



# Highways to Boulevards Regional Study CBO Introduction Meeting

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Meeting #1

May 30, 2024

[WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV](http://WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV)



**WELCOME!**

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**Welcome to the introductory meeting for the  
SCAG Highways to Boulevards Regional Study**



# WELCOME + INTRODUCTION

## Part 1

# The Project Team



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**TECHNICAL TEAM**  
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# Agenda

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- Part 1: Welcome + Introduction (5 min)
- Part 2: Project Overview (5 min)
- Part 3: CBO-led Engagement (20 min)
- Part 4: Discussion (25 min)
- Part 5: Next Steps (5 min)

## Engaging today

Click on the following icons in your menu bar. Additional windows will appear with a list of participants and chat.

- Chat with other participants
- “Raise Your Hand”



- See names of other participants

- Mute or unmute yourself

# Introduce yourself!

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In the Zoom chat, please:

- Add your name, organization, and position to the chat

# Today's Goals



Share an overview of the Highways to Boulevards Regional Study



Discuss an opportunity to be involved in the engagement process



Discuss experiences related environmental justice, transportation, and sustainability

# Invited to today's meeting

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- Active SGV
- Alliance for Community Transit
- Antelope Valley Partners for Health
- Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement
- Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ)
- Central City Neighborhood Partners (CCNP)
- Charitable Ventures
- Community Action Partnership OC (CAPOC)
- Comite Civico del Valle
- Community Coalition
- Day One
- East LA Community Corporation
- East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
- El Sol Neighborhood Education Center
- Happy City Coalition
- House Farm Workers
- Imperial Valley Equity and Justice
- Kennedy Commission
- Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance
- Koreatown Youth and Community Center
- LA Neighborhood Land Trust
- Latino Health Access
- Long Beach Forward
- Long Beach Gray Panthers
- Los Angeles Black Work Center
- Los Amigos de la Comunidad
- Nyeland Promise
- Pacoima Beautiful People for Mobility Justice
- Public Matters
- Santa Ana Active Streets
- Southern California Resource Services for Independent Living
- Strategic Actions for a Just Economy (SAJE)
- The People's Collective for Environmental Justice
- Youth Leadership Institute



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## Part 2

# Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)

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SCAG is the nation's largest MPO, **encompassing six counties and 191 cities, and functions as the home for 19 million residents.**

SCAG supports and guides local governments and agencies to address regional transportation and land use challenges **to create a more healthy, prosperous, accessible, and connected region for a more resilient and equitable future.**

# Defining the Project

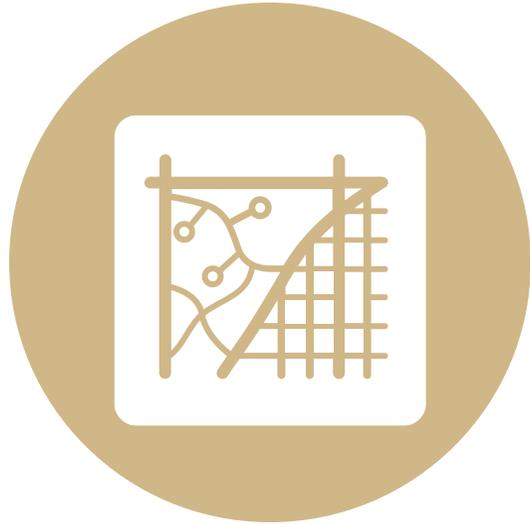
## Highways to Boulevards Regional Study

Aims to identify areas to remove, retrofit, or mitigate the negative impacts of highways and railways through highway to boulevard conversions, freeway caps, and railroad conversions.



## SCAG's Role on this Project

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**Identify projects eligible**  
for the reconnecting  
communities program  
funding



**Foster collaboration**  
between agencies and  
community partners



**Provide information** for  
local agencies applying  
to the Reconnecting  
Communities program

# Project Goals



**Identify locations for conversion and mitigation**



**Develop methodology to identify potential conversions**



**Position the region for federal funding & implementation**



**Reknit communities**



**Lift up Priority Equity Communities**



**Preserve and create safer & healthier communities**

# Project Timeline

Review Existing Plans, Policies, and Data

CBO-led Engagement

Project Identification

Project Prioritization Framework

Design Concepts



# Review of State Policies, Programs, and Plans

- Caltrans 2020-2024 Strategic Plan
- Caltrans Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevards Pilot Program
- Caltrans Transportation Analysis Framework
- Caltrans Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plans (Districts 7, 8, 11, and 12)
- California Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure
- California Transportation Assessment Report
- Caltrans Freeway Cap Best Practices Guide
- Z – Preparation for Relinquishment Approval Report
- Goods Movement Technical Report
- Caltrans Project Development Procedures Manual Appendix
- Towards an Active California
- Caltrans Active Transportation (CAT) Plan District 7
- Caltrans Active Transportation (CAT) Plan District 8
- Caltrans Active Transportation (CAT) Plan District 11
- Caltrans Active Transportation (CAT) Plan District 12
- Inter-Regional Transportation Strategic Plan
- State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP)

# Review of Local Plans

## Imperial County

- Our Imperial Valley, Our Future, Our Growth Long Range Transportation Plan
- Imperial CTC

## Los Angeles County

- Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro) Vision 2028 Plan
- LA Metro Our Next LA Long Range Transportation Plan

## Orange County

- Beach Boulevard Corridor Study
- Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Direction 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan
- OCTA State Route 91 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan
- South Orange County Multimodal Transportation Study

## San Bernardino County

- Active San Bernardino
- Inland Empire Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan
- San Bernardino Countywide Transportation Plan (Update)

## Riverside County

- Riverside County Long Range Transportation Study
- Inland Empire Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan

## Ventura County

- Ventura County's Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- Ventura County Freight Corridors Study
- VCTC US 101 Communities Connected Multimodal Corridor Study

FEDERAL

# Reconnecting Communities Program (RCP)

## WHAT IS IT?

RCP was created by the USDOT to restore community connectivity by **removing, retrofitting, or mitigating highways or other transportation facilities** that create barriers to community connectivity. \$1 billion in grant funding will be awarded from FY22-26.

FHWA RCP Program Fact Sheet

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# Reconnecting Communities Program (RCP)

Fiscal Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	5-Year Total
Planning & Technical Assistance	\$50M	\$50M	\$50M	\$50M	\$50M	\$250M
Capital Construction	\$145M	\$148M	\$150M	\$152M	\$155M	\$750M
Total Authorized Amount	\$195M	\$198M	\$200M	\$202M	\$205M	\$1B

Source: USDOT

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# Reconnecting Communities Program (RCP)

## WHAT ARE POSSIBLE PROJECTS?

Highway  
Caps



Klyde Warren Park  
(Dallas, TX)

Highways  
to  
Boulevards



Mandela Parkway  
(Oakland, CA)

Rails to  
Trails



Atlanta Beltline  
(Atlanta, GA)

... and more! Communities can apply for **planning** and **construction** grants to pursue these types of projects.

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# Reconnecting Communities Program (RCP)

## WHAT ARE POSSIBLE PROJECTS?

**Complete  
Streets**



Prospect Park  
(Brooklyn, CA)

**Bus Rapid  
Transit**



Van Ness BRT  
(San Francisco, CA)

**Pedestrian  
Overpass**



41<sup>st</sup> Street Bridge  
(Chicago, IL)

... and more! Communities can apply for **planning** and **construction** grants to pursue these types of projects.

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# Reconnecting Communities Program (RCP)

## 5 FY22 CALIFORNIA AWARDEES

### Planning

- **Oakland:** Vision 980 Study Phase 2 Feasibility Study (\$680k)
- **San Jose:** Monterey Road Highway to Grand Boulevard Design Study (\$2M)
- **Fresno:** Parkway Drive at State Route 99 Pedestrian Bridge
- **\*Pasadena:** SR-710 Northern Stub Re-Envisioning Project (\$2M)

### Construction

- **\*Long Beach:** Shoreline Drive Gateway (\$30M)

## 16 FY23 CALIFORNIA AWARDEES

### Planning

- **Greenfield:** Greenfield Reconnecting Everyone Across Town (\$794k)
- **\*Long Beach:** Reconnecting North Long Beach – Hamilton Loop Project (\$1.2M)
- **\*Los Angeles:** Reconnecting MacArthur Park (\$2M)
- **\*Montclair:** San Antonio Creek Trail Crossings Design (\$750k)
- **Watsonville:** Strengthening Watsonville Neighborhoods: Feasibility Study for Equitable, Just, Safe, and Prosperous Future for All (\$2.4M)

\*Project is located in the SCAG region

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# Reconnecting Communities Program (RCP)

## 16 FY23 CALIFORNIA AWARDEES (CONTINUED)

### Planning (Continued)

- **\*Los Angeles County:** Reconnecting East Los Angeles: 60 Green Bridge for Belvedere Park (\$800k)
- **\*Friends of the Hollywood Cap Park:** Healing Hollywood (\$3.6M)
- **Mundo Gardens:** The National City/Southeast San Diego Greenspace Corridor Project (\$2M)
- **San Diego Association of Governments:** Mend the Gap: Reuniting Barrio Logan through Freeway Lid Parks (\$2M)

### Construction

- **Alameda County Transportation Commission:** The East Bay Greenway Multimodal Project: Lake Merritt to Bayfair (\$30M)

## Construction (Continued)

- **San Rafael:** Rafael Meadows Safe Crossin Pathway Project (\$1.9M)
- **\*LA Metro:** I-710 Humphreys Avenue Crossing: A Pedestrian and Bicycle Crossing to Bridge the 710 Divide in East LA (\$9.9M)
- **\*Port of Los Angeles:** Rail Mainline/Wilmington Community and Waterfront Pedestrian Grade Separation Bridge (\$5M)
- **SANDAG:** Harbor Drive 2.0 Port Access Improvements – Enhancing Community Mobility and Freight in San Diego’s Working Waterfront (\$11M)

## Regional Partnerships

- **\*Los Angeles County:** Removing Barriers and Creating Legacy – A Multimodal Approach for Los Angeles County (\$139M)
- **SACOG:** SACOG Green Means Go: Green Zone Access and Equity Regional Planning Project (\$22.5M)

CASE STUDIES

# How have CBOs been involved?



## GRASSROOTS INITIATION

- Identifying harmful barriers
- Opposing new highway construction
- Developing a project vision
- Filing lawsuits



## FACILITATING ENGAGEMENT

- Hosting engagement activities
- Building community consensus for a preferred alternative



## ADVOCACY

- Campaigns
- Speaking with elected officials
- Ballot propositions
- Advocating for supporting policies



## GRANT LEADERSHIP

- Eligible to apply for federal RCP funding
- Leading teams of local partners in grant applications

CASE STUDIES

# Mandela Parkway

OAKLAND, CA



The double-deck Cypress Street structure on the Eastshore Freeway in Oakland. The southbound off-ramp to 14th Street is at the lower left.

## What is it?

Double decker  
freeway



At-grade  
boulevard

Cypress Street Viaduct (part of I-880) was replaced by Mandela Parkway with a wide landscaped median and path

## How were CBOs involved?

- Community advocates organized to oppose a proposal to rebuild the freeway through the public comment period on the draft environmental impact statement
- Filed a discrimination suit under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which included Mandela Parkway as a mitigation measure in the agreement

CASE STUDIES

# Octavia Boulevard

SAN FRANCISCO, CA



## What is it?

Elevated  
freeway



At-grade  
boulevard

Terminal spur of Central Freeway (US 101) was reconstructed as an at-grade boulevard and reconnected street grid

## How were CBOs involved?

- Hayes Valley neighbors campaigned to remove the freeway, with a campaign that received more than 18,000 signatures to become a ballot proposition
- Participation in the Market-Octavia Neighborhood Plan process, including development form, affordable housing, and anti-displacement measures

CASE STUDIES

# Atlanta BeltLine

Atlanta, GA



## What is it?

Railroad  
Corridor



Trail + future  
transit

Loop of former railroads converted to trails and linear parks, with plans to add parallel light rail along the corridor

## How were CBOs involved?

- Consulted with City Council as initial concept was explored
- Commissioned conceptual plan
- Participation in subarea planning processes
- Organizing community events
- Ongoing advocacy to influence upcoming phases and supporting policies, like affordable housing

CASE STUDIES

# FY23 RCN CBO Grant Applicants

Nonprofit organizations are **eligible lead applicants** for the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) grant program. In FY23, there were 6 grants awarded to nonprofit organizations.

Project Name	State	Applicant	Award	Project Type	Grant
Healing Hollywood	CA	<b>Friends of the Hollywood Cap Park, Inc.</b>	\$3.6M	Planning	NAE
The National City/Southeast San Diego Greenspace Corridor Project	CA	<b>Mundo Gardens</b>	\$2M	Planning	NAE
The I-75 Overbuild Planning Project: Advancing Detroit's Future by Reestablishing Neighborhood Connections	MI	<b>Downtown Detroit Partnership, Inc.</b>	\$2M	Planning	NAE
Bring Back 6 <sup>th</sup> : Reconnecting, Restoring, and Revitalizing the 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue North Corridor	MN	<b>Our Streets Minneapolis</b>	\$1.6M	Planning	RCP
Connecting the Museum Trail through Downtown and West Jackson	MS	<b>Jackson Heart Foundation</b>	\$588k	Planning	NAE
An Evaluation of East-West Connectivity in Central Hamilton County	OH	<b>First Suburbs Consortium of Southwest Ohio</b>	\$300k	Planning	NAE

*RCP = Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program, NAE = Neighborhood Equity and Access Grant*



# CBO-LED ENGAGEMENT

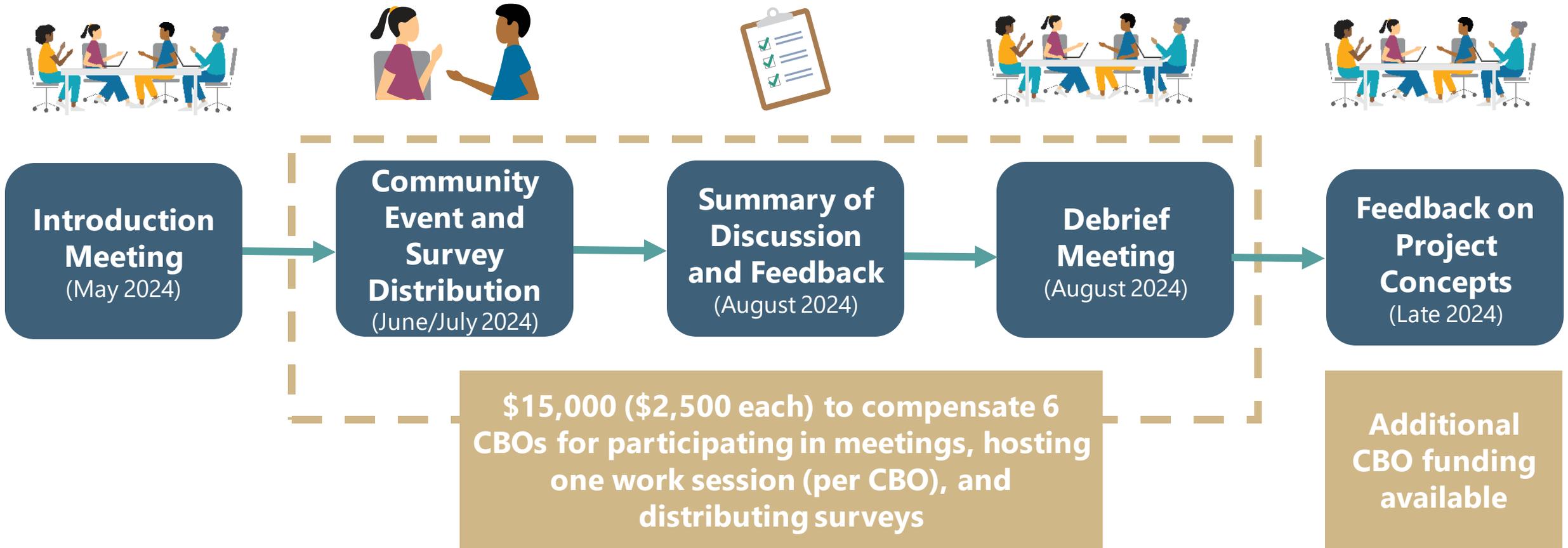
## Part 3

## Purpose of CBO-led Engagement

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- Seek help in **identifying priority barriers** in communities and gathering **input from the communities** about potential Reconnecting Communities projects
- Gather input on how jurisdictions should **engage with communities** to identify and advance priority projects
- Ensure the Study **receives meaningful feedback from representatives across six counties** in the SCAG region

# Expectations and Timeline



# Expected Activities



## Activities to Conduct

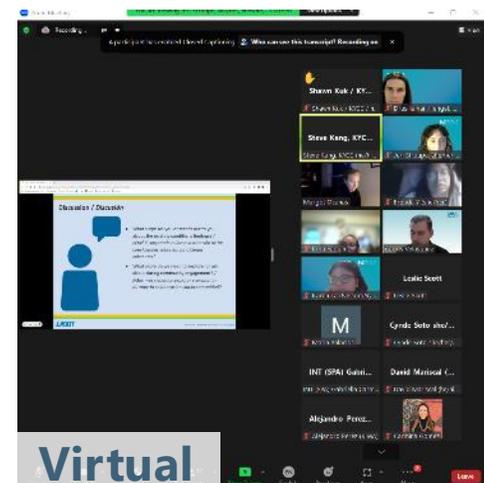
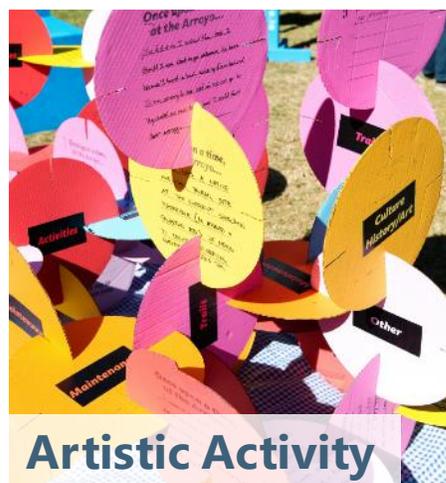
- Organize and lead one (1) community event
  - Invite network
- Distribute survey
- Summary of feedback



## Feedback to Collect

- Mobility/travel challenges
- Locations of major barriers
- Desired mobility solutions

# Examples of Community Events and Activities



## Provided Resources

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### Office Hours

- Offer guidance for CBOs as you plan your work sessions

### Supporting Materials

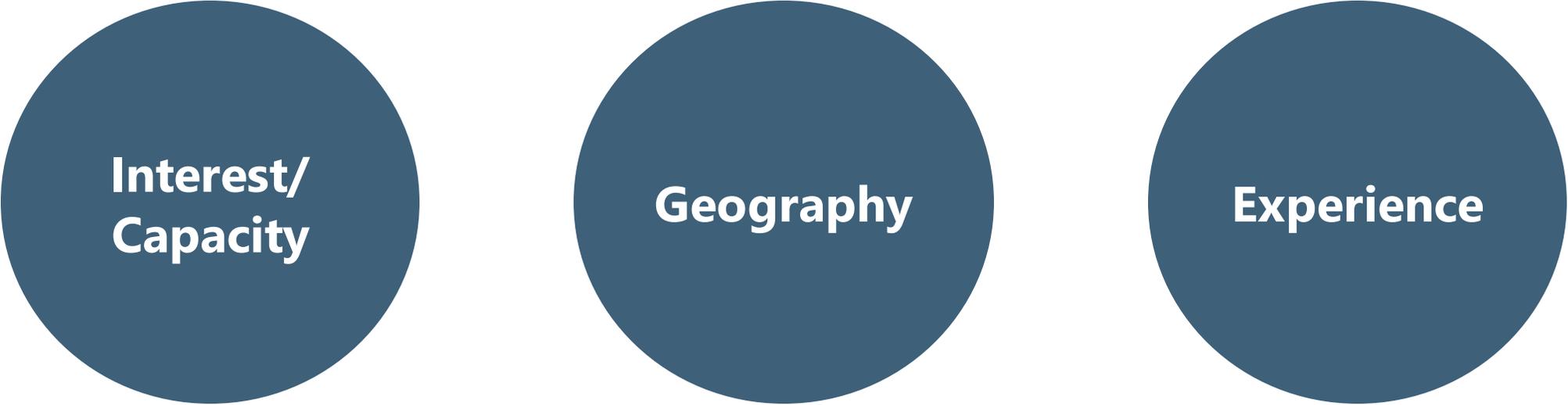
- Provide sample agenda, discussion guide, introductory PowerPoint, and event flyer

### Online Survey

- Provide online survey and survey promotion flyer

## Selection of CBO Partners

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**Interest/  
Capacity**

**Geography**

**Experience**

*\*Should more than 6 CBOs be interested, the project team will screen partners*

## Other Ways to Remain Involved

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For those community partners **who are interested but do not have capacity**, you can:

- Keep in touch with the project team to hear more updates via email
- Send emails, engagement events, and survey to your networks about the project

# Questions?



# DISCUSSION

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## Part 4

# Discussion Questions

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- What are some of the key transportation-related challenges in your community?
- Can you share with us any examples from your work or your community that reflect our projects challenges/goals?
- How can jurisdictions best engage with communities while developing projects to address barriers from transportation infrastructure?



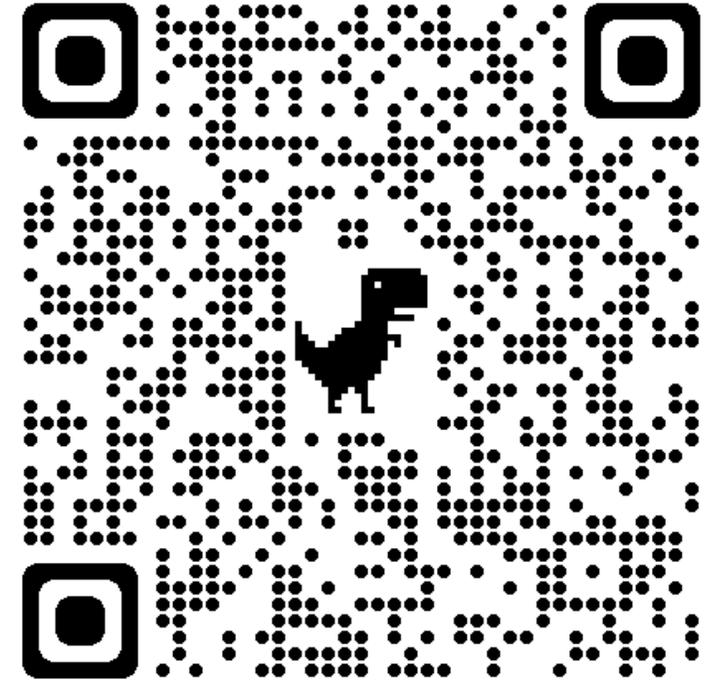
# NEXT STEPS

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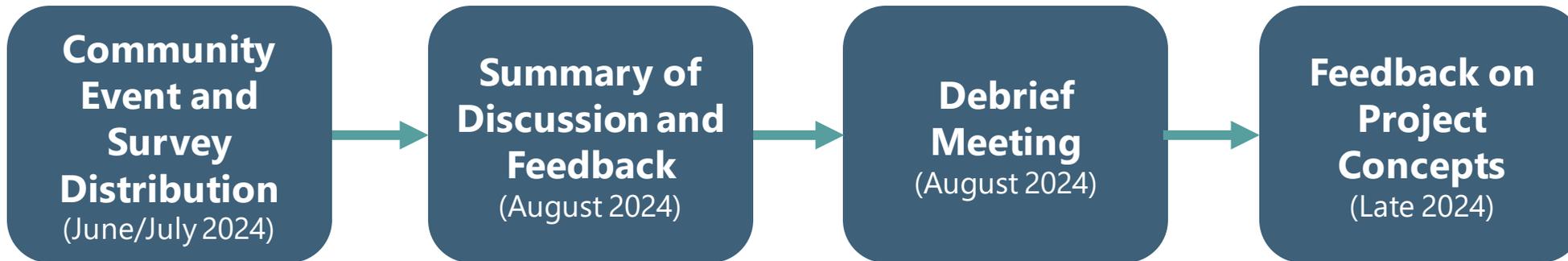
## Part 5

## Next Steps

- Express interest to participate on Google Forms by June 7, 2024



## Timeline





# THANK YOU!

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For more information, please visit:

**[scag.ca.gov/corridor-planning](https://scag.ca.gov/corridor-planning)**

or contact Hina Chanchlani at **[chanchlani@scag.ca.gov](mailto:chanchlani@scag.ca.gov)**



*Scan for interest form*