Practicing what we preach in POMONA!

Daryl Grigsby, Public Works Director, City of Pomona, California
Who lives in Pomona?
150,000 people:

- **Young** – average age 26, 34% under 18 years old, and only 6.5% over 65
- **Diverse** – 35% born outside US, 66% Hispanic, 18% Caucasian, 9% African-American, 7% Asian
- **Education** – of those over 25; 25% did not complete past 8th grade, 54% graduated high school, 12% have Bachelor’s Degree or higher
- **Economics** – 21% below federal poverty level of $42K for family of four
Realities of life in Pomona

- Considered by financial experts and economists as a candidate for future bankruptcy
- In order to avoid bankruptcy this past fiscal year the City Council cut the Library to 20 hours/week and closed a Fire Station
- No large employers, sales tax generators, or regional destinations
- Many families living day to day with no time for leisure activities or money to pursue non-essentials
- Regional reputation is poor; associated with homeless, gangs, graffiti, crime, drugs, litter, and prostitutes and their customers
What does this all mean for an Active Transportation Vision

- Biking and walking are more affordable means of mobility
- A younger population is more active
- Lack of large businesses, malls, and other destinations opens streets up for other modes
- Like other Southern California cities – terrain and weather are perfect for cycling and walking
City’s Goal – biking, walking and transit is a safe option for Pomona residents

- This December City Council will receive 1st ever Bike Plan for adoption
- Plan includes a Pedestrian Element – Active Transportation Plan
- 38 Standard Bus Shelters with amenities installed in mid-winter, 2013
- General Plan and Corridor Specific Plan includes economic development element based on buses, walking and biking
Primary Assets for active mobility

- City Demographics; youth and income (high school parking lots)
- Societal emphasis on healthy living
- Upsurge of bike culture in Los Angeles County
Focus on Health, childhood obesity is a key motivator

- LA County Health Dept survey of 127 cities and communities Pomona ranks:
  - 85th in childhood obesity at 27%
  - 97th in economic hardship
  - 61st in parks/capita @ 1.8 acres/1000

- Societal medical costs are skyrocketing same time overall health is declining
All made possible by our Partners

- Transit companies
- LA County Health Dept
- Pomona Police Department
- Pomona Business Improvement District
- Cal Poly University
- Cycling clubs and bike groups
- The residents
Existing Conditions

- No Bike Plan
- No systematic bike facility investments
- One ¾ mile Class II Bike Lane
- Few bike racks installed per private development
- Pomona Transit Center served by Foothill Transit and OmniTrans
- Two Metrolink Stations linking LA Union Station with San Bernardino and Riverside
Transit – Foothill Transit

- Home to nation’s only all electric bus
Bus Shelters

Currently 3 substandard shelters
This winter City install 38 new standardized shelters
Partners with the Health Department

- RENEW (Renewing Environments for Nutrition, Exercise and Wellness) program provided:
  - $20 K for Pedestrian element of Active Transportation Plan and micro-assessment near school
  - $10 K to determine feasibility of Open Streets Event (cicLAvia)
  - Training for design of bike facilities and Bike-Friendly Business Districts
California League of Cities – HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living)

- Healthy in Pomona (HIP)
- Combines Bike Plan, General Plan and Corridor Study, Safe Routes to School grants, parks, transit oriented development, urban gardens and other initiatives
- Grant from Lewis Company and Kaiser Permanente
Community Partners

- Cal Poly University Bike Club
- RAP (Ride Around Pomona)
- Mobbin’ Mondays
- T- Tuesdays
- Pomona Valley Bike Coalition
- DDR
Partners – Cycling groups

Ride Around Pomona
RAP (Ride Around Pomona)
Partners with the Business Improvement District
20 Bike Racks installed downtown Pomona
Partners with Cal Poly

- Student Urban and Regional Planning projects
  - Bike counts
  - Study routes for Open Streets event
- Student project Bicycle-Friendly Community designation from League of American Bicyclists
The City as a Partner

- Bike to Work Day
- Active Transportation Plan
- Bike Lanes and Bike Racks
- Police Department Traffic Unit
- Safe Routes to School Grants
- Bus Shelters
- Corridor Specific Plan focus on economic growth through active transportation
Partners: State and Federal $

- Safe Routes to School Grant Program:
  - 2 grants totaling $800,000 for improvements, signage, sidewalks, radar trailers, education, at 4 local schools

- Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)
  - $500,000 grant for improvements at 2 additional schools
Partners: cicLAVia
Cal Poly Students and Mobbin Mondays ride to cicLAvia
Partners – Young people!!
The Future

- Bike Plan enables city to compete for Bike Project grants
- Local Host Committee looking to establish ‘Open Streets’ event similar to cicLAvia
- Implementation of Active Transportation Plan
- Phase II of Bus Shelter Project
The Goal

- More Pomona residents can safely and efficiently walk, bike or take transit for their mobility needs