

Project Information Form

Project Title:	Changing Workforce Development Needs for Regional Transportation Planning Agencies in California
University:	California State University, Long Beach
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Funding Source(s) and Amounts Provided (by each agency or organization):	United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) - \$94,000
Total Project Cost:	\$94,000
Agency ID or Contract Number:	CSULB-DOT-014 DTRT13-G-UTC29
Start and End Dates:	March 1, 2013 – December 31, 2017
Brief Description of Research Project:	<p>The transportation industry faces future workforce challenges, including a lack of trained personnel in fields such as engineering, construction management, and intelligent transportation systems. Little, if any, research has been done on the training and workforce needs at the regional level where Metropolitan Planning Agencies (MPOs), Councils of Government (COG), and transit agencies are engaged in both transportation planning and operations. In California, the workforce capacity of MPOs in particular was challenged by the 2008 passage of Senate Bill (SB) 375. This legislation uses the transportation planning process to achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. It requires MPOs, in partnership with the California Air Resources Board (CARB), to establish greenhouse gas emissions targets. MPOs are also required to include a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) in the regional transportation plan that demonstrates how a given region will meet established targets.</p> <p>This project aims at understanding how fundamental changes from SB 375 and other legislative mandates have impacted MPOs from a workforce standpoint. Using online surveys, job scans, and in-depth interviews with members of COGs and MPOs in California, the research team determined the importance of several factors on workforce capacity. These factors include recruitment, available funding for professional development, curriculum content in college and university programs, and the role of in-service training. The report seeks to document the evolving role of MPOs resulting from the kind of mandates enacted by SB 375 and the concurrent demand for both traditional skills sets relating to regional planning processes and those that respond to demands for planners to: (1) Optimize existing projects by making them</p>



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	<p>“smarter” and further ensuring that these projects contribute to environmental sustainability; and (2) link transportation planning to land use patterns with the intention of diminishing vehicle miles travelled (VMTs) and associated pollutants. The study’s findings will contribute to the knowledge of workforce development needs as well as the potential for policy responses at the federal, state, and local level.</p>
<p>Describe Implementation of Research Outcomes (or why not implemented):</p> <p>Place any photos here</p>	
<p>Impacts/Benefits of Implementation (actual, not anticipated):</p>	
<p>Web Links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reports• Project website	<p>https://ncst.ucdavis.edu/project/changing-workforce-development-needs-ca/</p> <p>https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3kk314sx</p>