

Location: Statewide

Issue: MIG's CALTRANS Statewide Planning

Methodology: Planning with Expert Assistance (MIG): Participatory Planning Process

Link to more: <http://www.migcom.com/projects/view/101>

After receiving a community-planning grant from CalTrans, MIG, a planning and design firm based in Berkeley, worked with geographically diverse communities, such as San Luis Obispo and Chalfant, which is a 500-person community located in Miono County. MIG was hired as a planning consultant by Caltrans and other partner agencies and developed a public engagement plan to guide outreach and engagement activities that were involved in the SR 46 East planning process. The public engagement goals included high quality input and participation, diversity (wineries, freight shippers, and environmental groups), education (informing the community about the current project), accuracy, and impact. The Study Team incorporated responses through the public engagement process and will incorporated feedback regarding participation. A project like CALTRANS Statewide On Call Public Outreach and Engagement Services is usually more complicated since it involves agency partners, a community that is willing to participate in the transportation planning processes, as well as dealing with multiple jurisdictions.

Population growth, both locally (San Luis Obispo) and statewide (California) have led to increased congestion on Route 46 East. There are individuals who feel strongly about improving the traffic problems within the region, such as "46 East for the Future" process, which focused on creating public interest to assist partner agencies, such as Caltrans and San Luis Obispo County in the development of a 20-year improvement strategy.

MIG worked with the CalTrans project in an efficient manner to address all the issues. MIG used visioning exercises, developed guiding principles, and identified potential areas of concern along with possible solutions for any potential problems. In addition MIG helped CalTrans with significant decisions in respect to access management, road and safety improvements, and traffic appeasing projects.