

## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

In 2002, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) started the Community-Based Transportation Planning Program to identify barriers to mobility in Bay Area communities and work to overcome them. Using a grassroots approach, the Community-Based Transportation Plan (CBTP) effort has created a collaborative planning process for minority and low-income Bay Area communities that involves residents, community organizations, faith-based organizations, transit operators, city governments, county congestion management agencies and MTC.

The CBTP Program evolved out of two reports completed the previous year – the Lifeline Transportation Network Report and the Environmental Justice Report. The first document identified travel needs in low-income Bay Area communities and recommended community-based transportation planning as a way for communities to set priorities and evaluate options for filling transportation gaps. Similarly, the Environmental Justice Report identified the need for MTC to support local planning efforts in low-income communities throughout the region.

To test the effectiveness of the CBTP Program, a pilot program was launched in 2004 in five communities. Considered a success, the Program was expanded to a total of twenty-five low-income Bay Area neighborhoods including the Canal Neighborhood of San Rafael. The outcome of each MTC-sponsored planning process is a community-based transportation plan that includes locally-identified transportation needs, as well as solutions to address them. Each plan reflects the objectives of the program, which are to:

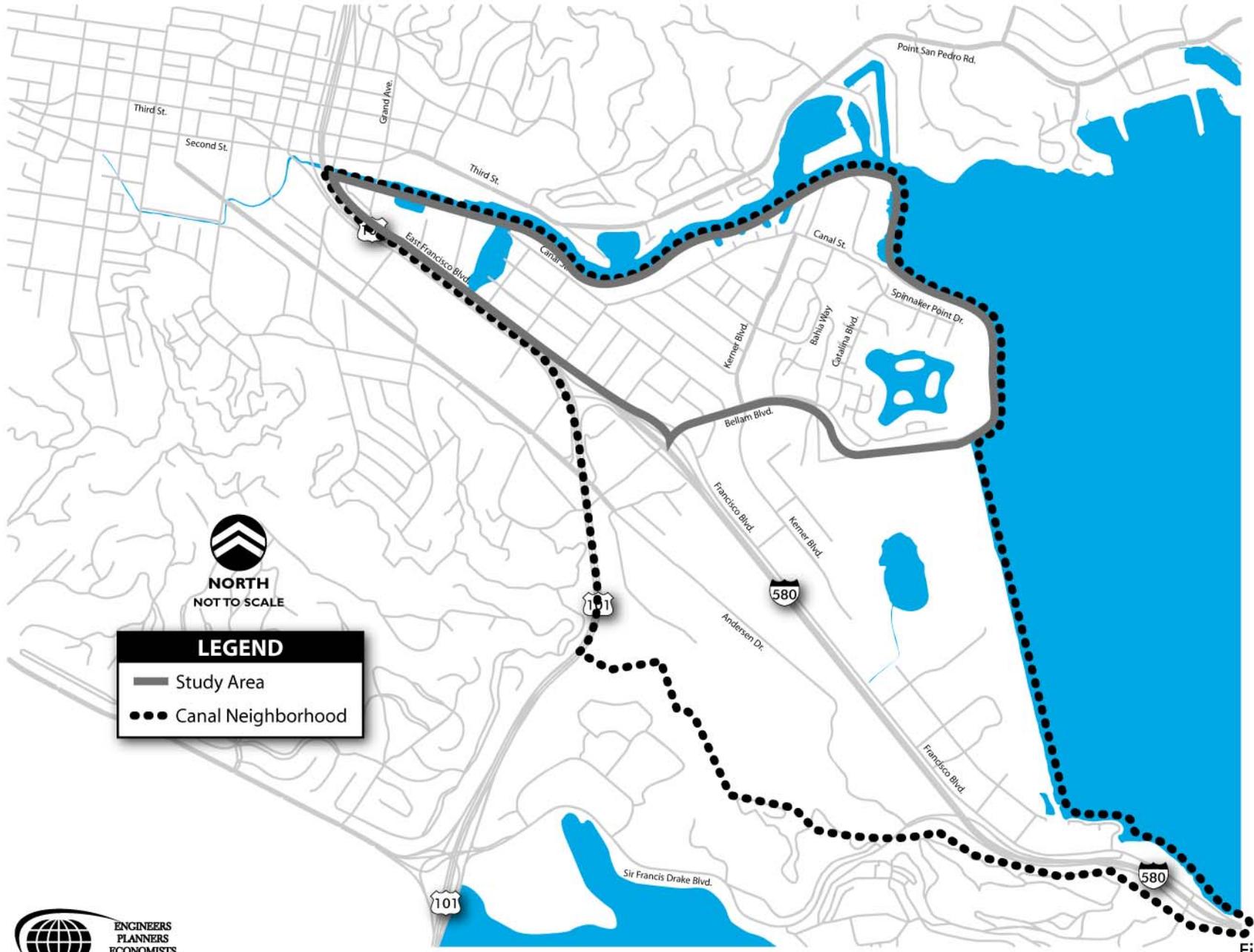
- Emphasize community participation in prioritizing transportation needs and identifying potential solutions;
- Foster collaboration between local residents, community-based organizations, transit operators, County Congestion Management Agencies and MTC; and
- Build community capacity by involving community-based organizations in the planning process.

### CANAL NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY-BASED TRANSPORTATION PLAN

In spring 2005, the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) received MTC Community-Based Transportation Plan funding to conduct a community-based planning process in the City of San Rafael's Canal Neighborhood. TAM partnered with the City of San Rafael for program management and outreach. With receipt of funding in September 2005, TAM contracted with Wilbur Smith Associates and Marin County Grassroots Leadership Network, a community based organization, to lead the community-based planning effort, which targeted the area of the City of San Rafael south of the Canal waterway and east of Highway 101 and Interstate 580. The neighborhood includes both residential and nonresidential land uses; it is one of the City's most densely populated communities and accounts for 15% of the City's jobs. The Canal Neighborhood Community-Based Transportation Plan (CBTP) is focused on the residential portion located north of Bellam Blvd. The study area is shown in Figure 1.

This Plan documents the efforts and results of the community-based planning process. Chapter 2 outlines the demographics and travel characteristics of the neighborhood. Transportation issues for the Canal Neighborhood as identified in previous studies and reports are summarized in Chapter 3. The techniques used to reach out to the community and the resulting list of transportation gaps are described in Chapter 4. In Chapter 5, solutions to address the transportation gaps identified in the previous chapter are presented and prioritized. Finally, in Chapter 6, considerations for implementation and potential funding sources are discussed.

# CANAL NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY - BASED TRANSPORTATION PLAN



**LEGEND**

- Study Area
- Canal Neighborhood