



# JOINT BENEFITS AUTHORITY:

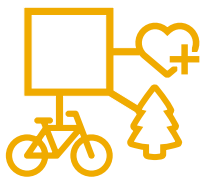
## Integrated Public Investments for Livable Cities

The Joint Benefits Authority (JBA) is a tool that allows multiple city agencies to work together, in collaboration with local communities, to finance and deliver transformative and resilient infrastructure. The JBA is designed to harness the multiple benefits generated by natural infrastructure and to support social equity.

**THE CHALLENGE:** Cities are struggling to deliver affordable, equitable, and quality public services, including health and safety, parks and streets, sewer and water service, and education. With increasingly intense storms, hotter temperatures, rising seas, and rising costs, communities are struggling to plan and finance infrastructure improvements that can both mitigate and adapt to climate change. Most cities respond to these challenges with a business-as-usual approach where each agency issues bonds to pay for the benefits aligned with their departmental mission. While it makes sense to delegate responsibility among agencies for various public services, this makes it hard to undertake joint projects.

**THE NEED:** The Joint Benefits Authority is a new way for municipal governments and service providers to raise money and work together to address challenging cross-sector problems. The JBA approach can help account for desirable but undervalued “co-benefits” as primary project objectives and quantify them. It creates the framework for advanced capital planning, where departments’ priorities, community needs, and funding are aligned from the beginning to increase efficiency in infrastructure investments and amplify benefits. The result is a shift to integrated designs for a more beautiful and functional city, and one that increases overall climate resilience.

### JBA ESTABLISHES:



Integrated and equitable resilient public infrastructure with multiple community benefits



Creative mechanism to allow joint funding and attract/leverage new investors



Department collaboration good governance & accountability

The World Resources Institute, Encourage Capital, Liquid Assets Project and the San Francisco Public Utility Commission are partnering to design, develop, and pilot a Joint Benefits Authority. The JBA pilot will focus on scaling up natural infrastructure for water, climate and resilience outcomes that strengthen vulnerable neighborhoods in the face of climate change.

## JBA INTEGRATED APPROACH:

The JBA can enable transformational projects that **DELIVER MULTIPLE BENEFITS** to communities by scaling natural infrastructure approaches. In addition to cleaner air and water and improved flood resilience, these projects can bring ancillary benefits including reducing the heat island effect, boosting mental and physical wellbeing, promoting habitat diversity, and beautifying neighborhoods. For example, a community greenway along a heavily used street corridor can manage excess stormwater, but also better connect residents to the local school and neighborhood park, improve safety by reducing the speed of traffic, shade students as they walk and bike to school, and offer environmental education opportunities in the school year for kids to connect to their watershed.

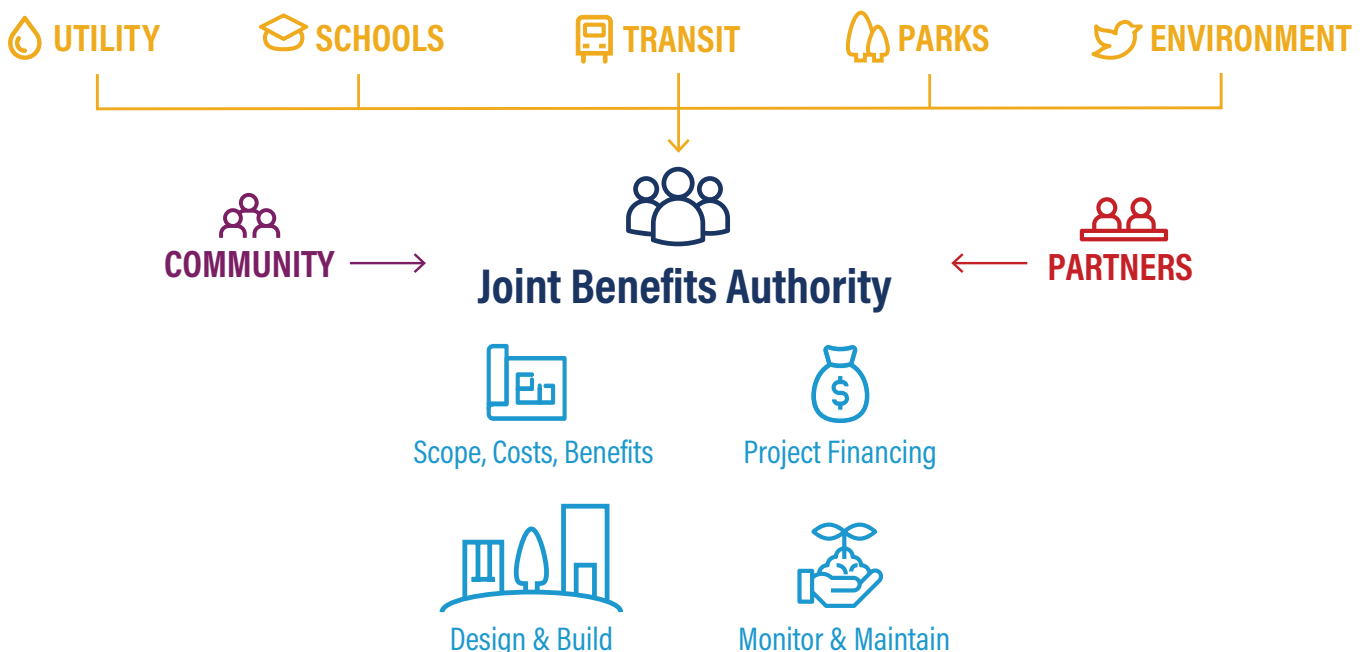
Multi-agency advance capital planning through the JBA can **ACHIEVE INTEGRATED PROJECT DELIVERY** by establishing one JBA project team, eliminating duplicative costs for planning, design, implementation and monitoring, and promoting good governance. By considering public investments across a neighborhood as one project, it streamlines opportunities for communities to participate and evaluate how the projects as a whole will impact them. The JBA project manager leads the project to deliver safer streets, upgrades to transit, urban greening, and more on behalf of the city's department, the public and the other partners.

The JBA offers a cooperative mechanism to **PIONEER CREATIVE MUNICIPAL FINANCING** that delivers and maintains public infrastructure. The JBA is given its authority by the city departments, including the power to issue bonds. In addition, collaborative projects anchored by multiple city agencies with strong community buy-in will be attractive to new investments, including grants and other state and federal dollars.

The JBA provides a new approach to **ADVANCE SOCIAL EQUITY** through inclusive and integrated implementation, which empowers communities to shape projects to meet local needs. Rather than traditional public engagement where the community provides feedback, the JBA includes community leadership, residents, and businesses as part of the project team. This means that the community takes an active and direct role in various phases of the project, decision making, filling jobs for implementation, and long term stewardship.

## JOINT BENEFITS TEAM:

City departments, the community and partners agree to create an independent entity for collaboration that allows joint planning, funding, project delivery and long term stewardship. The JBA addresses the needs of each individual department and the community, and considers the neighborhood challenges holistically to develop a fully integrated project that captures increased benefits.



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