone* – especially low-income people, children, seniors, and people with disabilities – can safely and easily get where they need to go on public transportation, foot and bicycle?

Transportation is California's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions. Low-income families struggle with high costs, especially for transportation and housing. Opportunities for safe physical activity have been cut from people's lives, worsening a public health crisis. And California's population is rapidly growing and aging, leading to greater demands for transportation choices.

The passage of **SB 375** in 2008 creates an unprecedented opportunity to fundamentally change the paradigm of growth away from sprawl and towards walkable communities. The law's centerpiece is the development of a "Sustainable Communities Strategy" (SCS), a regional blueprint for transportation, housing and land use that is focused on reducing driving and associated greenhouse gas emissions.

TransForm believes the SCS is also a chance, if done right, to meet other key regional goals: providing housing for people of all incomes, improving health through more physical activity, reducing the cost of transportation, preserving open space and more.

TransForm is working to make this happen. We were founded 15 years ago as coalition of environmental, social equity, and community groups to help bring a smart growth vision to life in the Bay Area. But to truly create great regions we need state and federal policies to support public transit, walking, biking, and smart, equitable growth. Great regions also demand more and better local planning and community engagement.

To accelerate change and create links between these issues, geographies and key stakeholders, TransForm is now working throughout California on:

- innovative local models,
- smarter regional policy and plans, and
- state and federal transportation reform.

In 2011, our high-impact programs, community engagement and advocacy were recognized by organizations as diverse as the American Planning Association and Ashoka. In 2012, we are ready to take this work to a new level.



**"If doctors and other health experts designed our cities, they would look quite different than the sprawling communities we see today. Cities would provide more opportunities for walking and biking and better access to transit."
- Sonal R. Patel, M.D.**

Innovative Local Models



Local Funding Decisions, Major Implications

TransForm builds and supports diverse coalitions to shape critical new transportation funding measures.

In 2012: Alameda County is in the midst of developing a \$7.7 billion transportation plan for Measure B, a proposed sales tax measure. With community partners, we're advocating for a plan that reverses bus cuts and expands service, fixes BART, builds bike lanes and provides great transportation for seniors. Our San Jose office is working with Friends of Caltrain to forge a lasting funding solution so this critical rail system avoids devastating cuts and fare hikes.

Revolutionizing Public Transportation

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) – with dedicated lanes, state-of-the-art vehicles, fast boarding and less frequent stops – is revolutionizing transit service around the world at a fraction of the cost of rail.

In 2012: For the past five years, TransForm's organizers have engaged communities in shaping BRT proposals in the East Bay and South Bay to ensure they have safe bicycle and pedestrian access, consider the needs of seniors and are linked to community revitalization. We are ramping up our outreach, engaging more youth, and building merchant support to get these great plans through final approvals and fully funded by the end of 2012.

Safe Routes to Schools Alameda County Partnership

Launched and led by TransForm, the Partnership works to get thousands of kids walking and biking safely to school more often. We're bringing this model to urban, low-income schools to create a new generation of healthy kids.

In 2012: TransForm is developing a training manual to help California educators engage middle school youth as leaders, not just participants, in solving local transportation and safety issues, while expanding the program to high schools for the first time.

Creating Equitable, Sustainable Communities

The award-winning Great Communities Collaborative (GCC) is engaging people – especially low-income people and people of color – in land use planning near existing and future transit hubs in the Bay Area.

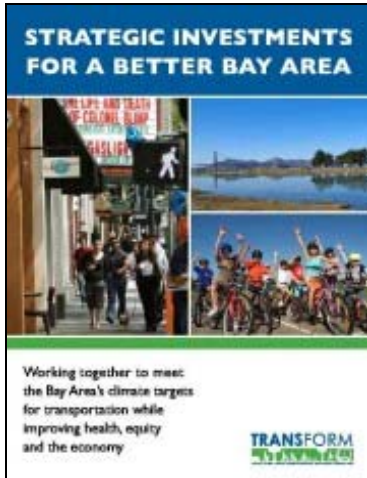
In 2012: TransForm is providing technical support to GCC partners across the region on parking and traffic reduction strategies that create healthier communities. We will continue to play a lead role in some station areas and ensure lessons learned are shared quickly across all of GCC's sites. GCC will transition in 2012 into a foundation-led initiative. TransForm, which coordinated GCC during its first five years, is serving on the GCC Advisory Board with the other founding members, and five new organizations.

GreenTRIP

GreenTRIP certifies residential and mixed-used developments that create a new model of accessibility and affordability – offering free transit passes and carshare memberships, reducing excessive parking and creating more affordable homes.

In 2012: TransForm will certify more proposed affordable housing near transit. We are also working to craft a statewide research agenda to assess the transportation benefits of affordable housing and trip reduction strategies and to develop a web interface so all stakeholders have access to this information.

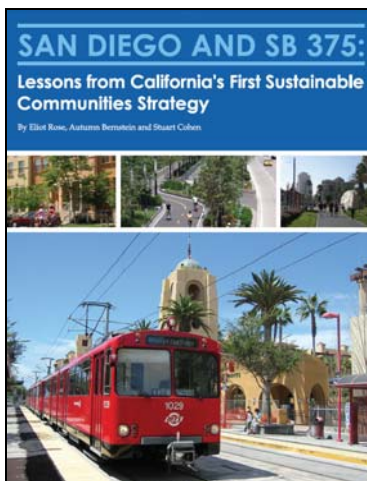
Smarter Regional Policy and Plans



Bay Area Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)

TransForm is working with a host of partners to make sure the Bay Area's SCS achieves at least a 15% reduction in per-capita CO2 emissions and the health, equity and environmental goals that the Bay Area's Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) set in 2011.

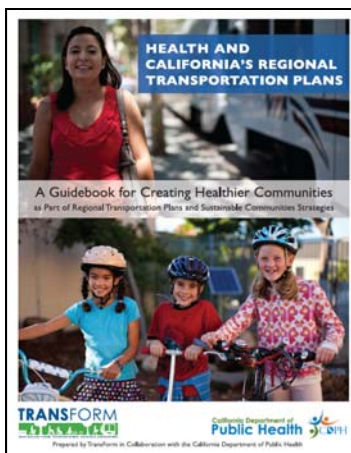
In 2012: TransForm is promoting priorities in our SCS Platform, *Strategic Investments for a Bay Area*. This includes prioritizing funds for public transit's \$25 billion shortfall, designing a grant program to support cities that provide equitable growth, and making sure MTC's proposal to allow solo drivers into the carpool lanes for a fee provides funding to expand transportation choices and mitigate impacts on low-income riders. We are also producing a report that outlines how MTC's assessment of major projects did not fully account for the potential to promote sprawl, and over-counted the value of faster driving.



Sustainable Communities Strategies Across CA

ClimatePlan is a coalition of environmental, social justice and public health organizations from across California working together to ensure that better land use and transportation choices are at the heart of how the State meets emission reduction goals. TransForm co-founded, fiscally sponsors and provides programmatic support for ClimatePlan.

In 2012: ClimatePlan is working closely with community organizations in Southern California and Sacramento as their Sustainable Communities Strategies are finalized this spring. ClimatePlan also continues to spearhead a network to of community organizations in all eight San Joaquin Valley counties, with a special focus on building very strong SCSes in Fresno and San Joaquin counties. Also, ClimatePlan continues to help advocates statewide share information and best practices with five working groups and quarterly statewide meetings. Lastly, ClimatePlan will continue to watchdog ARB's process of reviewing and approving SCSes.



Health and Regional Planning

Transportation has a tremendous impact on public health, and the growing involvement of the public health community is helping give voice to this critical connection.

In 2012: TransForm, in collaboration with the California Department of Public Health, released *Creating Healthy Regional Transportation Plans*. This report provides background, case studies and strategies to help public health professionals to effectively shape transportation plans. TransForm will use the report as the basis of a curriculum, workshops and technical assistance. In tandem with the Safe Routes to Schools National Partnership, we are launching a new **Network** in the Bay Area to provide health, environmental, equity and other advocates a common place to coordinate and ensure the region's transportation policy is infused with a concern for the health and well-being of all Bay Area communities.

State and Federal Transportation Reform



Smarter State Transportation Investments

Billions of dollars for California's public transportation has been redirected for other uses over the past decade. For almost three years, TransForm has worked from its Sacramento office to provide a consistent voice for the urgent need for sustainable and equitable state transportation policies.

In 2012: TransForm will host the first ever California-wide Transportation Choices Summit and Advocacy Day on May 1 and 2. Hundreds of people and organizations will unite to share information and discuss strategies for maximizing the impact of our movement with legislators in Sacramento and in communities all across California. And TransForm's ongoing Invest in Transit campaign now has over 40 organizations and agencies working together to raise new funds. A priority this year is to get a funding commitment for sustainable transportation and land use from the State's new Cap and Trade program.



Improving Collaboration on State Policy

The State is facing critical, cross-cutting growth issues such as the disbanding of redevelopment agencies, loss of affordable housing funds, and continued regulatory barriers to transit-oriented development issues. But many of our closest partners have not worked together on state policy.

In 2012: TransForm and ClimatePlan are bringing groups together to identify common ground, build relationships and identify solutions to cross-cutting problems such as developing new funding sources for transit-oriented development that includes affordable housing. ClimatePlan's state policy group will continue to take the lead in making sure the Air Resources Board's review of Sustainable Communities Strategies holds regions to a high standard and will support strong actions by the Strategic Growth Council.



A Better Federal Transportation Bill

When a new federal transportation bill is passed, we want it to break from its highways-focused past, provide resources for Sustainable Communities Strategies, and emulate California's performance-based approach.

In 2012: TransForm staff will continue coordinating the Transportation For America (T4A) campaign in Northern California, building support from an incredibly diverse range of leaders and groups, generating media coverage and bringing our message directly to Washington D.C. Even if a new bill is not passed in 2012, T4A's leadership will be critical to make sure extensions don't cut critical transit funding or compromise on policy.

Learn more at TransFormCA.org or contact staff.

You can also follow us at [Facebook.com/TransFormCA](https://www.facebook.com/TransFormCA) and on Twitter [@TransForm_Alert](https://twitter.com/TransForm_Alert).

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