

# Radical revision of social infrastructure development processes reflecting community needs: Local government and residents thoroughly discussing social capital's ideal form

Gunma Prefecture



Explanatory meetings



## Background/Aims

- In Japan, government agencies generally formulate draft plans for public projects, which are then presented to interested residents in order to gain their understanding and cooperation; one issue with this system, therefore, is that public projects do not reflect residents' needs.
- By involving local residents in the plan formulation process, this project aims to increase residents' satisfaction.

## Project Outline

- Five steps for consideration of public projects at the draft plan stage are established, and a draft plan that is acceptable to both the government agency and local residents is formulated through repeated consensus-building between the government agency and local residents.
  - Step 1: Sharing of schedules and draft plan formulation procedures
  - Step 2: Identification and comprehension of concrete residents' needs through surveys
  - Step 3: Reflection of residents' needs in draft plans
  - Step 4: Government agency formulates multiple alternative draft plans and evaluates these together with residents
  - Step 5: Plan is decided and publicly announced to residents

## Features

- Starting with a highly specific survey of residents, the government agency identifies residents' true needs.
- Government agencies reflecting residents' needs in plans for public projects increase the degree of satisfaction of both the government agency and residents.

## Results

- The project improves the quality of public project plans and residents' satisfaction.
- By deepening residents' understanding, the project has enabled implementation of public projects to proceed more smoothly than in the past.