Sustainable Communities: Evaluating Effects and Evidence

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SB375
Sustainable Communities Planning Act of 2008

Targets for per capita GHG emissions reduction from cars and trucks for metropolitan areas, by reducing vehicle-miles-traveled (VMT)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2035</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sacramento</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay Area</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA region</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>13%</td>
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Sustainable Communities Strategies
How do we know what will work?

How do we know what combination of strategies will achieve the targets?
Empirical research → Forecasting models

Estimates of policy effect sizes → Forecasts of impacts of policies

Policy decisions
1. What does the evidence tell us?
2. How can we improve the evidence?
3. How can we apply the evidence in evaluating projects and strategies?
Evidence Cycle

Best Practices → Policy Adoption → Evaluation → Best Practices
Regional Policy
e.g. Funding programs

Local Policy
e.g. mixed-use zoning

State Policy
e.g. VMT targets

Built Environment
e.g. mixed use

Travel Behavior
e.g. VMT

???
VMT in the future?

“The aggregate trends discussed do not allow us to forecast with any certainty the car use that we can expect in the future.”

– Goodwin and Van Dender, 2013
1. What does the evidence tell us?
2. How can we improve the evidence?
3. How can we apply the evidence in evaluating projects and strategies?