

Stuart Cohen

Founding Executive Director | TransForm



Stuart Cohen, Founding Executive Director, TransForm

In 1997, Stuart Cohen co-founded TransForm, an organization that promotes walkable communities with affordable homes and excellent transportation choices to connect people of all incomes to opportunity, keep California affordable, and help solve the climate crisis. Stuart has worked for over 20 years to link transportation, land use and housing, including spearheading the successful campaign to have MTC and ABAG initiate the Bay Area’s smart growth visioning process in 1998. He also co-led the effort to have MTC adopt their Transit-Oriented Development policy in 2005, which conditions funding for transit expansions on local plans for housing.

In 2006 Stuart helped conceive and launch the Great Communities Collaborative to engage communities in planning near transit throughout the Bay Area. He also co-founded ClimatePlan, a statewide network promoting smart land use and transportation as critical components of California's climate strategy. Stuart was awarded an Ashoka Fellowship and the James Irvine Leadership award for TransForm's innovative programs such as GreenTRIP which certifies and promotes residential developments that dramatically reduce car trips, excess parking, and climate emissions while promoting more affordable homes.

Stuart has authored over a dozen TransForm’s reports, including the 2014 report “Why Creating and Preserving Affordable Homes Near Transit is a Highly Effective Climate Protection Strategy”. The report, paired with a coalition campaign led by Housing California and TransForm has unlocked over \$500 million from California’s climate investments for the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program. He received his MPP from the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley.



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By combining high-quality policy analysis with coalition building and strategic media efforts, TransForm has become a powerful and effective voice for world class transit and walkable communities in the Bay Area and beyond.

TransForm's campaigns on transportation sales taxes and other funding measures have brought together diverse coalitions and helped raise over \$8 billion for sustainable and socially-just transportation.

Founded in 1997, TransForm now has 30 staff with offices in Oakland, San Jose and Sacramento.

