

BORDER HEALTH EQUITY TRANSPORTATION STUDY: A CASE STUDY OF THE SAN YSIDRO COMMUNITY FACT SHEET



Project Purpose and Background

In February 2015, SANDAG completed a one-year study on how the built environment – in particular transportation policies, plans, and projects – affects public health in the San Ysidro community near the San Diego-Tijuana border. The Border Health Equity Transportation Study found that health problems, such as asthma, heart disease, and injury collisions, were related to environmental factors, such as air quality, traffic congestion, and access to parks, bike paths, and other amenities. Made possible by a Caltrans Environmental Justice Planning Grant and matching funds from SANDAG, the study serves as a model planning and health assessment tool for other cities, communities, and border regions. It contributes to the growing body of research on the relationships between the built environment and public health.

Project Approach

The study focused on five main tasks: assessing existing conditions, community outreach, analyzing the potential impact of project recommendations, developing

a monitoring and evaluation tool to track environmental and health indicators over time, and enabling residents to advocate for improvements through a community toolbox.



Public Engagement

SANDAG, in partnership with the community-based organization Casa Familiar in San Ysidro, hosted three public workshops to solicit input from residents. Workshop participants helped identify the highest priority health and mobility/built environment concerns in the community, and prioritize the project recommendations that can best address community health issues. At the final workshop, community members were provided with resources to advocate for change in their community.

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Analysis #1: Mobility/Built Environment Factors

Compared mobility/built environment factors at the census block group level for San Ysidro and the City of San Diego

Factors Analyzed

Transportation Systems
Physical Activity Resources
Traffic-Related Safety
Social Support Amenities
Food Environments
Crime Rates
Demographics

Analysis #2: Health Outcomes

Compared health outcome data by sub-regional area (SRA) for the South Bay SRA and the County of San Diego

Health Outcomes Analyzed

Pedestrian Injury
Cyclist Injury
Motor Vehicle Injury
Psychological Disorder
Substance Abuse
Asthma
CHD
Cancer
Diabetes
COPD
Stroke

Analysis #3: Partial Correlations Analysis

Assesses the significance, direction and strength of the relationship between mobility/built environment factors and health outcomes

Recommendation	Potential Health Outcomes Influenced by Recommendations										
	Asthma	COPD	Coronary Heart Disease	Crime Injury	Cydist Injury	Diabetes	Motor Vehicle Injury	Pedestrian Injury	Psychological Disorder	Stroke	Substance Abuse
Landscaped active transportation corridor	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Class II bike lane on Otay Mesa Road	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Class III bike route on W. Park Avenue	✓		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
10-acre park site east of Beyer Elementary School	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Traffic signal at I-5 NB ramps & Via de San Ysidro	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Seaward Avenue sidewalk widening and lighting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Calle Primera sidewalk, ADA ramps, and lighting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cypress Drive Trolley entrance gateway	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Beyer Trolley Station pedestrian improvements	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Class I bike facility along SR 905 corridor	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Beyer Elementary School crosswalk enhancement	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Class I or enhanced Class II bike facility connecting to Bayshore Bikeway	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sycamore Road pedestrian scale lighting	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Comprehensive community wayfinding program	✓		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Air quality monitoring program	✓		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Identify potential funding mechanisms	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Results and Recommendations

The partial correlations analysis results were used to identify existing planning projects with the most potential to improve community health. Likely health impacts that could result from implementing the recommended projects were then identified. Taking into account community and stakeholder input, a final set of sixteen recommendations were developed. The recommendations are displayed in the table above, along with the potential health outcomes that will be influenced.

For More Information

A full copy of the report is posted at sandag.org/BorderHealthEquityStudy, along with links to community resources. On this project web page, an interactive story map provides detailed site locations and descriptions of the final study recommendations.

For additional project information and updates, contact SANDAG Senior Regional Planner Dan Gallagher at dan.gallagher@sandag.org or SANDAG Regional Planner Sarah Strand at sarah.strand@sandag.org.



This graphic from "The Hidden Health Costs of Transportation," a report by Urban Design 4 Health, Inc. and the American Health Association, shows how transportation investments, land use patterns, and travel behavior all play a role in affecting the health of a community.