



Policy Tool: Broad-based Community Engagement

Example: Great Communities Collaborative (San Francisco Bay Area, CA)

Summary: Community-based organizations and nonprofits can work together to ensure that a broad cross-section of community residents participate effectively in local land use planning efforts around transit stations.

The Great Communities Collaborative was formed in response to plans to add up to 100 new public transit stations in the San Francisco Bay Area by 2015. The goal of this collaboration among local and national non-profit organizations is for all people in the Bay Area to live in “great communities” by 2030, which are communities with a mix of jobs, shops, homes and community services that are affordable across all incomes and have access to quality transit.

The Collaborative works to help citizens better understand, participate in and influence plans for transit oriented development. They want to ensure that people, particularly low-income people and people of color, are deeply engaged in local land use

planning for transit stations so they can shape future growth. As part of its efforts, the Collaborative provides technical assistance to local leaders to ensure that residents participate effectively in local government processes.

The Collaborative has also developed the Great Communities Toolkit, a free, downloadable compendium of resources to help those advocating for sound transit station development. Their toolkit helps community groups shape transit-oriented development opportunities, ensuring affordable homes, local shops, access to job centers and improved community service.

For additional information: <http://www.greatcommunities.org/>



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Example: BeltLine Community Engagement Framework (Atlanta, GA)

Summary: Government agencies can put in place multiple mechanisms to ensure broad-based community participation in planning for both transit and future development in neighborhoods along the transit corridor.

The BeltLine Project, an initiative of the Atlanta Development Authority, is a 25-year, \$2.8 billion effort to create a network of public parks, multi-use trails and transit along a historic 22-mile railroad corridor circling downtown Atlanta and connecting 45 neighborhoods directly to each other. The BeltLine Project includes green space, affordable housing, brownfields remediation, historic preservation and public art.

Atlanta BeltLine Inc., an affiliate of the Atlanta Development Authority tasked with planning and implementing the BeltLine project, has developed a community engagement framework “to keep Atlanta residents informed and actively engaged in the BeltLine’s creation so that the BeltLine reflects the aspira-

tions of its many neighborhoods and communities.” There are quarterly public briefings for the general public, which are recorded and shown on Atlanta’s cable channel. Two advisory bodies have been established, one focused on housing and one for the 6,500 acre tax allocation district created to help finance the project. Five study groups were created to provide community input for each of the five geographic sections of the BeltLine corridor. Finally, the Community Engagement Advocate Office was created to inform the community about current BeltLine issues and ensure active and meaningful community engagement in BeltLine matters.

For additional information: www.beltline.org/Home/tabid/1672/Default.aspx