

SOLANO CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

Adopted February 10, 2010

Current Activities:

1. Solano Napa Commuter Information (SNCI) Programs. STA, in partnership with the Napa County Transportation and Planning Agency (NCTPA), provides rideshare and vanpool support services and markets the Solano Express Intercity Transit bus service through the Solano-Napa Commuter Information Program. SNCI has developed a partnership with nearly 500 employers in the two counties, and works with them on rideshare coordination and marketing. Twenty-six new vanpools traveling to, through, or from Solano, Napa, Yolo or Sacramento counties were formed in 2008, with 8 vanpools coming to employers in Solano County. SNCI administers two vanpool incentives including a vanpool seat subsidy for new vans and back-up driver incentives. STA is the local sponsor for Bike to Work Day. Solano County residents and employees are offered an incentive to cover 60% of the cost of a new bicycle, up to \$100, for commuting to work. SNCI programs are funded in partnership with the BAAQMD and the YSAQMD.

STA conducts a yearly employer-based Commute Challenge to encourage employer-based commute alternatives. The 2009 campaign is just concluding. For 2008, a total of 39 employers participated; 545 employees participated, and 302 met the challenge of using a commute alternative for at least 30 days over a three-month period.

2. Safe Routes to School Program. STA has developed a comprehensive Safe Routes to School Plan, involving every school district in Solano County. The SR2S Plan addresses the 4Es of Engineering, Encouragement, Education and Enforcement. STA is now working with each district, and 29 individual schools, to implement Phase 1 SR2S programs such as Bike Rodeos and Walk-and-Roll events, as well as projects such as radar feedback signs and street crossing safety improvements.
3. Alternative Fuel Fleets. There are several Alternative Fuel programs in Solano County. The City of Vacaville has developed a national reputation for alternative fuels because of its electric and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicle incentive programs; this program is also open to residents of Dixon, Rio Vista and eastern Solano County. In addition, Vacaville has purchased and runs a fleet of CNG buses for local transit, and operates electric vehicles for many daily City tasks. STA has secured a Congressional earmark for purchase of additional clean fuel buses for Solano Express intercity transit routes.
4. STA Solano County T-PLUS Program. In partnership with MTC, STA's T-PLUS program provides technical and financial assistance to STA member agencies to plan and implement transportation and land use strategies that promote smart growth concepts. To date, the STA has provided \$125,000 in planning grants and approximately \$4.4 million in capital grants under the STA's Transportation for

Livable Communities (TLC) Program. Projects include development of a TLC Toolkit and TLC workshops with each city, development of an expanded traffic model to include transit and alternative modes, partners in planning, Development of the award-winning Jepson Parkway TLC Corridor Plan and the North Connector TLC Corridor Concept Plan, and active involvement in creation of the Planning for the Northern California Megaregion - Coordinating Transportation and Land Use in the I-80/Capitol Corridor Plan (also known as the I-80 Smart Growth Corridor plan).

5. Benicia Climate Action Plan. The City of Benicia has conducted a Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory, and adopted a comprehensive Climate Action Plan. While this is not an STA project, it is the first Climate Action Plan in the county, and does address several STA issues such as ridesharing. The STA will seek to assist Benicia in the implementation of their Climate Action Plan.

Planned Activities:

1. Solano Air Emission Inventory and Action Plan. Building on the success of the Benicia Climate Action Plan, STA and the County of Solano, in coordination with Solano City-County Coordinating Council, will conduct an inventory of air emissions (primarily GHG) for remaining 6 cities, and develop a transportation-sector emission reduction useable by all 7 cities and Solano County. The inventory and emission reduction plan is funded by the YSAQMD and MTC. STA will support Benicia's efforts to seek funds to implement transportation-related elements of their adopted Climate Action Plan. This project will be completed by the end of 2010.
2. Safe Routes to Transit Plan. STA will develop a countywide Safe Routes to Transit (SR2T) Plan, based upon intercity transit centers and designated Priority Development Areas. The SR2T Plan will include an inventory of traffic accidents, crimes and other safety issues around the selected centers and development of an action plan to reduce hazards and increase the attractiveness of transit as a commute choice. This ties in with the on-going Solano Rail Crossing Inventory and Improvement Plan, being developed in partnership with the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority. Development of the Safe Routes to Transit Plan will begin in 2010, and is expected to take 6 to 9 months.
3. Safe Routes to School Phase 2. Work with school districts to expand the number of schools with detailed transportation studies, so that at least 80 schools have complete walking audits and local maps by the end of Fiscal Year 2011. Implement additional safety programs and construct additional improvements. Continue to contract for program coordinator position to assist school districts in project delivery. STA will work with MTC and other local agencies to expand SR2S programs and share effective techniques.
4. Solano Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans. STA has developed, and is updating, master plans for bicycle and pedestrian transportation. The bicycle master plan includes implementation of MTC's regional bicycle plan. It provides cross-county connectivity, as well as access to inter-city transit centers and Priority Development Areas. The update will be completed by the end of Fiscal Year 2009-10.

5. Proposed State Route (SR) 12 Jameson Canyon Transit and TDM Corridor. The soon-to-be expanded SR 12 through Jameson Canyon will largely solve traffic bottlenecks for this corridor, but it will also open up the possibility of a low-delay transit corridor between Solano and Napa counties. Currently, there is no transit service on this portion of SR 12. Because of the history of cooperation through Solano-Nap Commuter Information and the moderate distances involved, this may be a prime opportunity to create a transit corridor involving new bus service between Fairfield and Napa, and to create a more vibrant Transportation Demand Management program including additional rideshare matching between Solano residences and Napa jobs. In addition, STA and NCTPA are developing a SR 12 Jameson Canyon trail plan to coordinate bicycle and pedestrian connections in this corridor.

6. Solano County Priority Development Areas Implementation. STA is actively working with the 5 Solano cities that have designated PDAs (1 in Benicia, 1 in Vallejo, 1 in Suisun City, 4 in Fairfield and 2 in Vacaville) to develop appropriate transportation and land use projects in these locations. STA is also working with the cities of Benicia and Vallejo to develop 2 new PDAs. The Vallejo project is especially important because it will help implement ideas from the I-80 Smart Growth Corridor plan.

7. AB 811 Implementation. AB 811 program allows property owners to opt in to a voluntary property tax assessment program that will use the proceeds to fund energy improvements, such as the installation of solar panels, to the individuals property. The City of Benicia is pursuing implementation of and AB 811 program, with initial funds possibly coming from air quality fines levied by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Solano County may also pursue an AB 811 program.