

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 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, four funding cycles have helped create more walkable, bike-friendly, and transit-oriented communities. The SGIP has awarded more than \$55 million in *TransNet* funds throughout the San Diego region. A total of 67 projects have been awarded funding,

with approximately 80 percent of the funds spent on capital grants and the remaining 20 percent allocated toward planning grants. Through the program, downtowns and business districts from Oceanside to Chula Vista have undergone major improvements. Many communities have enhanced downtown streetscapes, built biking and walking paths, created plazas, enhanced pedestrian crossings, and made improvements to transit stations. The program helps improve the health and quality of life of local communities in the San Diego region and supports implementation of local climate action plans.

Program Objectives

Key objectives of the program include creating great places, making improvements to the community, and providing incentives to compact mixed-use development in Smart Growth Opportunity Areas. Projects funded by the SGIP serve as catalysts to additional smart growth investment models that act as an asset to communities around the region. The program also helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled by encouraging people to walk, bike, or take transit.

Program Requirements

Capital projects can be proposed in Smart Growth Opportunity Areas that meet certain minimum housing and employment density targets and transit service levels. Planning projects such as specific plans can be proposed in any Smart Growth Opportunity Area to support more compact, walkable, mixed-use communities.

(Continued on reverse)



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Smart Growth Incentive Program Scoring Criteria:

Grant proposals are evaluated using the criteria below.



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.

Capital Grants

Intensity of Planned Development in the Project's Smart Growth Opportunity Area	Planned densities relative to Smart Growth Opportunity Area 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 uses 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 and advanced technologies
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 Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
Project Readiness	Completion of major milestones, such as environmental clearance, right-of-way acquisition, final design Evidence of local commitment
Efficient Use of Program Funds	Efficient use of funds based on dollar amount requested
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
Potential for Smart Growth Development and Advanced Technologies	Opportunities to develop smart growth plans and projects in project area at or above place target densities Opportunities to advance mobility hubs and/or leverage advanced technologies that encourage multi-modal travel options
Proposed Project Goals and Objectives and Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions	Project objectives support smart growth development Jurisdiction has adopted a Climate Action Plan and a Complete Streets Policy Proposed planning project reduces greenhouse gas emissions
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