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1. Introduction

A history of the evolution of this grant was mandated on August 4, 1999. The purpose of this document is to provide an easily readable, relatively brief chronology of events so that new participants and/or members of the general public can be quickly brought up to speed. Therefore, this will be organized in chronological order, with section titles in bold so that a reader can scan the titles and get an idea of the order of events, then read the brief description under the titles if more information is desired.

2. Grant Instigation: October, 1998

This federal grant was authorized under the Transportation and Equity Act for the Twenty First Century (TEA-21), with the grant known as the Transportation and Community and System Preservation Pilot Program (TCSP). The grant and administration of the grant are under the auspices of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Idaho Smart Growth, an advocacy group for alternative planning, notified both the Ada Planning Association (APA), the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Ada County, and the City of Boise/Treasure Valley Partnership that there was an opportunity for funding to work on growth and planning issues in the Treasure Valley. APA worked with Idaho Smart Growth and the Treasure Valley Partnership to call a meeting inviting many diverse groups to evaluate what type of coalition could be formed to apply for grant monies. The group pulled together by APA decided to apply for the grant for a study into ways to improve the land use, transportation and community planning in the Treasure Valley area of Idaho.

The Treasure Valley comprises Ada and Canyon Counties, including six cities in Ada County (Boise, Meridian, Garden City, Eagle, Kuna and Star) and nine cities in Canyon County (Nampa, Caldwell, Middleton, Melba, Notus, Parma, Wilder, Homedale, and Greenleaf) as well as the unincorporated and rural areas in both counties. These two counties contain a population of approximately 350,000. At last count, there were over 250 governmental organizations with an interest in either or both of the counties, as well as numerous privately held companies, non-profit organizations, neighborhood associations and other citizen groups.

3. Grant Proposal: December, 1998 – March, 1999

From the various stakeholders in the Treasure Valley, APA organized a coalition to write a grant proposal. The following entities contributed time and effort to the writing of the proposal:

Ada County Development Services
Ada County Highway District

Ada Planning Association
Boise State University
Boise City Planning
Canyon County Development Services
Idaho Smart Growth
Idaho Transportation Department
Livable Communities
Palouse-Clearwater Institute
Surface Transportation Policy Project
Treasure Valley Partnership/Strategic Economics out of Berkeley, California
University of Idaho, Idaho Urban Research & Design Center

4. Preliminary Grant Work: May 14, 1999 – June 30, 1999

On May 14, 1999 the first of a continuous series of bimonthly meetings was begun, usually held on the first and third Wednesday of every month, at APA's conference room. At this point in time, the group in attendance generally represented the organizations listed above and was later formalized as the Technical Group on August 4, 1999 after the grant was funded. These early meetings dealt primarily with two items:

1. Organization of the grant under the supervision of APA, the grant recipient and project manager, including determination of initial participants and their roles, the framework for organization, and the development of an Interagency Partnership Agreement.
2. Early definition of the work to be done, defined under ~~each~~ six Benchmarks, in order to help the participants scope the amount and cost of work to be done by each, broken down into in-kind work, donated time/work, and work which would receive partial or full payment.

5. Grant Award: July 1, 1999

The full grant was sent to FHWA on March 15, 1999, under the title of *Treasure Valley Futures: Alternative Choices for the American West*. APA later received word that of the original 524 proposals submitted, only 35 candidates received grant monies of which the *Treasure Valley Futures* (TVF) was one. On May 3, 1999 APA received confirmation that *Treasure Valley Futures* had been selected to receive a grant in the amount of \$510,000. The grant contract between FHWA and APA was signed on July 1, 1999.

Appendix I consists of the grant proposal in its entirety.

6. Initial Grant Work: July 1, 1999 through September 30, 1999

Grant signing by FHWA and APA on July 1, 1999 signified the actual start of work; this date also represented the date on which partners in the grant could begin fiscal accounting for their involvement

A decision was reached during the July 21, 1999 meeting that the preliminary work had to be formalized so that a Policy Group and Technical Group could be named, and Partnership Agreement organization and commitments could be set. Additionally, other practical decisions had to be made such as hiring a Project Coordinator consultant, outlining responsibilities and authority of each of the participants, setting procedures for authorizing the spending of grant monies, etc. A facilitated meeting was held on August 4, 1999 which resolved many of these issues, allowing a formal Policy Group and Technical Group to be created and the actual work of the grant to begin.

Besides administrative functions, actual work on the six project benchmarks was begun. Seven working groups were formed, one for each of the six benchmarks as well as a Public Involvement and Media (PIM) group. The working groups were assigned the tasks of further detailing their budgets, including the preparation of timelines, lists of potential consultants, the assignment of a chairperson and recorder, and further expansion of anticipated scopes of work. Each working group met a varied number of times during this period, depending on the urgency and amount of work involved.

The first Policy Group meeting was held on Friday, August 27, 1999 at the St. Luke's Meridian facilities. Nine of the initial members were present. During this meeting, the Group was introduced to the project and given a brief update of work to date. Additionally, the Policy Group endorsed the hiring of a full-time Project Coordinator and decided that two additional representatives were needed, one each to represent development interests and water use/abundance issues. Appendix II lists the members of the Policy and Technical Groups and their affiliations.

With endorsement by the Policy Group, a prime focus became the hiring of a Project Coordinator. Requests for Qualifications were sent to about sixty firms, as well as being advertised in *The Idaho Statesman*. A subcommittee was formed which consisted of six members of the Technical Group and two members of the Policy Group. The subcommittee reviewed the ten written responses, interviewed the top five candidates, selected a candidate on September 14th, received Technical Group endorsement on September 15th, and presented the candidate to the Policy Group on September 23rd for approval which was thereby given. The Project Coordinator, Doherty & Associates, began work on September 24, 1999 with the signing of a Personal Services Agreement.

Also in the September 23, 1999 Policy Group meeting, the Partnership Agreement was returned signed by the initial members. The Agreement is a loosely defined document that indicates the collaborative efforts of each signatory, but allows for the addition or

deletion of members more or less “at will”. Appendix III contains the Partnership Agreement.

7. Continued Grant Work: October 1, 1999 – December 31, 1999

With the organization and basic procedures set or being reviewed, the main body of work of the grant moved ahead at an accelerated rate. Following is a summary of the work accomplished under each benchmark during this time frame (note: current summaries indicate work through October 29, 1999 only).

Benchmark 1, Inform Public Officials: An educational slide show with accompanying script was prepared. The slide show will be converted to other formats (video, overhead) so that presentations can be made to the many policy making groups in the two county area. A list of policy making groups to be contacted is in the process of being completed, and each group is being contacted regarding getting on its agenda for a presentation during the months of November and December. Besides informing the groups of the focus of the grant, a prime objective will be to request policymaker support in eliciting applications for the next six demonstration projects. Benchmark 1 work group will also reformat the educational slide show for presentation to community organizations.

Benchmark 2, Regional Trend Analysis: Work forged ahead with establishing a regional trend baseline, which is still in progress. This will result in a series of maps showing how the Treasure Valley will infill/buildout if current practices continue. Supplemental work included a review of several related studies in other parts of the United States, and preparation of a summary brochure indicating the results of five related studies. Appendix IV contains the Summary of Selected Regional Projects and Research on Effects of Land Use Patterns.

Benchmark 3, Barriers Analysis: Analysis of implementation barriers was begun by evaluating current comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, transportation plans and other key policy documents against the grant’s goals. At this time, there is no published work result.

Benchmark 4, Alternative Choices Toolkit: Compilation of the Alternative Choices Catalog was begun with identification of actual examples of compact development and efficient infrastructure within the Treasure Valley. At this time, there is no published work result.

Benchmark 5, Demonstration Projects: The main thrust during this period was the start and completion of the first demonstration project, which was in the Five Mile and Ustick area and includes the Old Townsite of Ustick. On October 29 and 30, three teams consisting of University of Idaho faculty and students, professionals from the community, and neighborhood residents or commercial interests, participated in a charrette (workshop) to develop three visions of the future of their neighborhood. The following three weeks will be spent in combining the best elements of the three visions into a single conceptual plan for the area, hopefully to be implemented at some time in the near future.

The other work done by this benchmark was to prepare an invitation to the two county communities to submit their ideas for future prototypes, three to be done during the spring semester in 2000 and three more to be done in fall semester of the same year. Sixteen responses were received on December 1, 1999 out of which the next three spring semester demonstration projects were chosen: Kuna's downtown area and river/railroad crossing, Meridian's Creamery area, and Nampa's downtown parking and associated structures..

Benchmark 6, Evaluation: This evaluation benchmark started out by working on the survey designed to measure local attitudes and knowledge of the goals of the grant. This survey will be given to 400 participants in each of Canyon and Ada Counties, for a total of 800 surveys. The survey will be conducted again near the end of the grant in order to determine if knowledge of transportation and land use issues has increased, and if attitudes have changed accordingly.

PIM Group (Public Information and Media): this group got off the ground with announcing press releases for the upcoming demonstration project requests, with announcing the results of the demonstration project selections, and with beginning organization of an Editorial Board interview with the Idaho Statesman. Other activities included beginning planning on panel discussions, one each in Ada and Canyon counties which were held on January 27, 2000 in Nampa and on February 3, 2000 in Boise, respectively; continued generation of press releases as appropriate, and working with the other benchmarks to determine what support was needed from this group.

8. Continued Grant Work: January 1, 2000 – March 30, 2000

Basic work continued under all of the benchmarks, with most in full swing with their activities. Details are listed under the benchmarks below.

Benchmark 1, Inform Public Officials: This benchmark was wrapping up its activities after the earlier intense effort to reach all policy makers in the area. A dubbed video was prepared of the slide show, which allowed for continuous playing of the show at the Transportation Fair on February 19, 2000 at the Boise Towne Square Mall.

Although later than desirable, contact was finally made with School Board representatives, and Ms. Bea Black agreed to sit on the Policy Group; her first Policy Group Meeting was April 27, 2000.

Travelling displays, consisting of three poster boards with a place for a changeable insert, were prepared and set up around the two-county area at times and locations which seemed advantageous to making the most of the demonstration projects. The first set of travelling displays was targeted for public places, primarily libraries and/or city halls, to hopefully get interest in submittals for potential demonstration projects. The second round of travelling displays was targeting in various stores in those communities that had received a demonstration grant, so that the community could be better informed.

During this timeframe, a website master consultant was solicited and selected. A scoping meeting was held, and Mountain Visions was signed as the consultant after the Policy Group meeting on March 23, 2000. The webmaster is setting up the web site and pages, while TVF members on various benchmarks collect and write information to be inserted into the web site. The PIM group will review all proposed information before it is posted to the web site. The web site should be up and running by May 15, 2000.

Benchmark 2, Regional Trend Analysis: Work progressed on the build-out analysis with data being finalized in Canyon County after Ada County was complete.

The major action under this benchmark was soliciting, reviewing, and selecting a consultant to do combined work under Benchmarks 2, 3 and 4. A partnership, led by Dena Belzer's group, Strategic Economics, was tentatively approved by the Policy Group on March 23, 2000 to proceed with this work after an all-day tour and refining of the scope. The tour was conducted on Wednesday, March 29, 2000.

Benchmark 3, Barriers Analysis: This group met three times to scope out what the benchmark means, and what types of activities or events need to be done to accomplish the objectives of the benchmark.. Objectives included:

- Communicating with other efforts that have gone on around the country on the same topic of barriers; including literature review of who has done this and lessons learned.
- Create a data base of people who will be invited to be a part of the forum(s), which could also include one-on-one or small group meetings after the forum as an additional way to gather information.
- Conduct some type of forum or forums with a group of people who all have an interest in barriers, especially people in the development, financial and public sectors, but including other stakeholders as well.
- Complete the benchmark by writing a summary of findings, including recommendations for overcoming barriers.

Benchmark 4, Alternative Choices Toolkit: This benchmark was scoped during this time frame, during which case studies were also collected for review, comparison, lessons learned, and historical background. The scope was identified as:

- Identify the options
- Identify the barriers which hinder implementation of the options
- Find case studies, or define strategies in other ways, to overcome the identified barriers and allow for successful implementation.

Benchmark 5, Demonstration Projects:

#1, TVF Five Mile & Ustick Demonstration Project: Final work was completed on this demonstration project and turned over to the West Valley Neighborhood Association for additional work prior to the Association submitting it to the City of Boise as a requested amendment to the Comprehensive Plan. TVF members continued throughout this time period to offer technical support and advice, as requested.

#2, TVF Meridian Demonstration Project: This project was concerned with the following main items regarding the City of Meridian:

- ◆ Expansion of the city center to integrate infrastructure with additional supportive strategies to maintain a viable area, including a cultural events center as well as economic strategies
- ◆ Beautification of “Old Town”, including connected pedestrian and bicycle friendly environments which would meander throughout the town, as well as defining a historic district
- ◆ Address transportation needs while minimizing car traffic in the downtown area
- ◆ Address recreational needs in walkable proximity to neighborhoods
- ◆ Renovation and incorporation of The Creamery into the above vision

The Steering Committee was formed on January 14, 2000. An all-day design workshop was held on February 12, 2000 during which students, as participants in the Treasure Valley Futures grant, made available sketches and preliminary ideas for discussion. The final presentation to the community and general public was held on March 9, 2000 and was well received.

#3, TVF Kuna Demonstration Project: This demonstration project arose around the following main concerns:

- The railroad bisects Kuna which brings up safety and connectivity concerns
- Development south of the railroad and of Indian Creek is desirable to achieve balance and to support downtown
- The downtown needs a “draw” so that it is revitalized and becomes a true city center
- Pedestrian and bicycle pathways need to be developed, as well as consideration for alternative transportation systems

A Steering Committee was formed on January 14, 2000 which met weekly through January and then on an as-needed basis thereafter. An all-day workshop was held on Saturday, February 19, 2000 that resulted in some excellent ideas used by the students to come up with conceptual designs. A presentation was given, and input received from, the Kuna ACT Study Circles on March 9, 2000. The final design concept will be presented on Thursday, April 27, 2000 at the Kuna Senior Center.

#4, TVF Nampa Demonstration Project: The Nampa project was begun later in the quarter than Meridian or Kuna, and therefore is not as far along. Main goals of the Nampa project were preliminarily defined as:

- Vitalization of the downtown area, including provision for parking and alternative transportation facilities, as well as construction of gathering places
- Redevelopment of several areas, including the Northside toward the freeway and Karcher Mall
- Protection of agricultural land around the fringe
- Development of bikeways and pathways
- Identification of transportation nodes and uses
- Attraction of transportation based housing

- Preservation of historic and cultural linkages, and developing on these themes

A Steering Committee was in the stages of being formed, and work was just beginning on this project at the end of the relevant time period.

TVF Demonstration Projects #5, #6, and #7: Projects were solicited for the fall semester 2000. Applications are due on April 7, 2000.

Benchmark 6, Evaluation: During this three months, the evaluation committee received BSU's summary of the survey results and reviewed them. After accepting the report, the committee prepared a summary of the results, then developed a four-page summary of the results which included questions and responses of major interest, along with supportive graphics. This summary is included as Appendix V, Summary of Initial Survey.

9. Continued Grant Work: April 1, 2000 - June 30, 2000

TVF Demonstration Projects #5, #6 and #7: Three new applications were received on April 7, 2000 (City of Notus to update their Comprehensive Plan, disinvested shopping center at the corner of Emerald and Orchard, and one from the City of Star for downtown revitalization and incorporation of SH44). These three applicants were combined with four from the previous solicitation (conceptual design of a transit center in Canyon County, conceptual design of a park and future Head Start child & learning center in Garden City, neighborhood plan development for south Boise, and conceptual design of a tram with hubs in Boise) to make a pool of seven. As of this writing, the review and selection process is underway.