

# Equitable Public Engagement

## Participatory Budgeting for Transportation Funds

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PARTICIPATORY  
BUDGETING PROJECT

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# PB AT NATIONAL PLANNING CONFERENCE - APRIL 2019

## **Big Infrastructure Money in Participatory Budgeting**

Sunday, April 14, 2019 from 8:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

## **Fostering Equity in Transportation Planning**

Monday, April 15, 2019 from 10:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



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**“Just 19% [of Americans]  
say the government is run  
for the benefit of all.”**

**–PEW RESEARCH CENTER NOVEMBER, 2015**

A photograph of four people (two men and two women) standing together and holding a large black protest sign. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter. The text on the sign is partially visible and reads: "I'VE BEEN MANAGING MILLIONS SINCE I WAS A TEENAGER." The main title of the image is "BUDGETS ARE POLICY WITHOUT THE RHETORIC" in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

# BUDGETS ARE POLICY WITHOUT THE RHETORIC



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BUDGETING PROJECT

## Who We Are

### HISTORY

Founded in 2009, we have led, supported, or inspired almost every PB process in North America.

### MISSION

*To empower people to decide together how to spend public money.*

### WHERE WE WORK

Across the US and Canada, with staff in New York City, Oakland.



# THE PROBLEMS WITH PARTICIPATION

UNEQUAL



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# THE PROBLEMS WITH PARTICIPATION

## POWERLESS

je participe  
tu participes  
il participe  
nous participons  
vous participez  
ils profitent



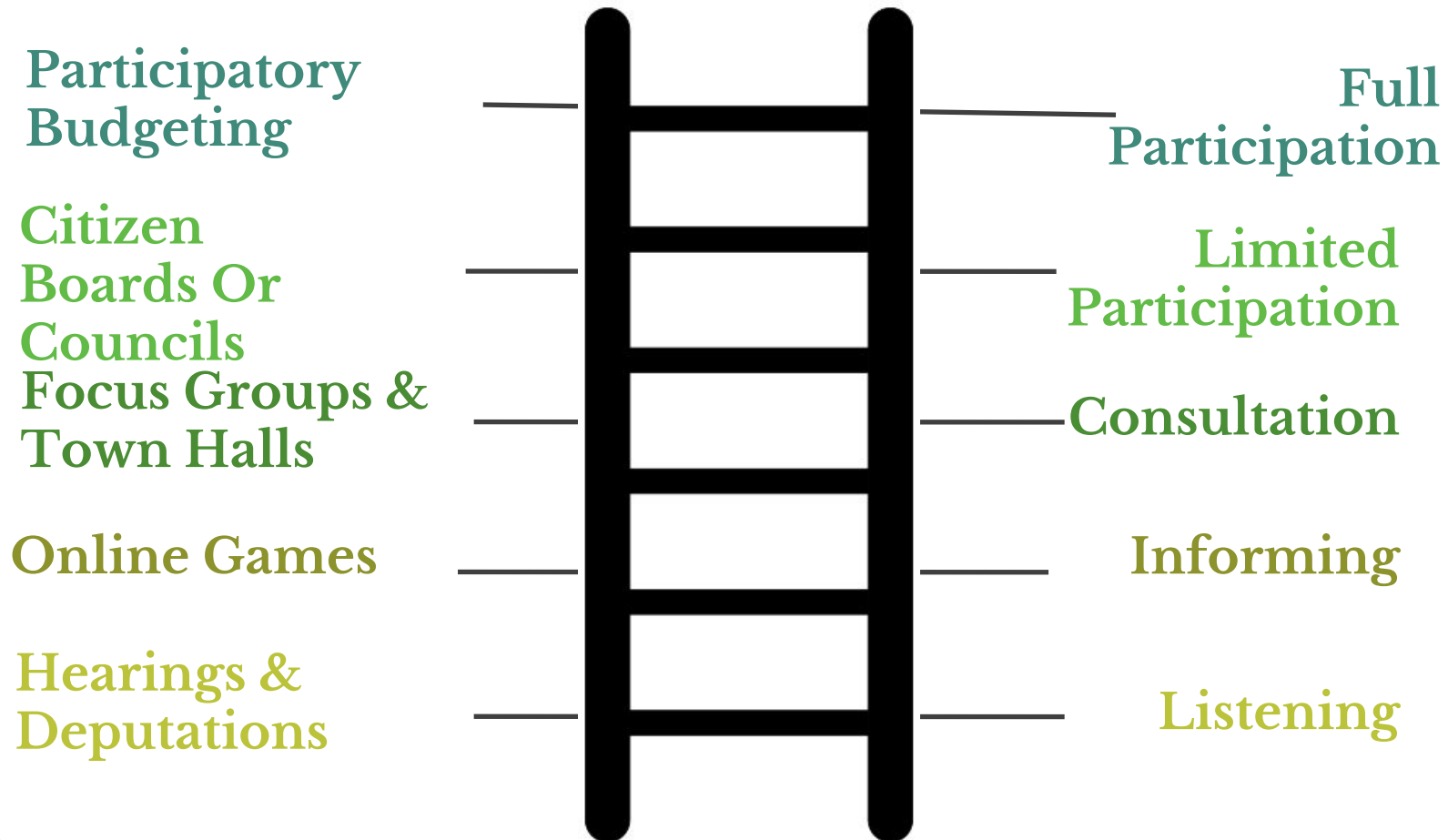
*I participate*  
*You participate*  
*He participates*  
*We participate*  
*You all participate*  
*They decide*

*(French student poster)*



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# A LADDER OF BUDGET PARTICIPATION



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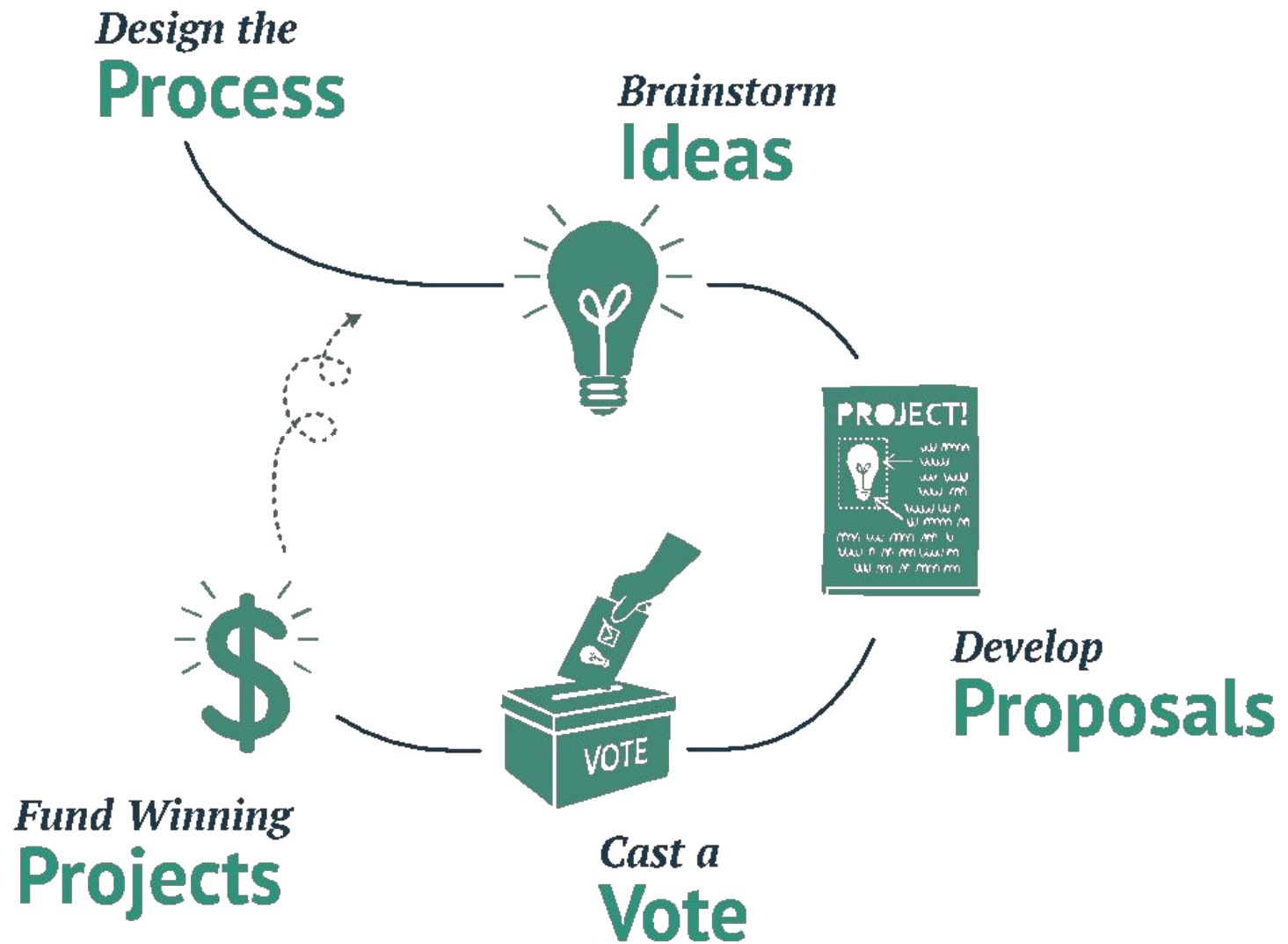
# WHAT IS PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING?

A democratic process in which **community members directly** decide how to spend part of a public budget.



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# How PB Works



# WHERE HAS PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING WORKED?

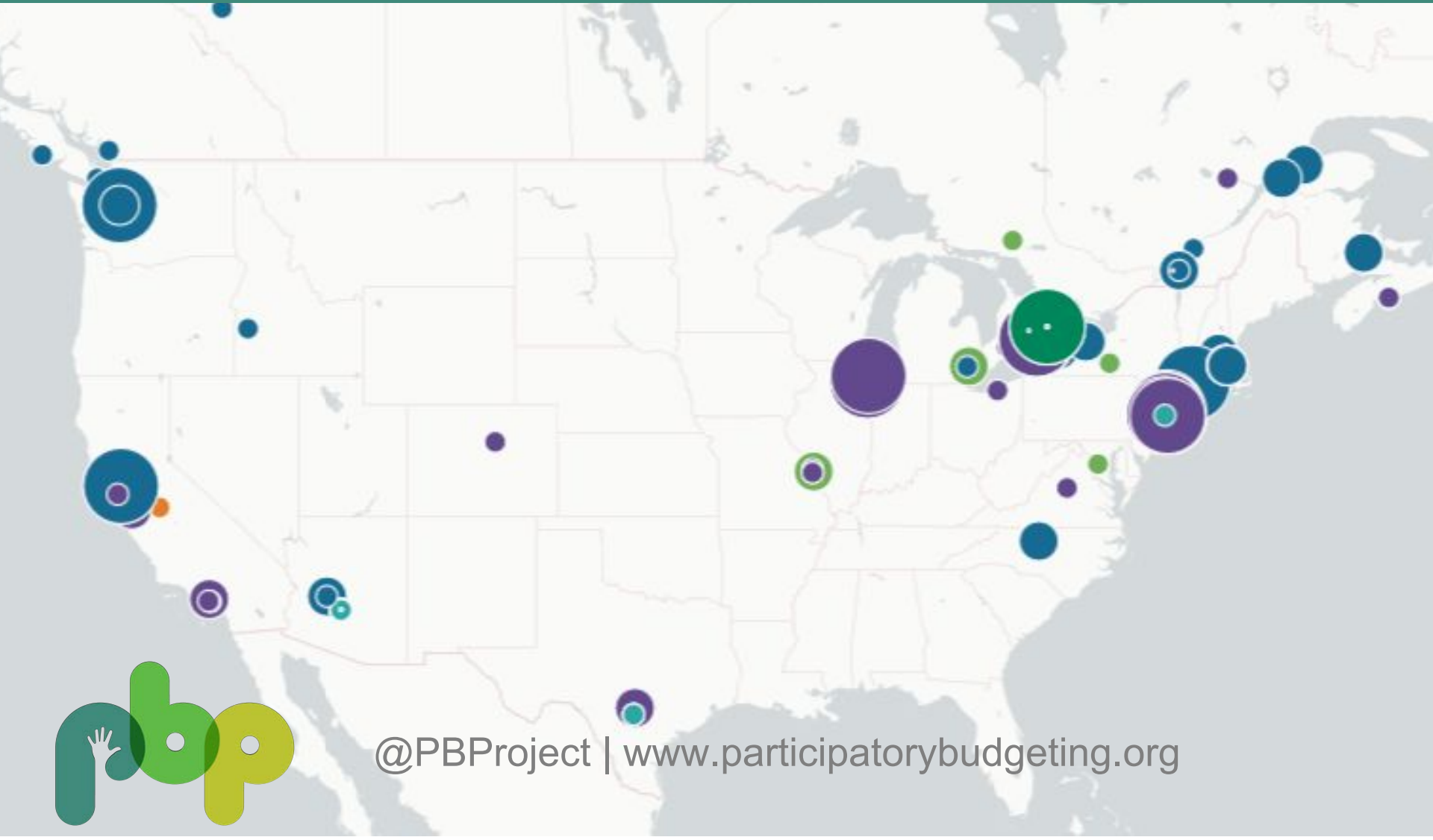
3000+ PB processes around the world

- ✓ Cities
- ✓ States
- ✓ Counties
- ✓ Public Housing
- ✓ Schools
- ✓ Community Organizations



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# PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN NORTH AMERICA



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# DEMOCRATIZE CAPITAL AND EXPENSE PLANNING

**Locally administered federal discretionary grants**  
Community Development Block Grants, Surface  
Transportation Block Grants

**Citywide and District Budgets**

**School and School District Budgets**

**State and Regional Budgets**

**Couple with Master Planning and/or Visioning**



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# DEMOCRATIZE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Special Districts and Assessments** - Tax Increment Financing, Business Improvement Districts, Economic Development Corporations

**Public Benefit Funds** - Community Benefits Agreements, PILOT payments, Anchor Institution (e.g., Hospitals Universities)

**Business & Workforce Development Programs** - Small business loans, Incubators, Education & Training

**Low Income and Workforce Housing** - Subsidies, Credits, Fee en lieu (of construction) funds



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# SEATTLE



Your Voice, Your Choice: Parks & Streets is a participatory budgeting initiative in which Seattle residents democratically decide how to spend a portion of the City's budget on small-scale park and street improvements.

A total of \$3 million has been allocated in the 2018 budget and residents can participate in the district where they live, work, go to school, receive services, or volunteer.





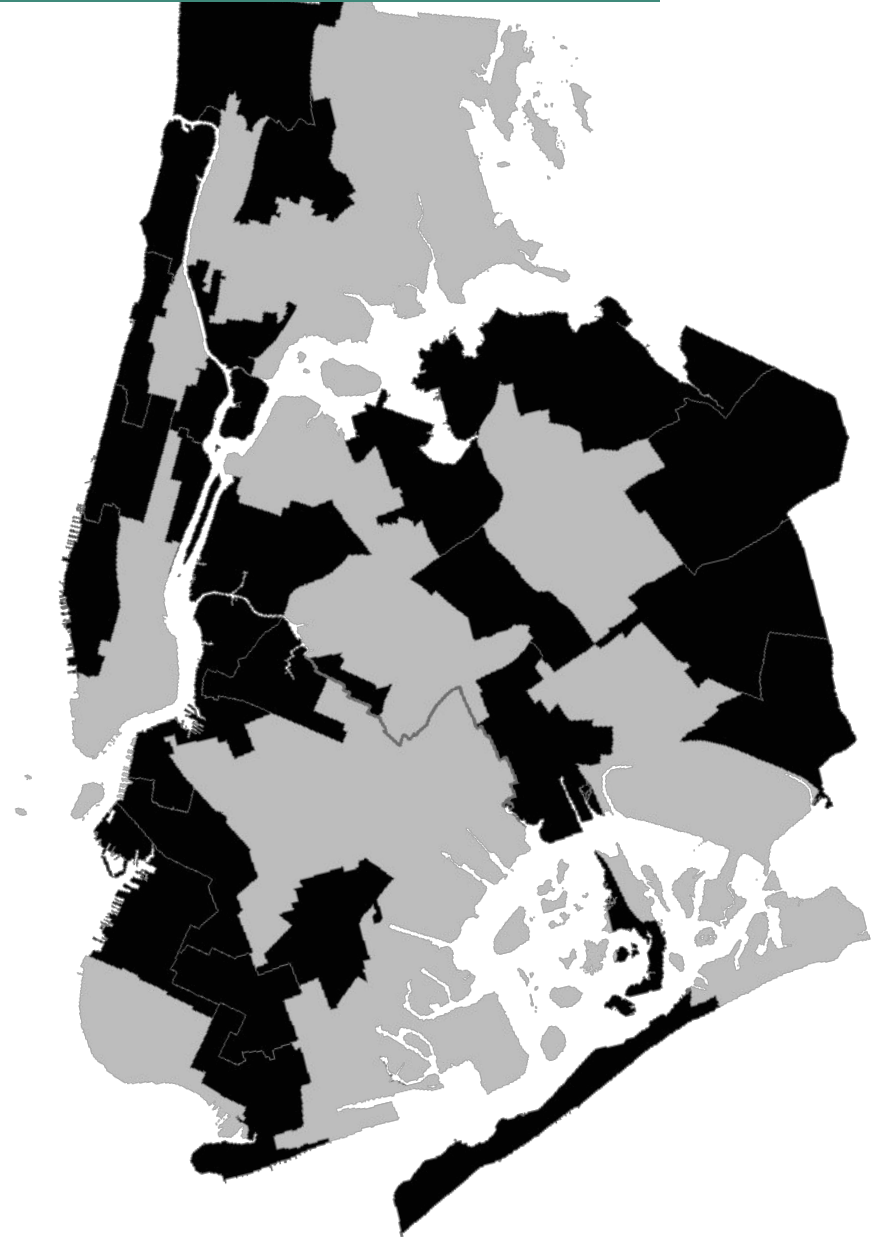
OAKLAND, CA





# NEW YORK CITY

**\$37 million** reaching over  
**4.5 million residents** in  
over half of city districts



# TORONTO COMMUNITY HOUSING

164,000 TENANTS

As many as **6,000 tenants** per year have allocated up to **\$9 million** in capital funds per year





# MORE EQUITABLE & EFFECTIVE SPENDING

In NYC, funds are more likely to go to projects in low-income areas in PB than through other discretionary funds.



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# BUILDING A BROADER POLITICAL CONSTITUENCY



## VALLEJO

20% of PB voters  
were ineligible to  
vote  
in regular elections

## NYC

Higher percentage  
of low-income  
residents voted in  
PB (40%) compared  
to full population  
(34%) & local  
elections (29%).



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# HOW TO ENSURE EQUITY AND INCLUSION?

- ✓ Money that matters
- ✓ Grassroots leadership
- ✓ Inclusive design
- ✓ Targeted outreach
- ✓ Equity criteria



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# RESOURCES AND TRAININGS

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## Why do PB?

In a time of rising civic disengagement, many city leaders are using an innovative tool to reconnect with the people they serve: Participatory budgeting, known as “PB.”

Our report “*Next Generation Democracy*” lays out the impacts of PB, and features the voices of civic leaders including elected officials and PB participants.

[DOWNLOAD THE WHITE PAPER](#)

[www.participatorybudgeting.org](http://www.participatorybudgeting.org)



### PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING: **Next Generation Democracy**

*How innovative leaders are reaching  
more people, bridging community divides,  
& making government work*

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# Sustainable Communities

Division of Transportation Planning



**Senate Bill 1 – The Road  
Repair and Accountability  
Act of 2017**



# Sustainable Communities

- State Legislation
- Grant Guide  
Development Process
- Grant Summary



# Senate Bill 1 – The Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017

- SB 1 is a landmark transportation investment to rebuild California by fixing neighborhood streets, freeways and bridges in communities across California and targeting funds toward transit and congested trade and commute corridor improvements
- SB 1 allocates [\$25 million annually to] local planning grants to encourage local and regional planning that furthers state goals, including, but not limited to, the goals and best practices cited in the regional transportation plan guidelines adopted by the California Transportation Commission
- **SB 1 requires any “guidelines” that implement SB 1 to be developed through a stakeholder and public engagement process**

# Grant Guide Development Process

- May 2018 – Kick-off with State Agency Coordination Workgroup consultation and coordination
- June 2018 – Two Public Workshops
- Early July 2018 – Discussion Drafts released and comments were received from Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), a local government, and several public and environmental organizations
- Late July 2018 – Final Drafts released and comments were received from MPOs, Regional Transportation Planning Agencies, several public and environmental advocacy organizations
- Summer 2018 – Meetings with stakeholders to discuss comments



# Grant Summary

GRANT	FUND SOURCE	PURPOSE	WHO MAY APPLY	LOCAL MATCH
Sustainable Communities Competitive	Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account (RMRA – SB 1)	Funds local and regional multimodal transportation and land use planning projects that further the region's Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (where applicable), contribute to the State's greenhouse gas reduction targets, and also assist in achieving the Caltrans Mission and Grant Program Overarching Objectives: Sustainability, Preservation, Mobility, Safety, Innovation, Economy, Health, and Social Equity	<p>The following are eligible to apply as a primary applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MPOs with sub-applicants</li> <li>• RTPAs</li> <li>• Transit Agencies;</li> <li>• Cities and Counties;</li> <li>• Native American Tribal Governments</li> <li>• Other Public Transportation Planning Entities</li> </ul>	11.47 percent minimum (in cash or an in-kind* contribution). The entire minimum 11.47 percent local match may be in the form of an eligible in-kind contribution. Staff time from the primary applicant counts as cash match.
	<p>State Highway Account (SHA)</p> <p>State funds</p> <p><b>Budget</b> Approx. \$17 million</p> <p><b>Grant Min.</b> \$50,000 for Disadvantaged Communities; \$100,000 for All Others</p> <p><b>Grant Max.</b> \$1,000,000</p>		<p>The following are eligible to apply as a sub-applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MPOs/RTPAs</li> <li>• Transit Agencies</li> <li>• Universities and Community Colleges</li> <li>• Native American Tribal Governments</li> <li>• Cities and Counties</li> <li>• Community-Based Organizations</li> <li>• Non-Profit Organizations (501.C.3)</li> <li>• Other Public Entities**</li> </ul>	

# Caltrans Transportation Planning Grants Website

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/grants.html>





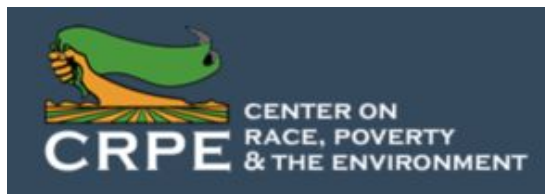
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