What is the Project?
Caltrans awarded the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and the City Heights Community Development Corporation (CHCDC) a grant to study and analyze mobility needs and develop practical solutions for overcoming mobility barriers for environmental justice (EJ) communities. The project focuses on the EJ community of City Heights in San Diego as a case study and is designed to be useful for EJ communities throughout California.

Why is it Important to Study Mobility in Environmental Justice Communities?
Many residents of EJ communities rely on public transit and/or active transportation to access jobs, education, and day-to-day activities. While getting around, residents of EJ communities may experience one or more barriers. Monthly income, native language, existing infrastructure, and available transportation services can all present mobility barriers. It is important to study and identify mobility barriers facing residents of EJ communities in order to begin to explore solutions that enhance their mobility.

What is the Goal of the Project?
The goal is to educate residents and stakeholders of EJ communities on mobility barriers and possible solutions. With this knowledge and skills developed through leadership training, residents of EJ communities can improve the livability and sustainability of their neighborhoods, contribute to urban diversity, and address their social, economic and environmental goals.

What are the Project’s Documents?
There are three project documents: Existing Conditions Report and Mobility Barriers Assessment, Toolkit, and Playbook. These documents are meant to be utilized together, but can also be referenced as stand-alone documents. This User’s Guide provides a brief overview of the type of information found in each document and how they relate to one another.

Existing Conditions Report and Mobility Barriers Assessment
This document provides an assessment of the existing conditions in City Heights and discusses socio-economic and cultural characteristics, access to transit, available transit services, and active transportation infrastructure in the community. The document uses demographic data, transit data, and testimonies from community members to identify mobility barriers.

Notes from community outreach and summaries of previous planning studies are included as an appendix. Possible solutions to the mobility barriers identified in this document are explored in the Toolkit.

Toolkit
The Toolkit builds upon the work presented in the Existing Conditions Report and Mobility Barriers Assessment and explores possible solutions that start to address mobility barriers affecting EJ communities. It is intended to be used by residents and stakeholders of any EJ community – not just City Heights – to learn more about the factors shaping their mobility choices. This includes:

- What it means to live in an EJ community
- Laws, regulations, and other guiding principles that affect transportation planning and services
- Mobility factors faced in EJ communities

Further, the Toolkit offers information on:

- Community engagement strategies
- EJ Principles
- Capital Improvements, such as sidewalks, repairs, bike lanes, and transit stop amenities
- Programs, such as bike programs, ridesharing, and carsharing
- Other possible mobility barrier solutions, such as mobility hubs and community safety strategies

The Toolkit is designed with readers in mind, information is presented in digestible, one-to-two page facsheets that incorporate symbols for ease of navigation. Additional information and photo glossaries of specific solutions are included in the Toolkit’s appendix.

Playbook
The Playbook is a one-page, user-friendly pamphlet that provides an introduction to suggested mobility solutions. It is intended to be a quick-reference document for engaged residents and stakeholders who are looking for a “how-to” guide to improving mobility in EJ communities, and a quick-reference guide for community members working to create change in EJ communities. The Playbook contains a subset of barriers and solutions found in the Existing Conditions Report and Mobility Barriers Assessment and Toolkit in a condensed and portable format. If a reader would like more information on a particular barrier or solution, they can refer to the Existing Conditions Report and Mobility Barriers Assessment and/or Toolkit.