EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – updated September 2021



MPO ROLES IN SUPPORTING LOCAL SMART GROWTH

Regional transportation planning bodies known as MPOs increasingly use incentives to influence local development. These "smart growth grant programs" emblematize contemporary growth management's emphasis on regional efforts, and on carrots - not sticks - to nudge Sustainable Growth. Yet, researchers have largely overlooked incentive programs. This study will compare the experiences of MPOs with such programs in two states, California and Texas, each with different approaches to state-level policy on smart or sustainable urban growth. Using program and award-level data, the study will examine how incentives work and what they accomplish.

The work aims to illuminate how upstream incentives catalyze land use change downstream and how transportation planners, working through regional MPOs and COGs, might structure incentives to manage growth more sustainably.

USDOT Tier-1 University Transportation Center



MPO Roles in Supporting Local Smart Growth (#CM2-61)

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06/01/2021 -08/30/2022

Project Information Form: https://tinyurl.com/5ekb6krr



This study was funded by the consortium of Cooperative Mobility for Competitive Megaregions (CM²). CM² is a USDOT Tier-1 University Transportation Center (UTC). CM²'s consortium partners include The University of Texas at Austin, Louisiana State University, Texas Southern University, and the University of Pennsylvania, with affiliates at Cornell University and Rutgers University.