Sustainable Transportation Case Study:

San Francisco, California

Summary:

Embarking on an innovative and integrated approach, San Francisco's Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) is transitioning from a transit agency to an integrated sustainable mobility service provider. SFMTA now plans, designs, builds, and operates five modes of public transportation, the city's street network and traffic signals, pedestrian and bicycle networks and facilities, parking supply and management, station area development, and taxi administration. This allows the reinvented agency to maximize the potential of each mode of transportation while reducing environmental impact. For instance, SFMTA is creating a variable parking pricing system with new meters and rate structures to optimize parking supply, reduce congestion, and improve transit circulation. Expanding its transit system through the FTA New Starts/Small Starts program, SFMTA's Central Subway project will connect its densest neighborhood to the rail network while its Van Ness bus rapid transit (BRT) project will offer high speed, low emission mobility. SFMTA's bike plan, transit oriented development efforts, smart card integration, complete street design work, signal priority for key transit and emergency routes, climate action plan, and sustainability mobility report round out its integrated sustainable transportation efforts.

Results:

- Integrated, multi-modal planning and decision-making
- Lowest multi-modal emissions per passenger in California
- Largest municipal biodiesel (B20) fleet in country
- Third largest hybrid-electric bus fleet in country
- PM and NOx reduction devices installed on all non-hybrid buses, 98% PM reduction since 1997
- Largest zero emission bus fleet in country
- Over 50% of SFMTA zero emission vehicles powered by hydro-electric power
- 55% of taxi fleet now hybrid
- Waste and recycling – converting all facilities to "three bin"
- Implemented composting in administration buildings

Next Steps:

SFMTA's sustainability integration program will include the development of a digital application accessible by smart phone and street kiosks that will link all transportation modes and enable the traveler to receive information on the next bus, parking spaces, availability of shared bikes and cars; pay transit fares, parking fees, and bike/car rental rates; and plan trips.

Links:

SFMTA Projects: http://www.sfmta.com/cms/aproj/indxabproj.htm