



GRANTS PROGRAM

SMART Curbs: City of San José's Curb Digitization and Management Pilot

City of San José Department of Transportation

PROJECT PARTNERS

TransForm
CommUniverCity
Umojo
PlaceWorks
TransForm



PROJECT CHALLENGE

Parking-dominated curbs in Downtown San José face growing demand for reliable bus service, safe bikeways, efficient on-demand passenger loading and goods deliveries, and enjoyable public parklets and outdoor dining places. Without adequate spaces for all these uses, delivery workers often obstruct traffic, transit riders are delayed, pedestrians and bicyclists are put in danger, people with disabilities are dropped off far away from their destinations, and business activities are stymied. The Stage 1 pilot will use camera- and sensor-based technology to develop a strategic and equitable approach to implementing policy initiatives and managing Downtown's limited curb spaces to meet the competing and growing demand for various curb uses.

IMPACT

The pilot project location is San José's Greater Downtown Area (Downtown San José), comprised of the core and adjacent neighborhoods, 87% of which is designated by USDOT as Areas of Persistent Poverty and/or Historically Disadvantaged Communities. Downtown San José has 66,000 residents, 60,000 workers, and 35,000 students. Of the Downtown residents, 71% are Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC), 38% live in low-income families, 19% experience rent burden, 16% live in single-parent families, 12% have zero vehicles in their families, 10% have limited English proficiency, and 9% have disabilities.

CURRENT STATE OF THE ISSUE

There are approximately 40,000 on-street curb spaces in Downtown San José. This pilot will identify and monitor roughly 800 curb spots on approximately 40 street blocks. Additionally, approximately 2,100 curb spaces and 1,900 curb restrictions/regulations have already been collected manually by San José DOT staff for Downtown San José's central business district. The Stage 1 pilot will expand the collection of curb inventory data to curbs in all Downtown San José, including areas outside the central business district.

POLICY QUESTIONS

1. What is the current problem definition at the curb? 2. Can we identify the specific challenges and opportunities at the curb that can inform policy shifts and enhancements? 3. Is there a way to reallocate spaces that will lead to better efficiency, ensuring that there is adequate supply to accommodate the various curb users? 4. Can we validate the community concern about the lack of parking spaces?

STAGE 1 OUTCOMES

The development of a central management platform that will digitally publish and publicly share curb locations and regulations of Downtown San José streets and transmit real-time and historic events happening at the curb. The procurement of intelligent sensor- and camera-based infrastructure to monitor and measure utilization of roughly 400 curb spots and on approximately 20 street blocks.

STAGE 2 VISION

Stage 2 will scale the Stage 1 prototype to an areawide implementation. It will build upon lessons learned from Stage 1 and expand implementation of curb inventory and utilization data. By focusing on two transit-oriented communities in San Jose, Stage 2 will measure utilization of roughly 10,000 additional curb spots. As a result, San Jose's limited curb space will be more flexible, more efficient, and more responsive to the diverse needs of users at the curb.