

Planning and Policymaking for Transit-Oriented Development, Transit, and Active Transport in California Cities Webinar

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On March 26, University of California, Davis hosted a webinar for the National Center for Sustainable Transportation (NCST) on “Planning and Policymaking for Transit-Oriented Development, Transit, and Active Transport in California Cities.” The NCST is one of seven national centers funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation’s University Transportation Centers (UTC) Program, and the only national center focused on the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act research priority of preserving the environment. UC Davis leads the NCST consortium, with partner centers at CSU Long Beach, UC Riverside, USC, Georgia Tech, and the University of Vermont.

Caltrans funded a two-year research project through NCST to determine motivations, perceived obstacles, major policies, plans and programs adopted by California cities to support Transit Oriented Development (TOD), transit and Active Transport (AT). Policies that support TOD, transit, and AT are: AB 32, SB 32 framework, SB 375, California Climate Investments programs, and SB 743.

An online survey was conducted for city planning directors in the largest metro areas in Spring 2019. Sixty-six percent of respondent cities indicated they have adopted policies, programs, and plans to support TOD. Motivations for adopting TOD policies included the following as the most important: community revitalization, livability, and mobility/accessibility improvements. Perceived obstacles to adopting TOD policies included: lack of vacant land and difficulty of assembling land parcels as a major obstacle. Sixty-one percent of respondents stated market interest for TOD is at least moderately high. In terms of regulator strategies, up-zoning and mixed use zoning were used the most often in respondent cities. The third most common strategy was specific plans for TOD zones. There were a number of topics TOD policies/strategies that had been ranked very important but have not been adopted across the board. Case study analysis is underway, investigating city strategies from on-line documents. Patterns of policy making are complex, with few city characteristics serving as simple or consistent policies. A final report will be drafted, drawing from lessons from case studies and integrating quantitative and qualitative findings.

More information on the webinar and presentation slides can be found here:

<https://ncst.ucdavis.edu/events/webinar-planning-and-policymaking-transit-oriented-development-transit-and-active-transport>