

SMART GROWTH INCENTIVE PROGRAM FACT SHEET



Overview

The *TransNet* Smart Growth Incentive Program (SGIP) provides funding to the region's 18 cities and the County of San Diego for transportation-related infrastructure and planning projects that support smart growth and transit-oriented development in Smart Growth Opportunity Areas (SGOAs) as shown on the [Smart Growth Concept Map](#). Through a competitive process, the SGIP funds projects that catalyze compact, mixed-use development focused around public transit, and increase housing and transportation choices around the region.

Smart growth is a compact, efficient, livable, and environmentally sensitive urban development pattern. It focuses future growth and infill development close to jobs, services, and public facilities to maximize the use of existing infrastructure and preserve open space and natural resources.

The SGIP is funded by *TransNet*, the regional half-cent sales tax for transportation projects administered by SANDAG. The program was established as part of the *TransNet* Extension Ordinance, approved by San Diego County voters in 2004. An estimated \$280 million is expected to be available for the SGIP over the 40-year lifetime of *TransNet*.

Accomplishments

Since the program was launched in 2009, three funding cycles have helped create more walkable, bike-friendly, and transit-oriented communities. The SGIP has awarded more than \$30 million in *TransNet* funds throughout the San Diego region. A total of 43 projects have been awarded funding, including 23 capital grants and 20 planning

grants. Through the program, business districts and downtowns from Oceanside to Chula Vista have undergone major improvements. Many communities have constructed biking and walking paths, plazas, and made improvements to transit access. The program helps improve the overall health and quality of life of communities in the San Diego region.

Program Objectives

Projects funded by the SGIP serve as smart growth investment models that act as an asset to communities around the region. The program helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles travelled by encouraging people to walk, bike, or take transit. These projects support use of public transit and contribute to improved public health. Making improvements to the community and creating great places are key objectives of the program.

Program Requirements

Capital projects can be proposed in SGOAs, which meet certain housing and employment density targets and transit service levels. Planning projects such as specific plans can be proposed in any SGOA to support more compact, walkable, mixed-use communities.

For More Information

To see examples of completed projects and an interactive map of grant-funded projects that have been completed or are in progress, please visit KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/grants.

For additional grant information visit sandag.org/grants.

(Continued on reverse)



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Smart Growth Incentive Program Scoring Criteria:

Each grant proposal is evaluated by a panel comprised of SANDAG staff, members of non-applicant jurisdictions, and/or academics with expertise in a related field. Projects are evaluated using the criteria below.



Capital Grants	
Intensity of Planned Development in the Project's SGOA	Planned densities relative to Smart Growth Opportunity Area (SGOA) place type targets Expedited approval process
Existing and Entitled Land Development Around the Proposed Capital Project	Existing and entitled development density within ¼ mile radius of project site New and mix of uses within ¼ mile of project site
New Affordable Housing Development	Low to very low income affordable housing units
Transportation Characteristics	Project proximity to transit and bike facilities and walkability Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies
Community Design Features	Urban design characteristics and community context
Quality of Proposed Capital Improvement Project	Supports transportation choices: transit, biking, and walking Community enhancement and place-making Incorporates sustainability and universal design principles
Project Readiness	Completion of major milestones Evidence of local commitment
Cost Effectiveness	Ratio of grant request to project score
Matching Funds	Additional funds or in-kind services to be used in addition to grant award
Regional Housing Needs Assessment	SANDAG Board Policy No. 033

Planning Grants	
Relationship to Regional Transit	Existing, programmed, or planned transit service
Smart Growth Development Potential	Opportunities to develop smart growth plans and projects in project area at or above target densities for SGOA place type
Proposed Project Goals and Objectives	Project objectives support smart growth development Plan would result in development that increases transportation and housing choices
Method to Accomplish Project Objectives	Ability of planning project to accomplish stated objectives Scope of work facilitates objectives and includes public outreach
Implementation	Project readiness Project will result in specific implementation actions
Evidence of Local Commitment/Community Support	Demonstrated commitment to implement smart growth Community engagement Broad and meaningful community support
Matching Funds	Additional funds or in-kind services to be used in addition to grant award
Regional Housing Needs Assessment	SANDAG Board Policy No. 033