# ADVANCING BICYCLING IN RURAL AREAS – CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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El Dorado County Transportation Commission



#### THE RURAL DIFFERENCE

Rural roads present unique challenges to agencies due to the high amount of roadway miles; variety of roadway types; and physical, environmental, and economic constraints

Demands for improvements are increasing as rural communities grow, and have heavier traffic loads than originally intended

## CHARACTERISTICS OF RURAL ROADWAYS

- Greater Distances Between Residential and Commercial/ Employment/Education Uses
- Local sensitivities to improvements
- Community pride in rural character
- Low volumes of active transportation
- Originally designed to support resource based economic activities such as logging, agriculture

## CHARACTERISTICS OF RURAL ROADWAYS

Wide range of traffic speeds and volumes

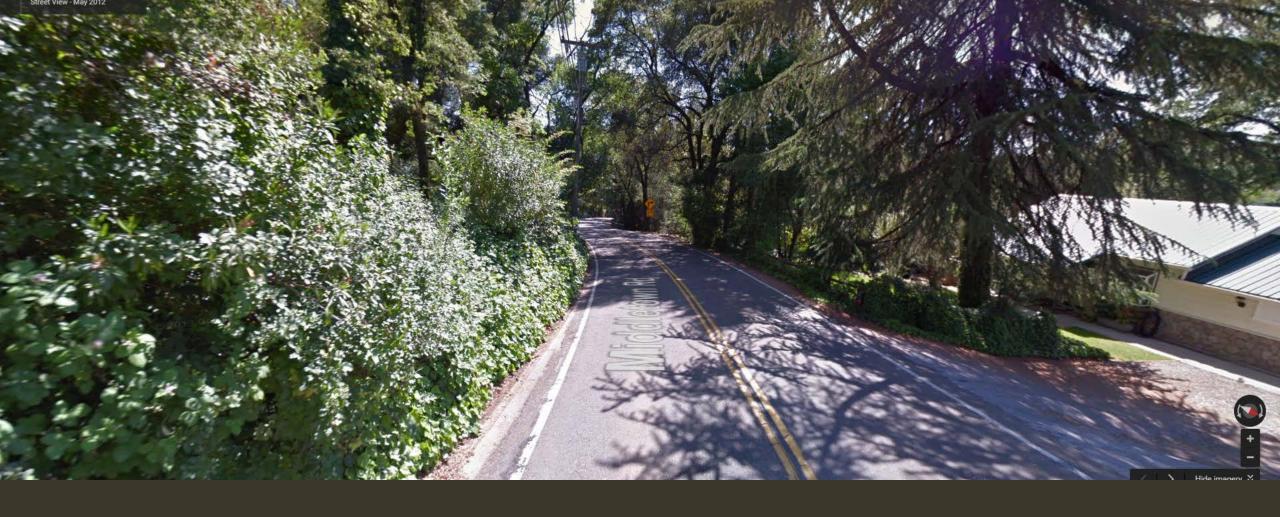
High percentage of recreation and/or tourism related traffic

Unincorporated, remote and/or undeveloped areas

Rugged topography, narrow road widths, short sight distances, scenic viewsheds

Greater likelihood for animal to vehicle collisions

Appeals to long distance and experienced bicyclists



## PHYSICAL CONSTRAINTS

Middletown Road, City of Placerville Near two schools



## PHYSICAL CONSTRAINTS

El Dorado Road High speed, no shoulder



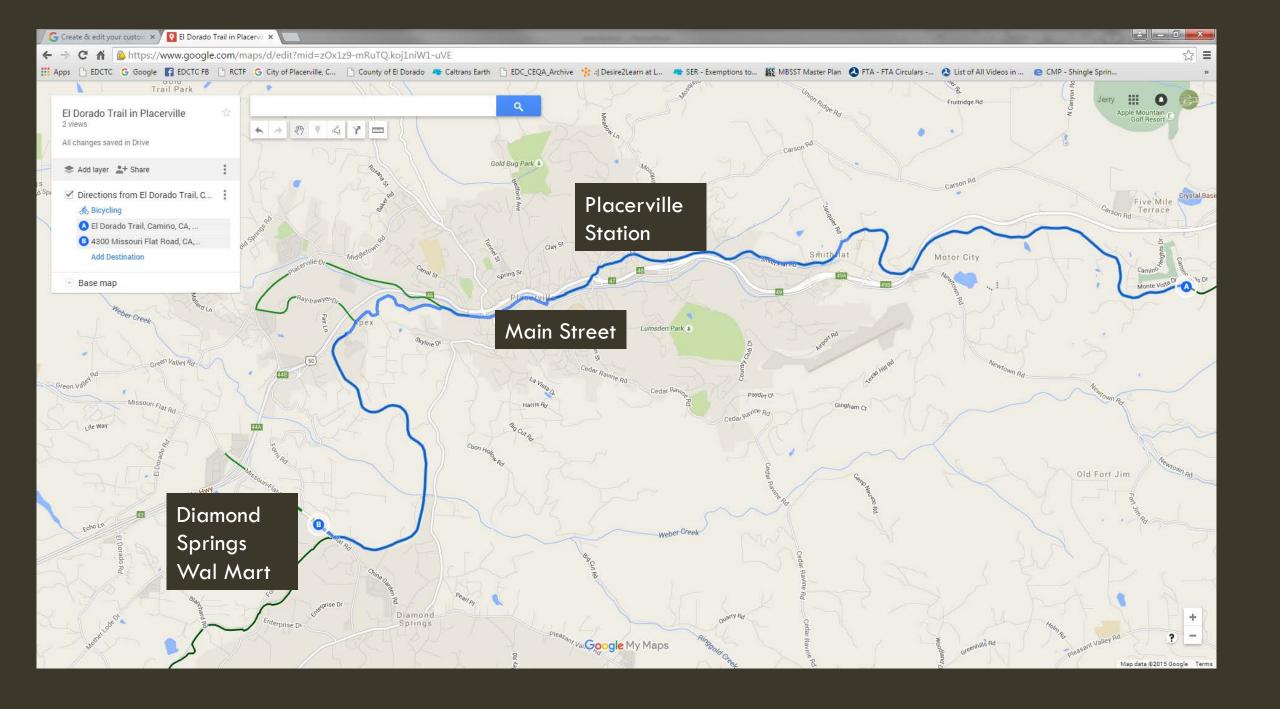
## PHYSICAL CONSTRAINTS

Sly Park Road

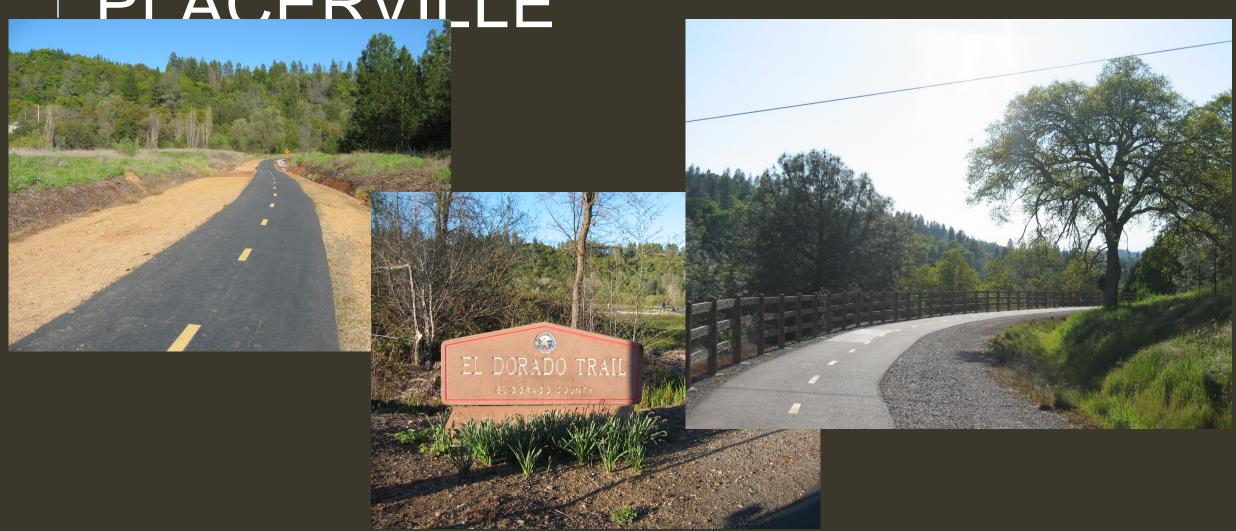


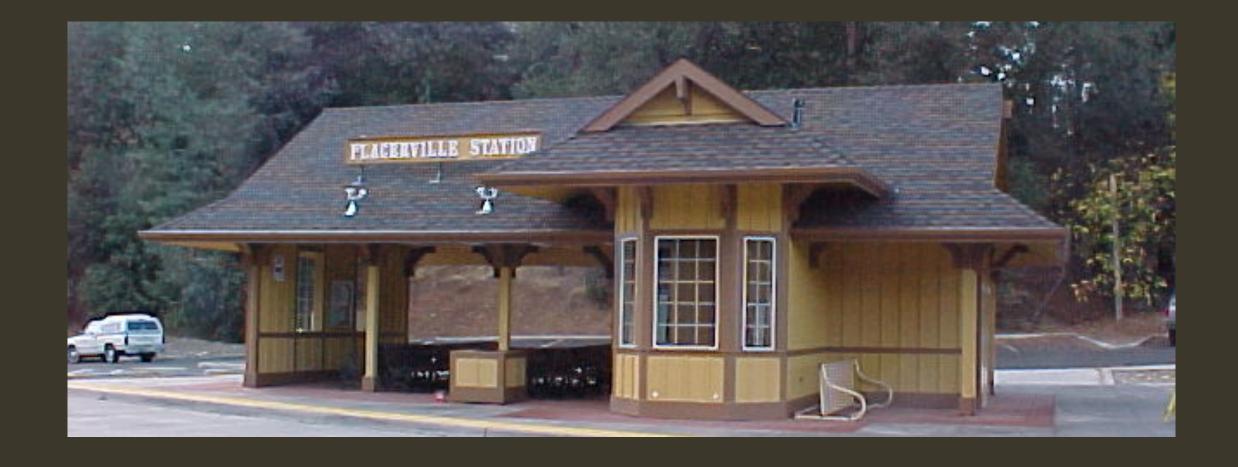
## CITY OF PLACERVILLE POPULATION, 10,464

El Dorado Trail
Main Street Sharrows
Connectivity to Government
Center, Library, Shopping,
Schools, Commercial Centers



EL DORADO TRAIL IN EAST PLACERVILLE





## PLACERVILLE STATION MULTI MODAL CENTER

Park and Ride Lot
Local bus stop
Commuter Bus Stop
Trailhead for El Dorado Trail



## THE EL DORADO TRAIL- DOWNTOWN PLACERVILLE

Downtown Placerville



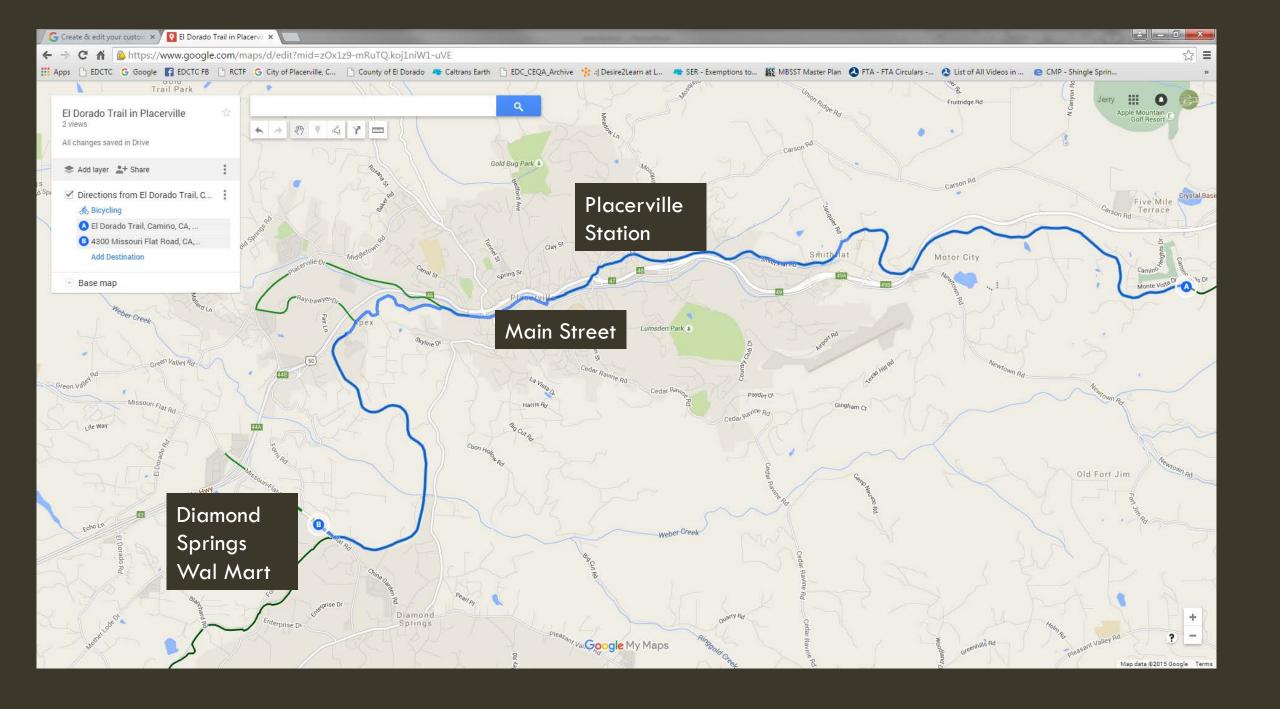
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Downtown Placerville

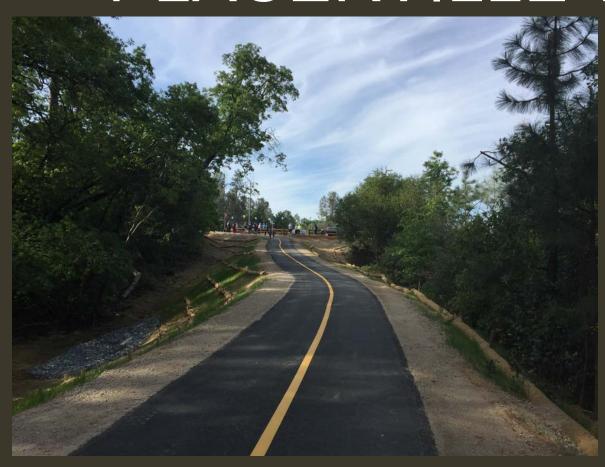


## CITY OF PLACERVILLE POPULATION, 10,464

El Dorado Trail Main Street Sharrows Connectivity to Government Center, Library, Shopping, Schools, Commercial Centers



#### THE EL DORADO TRAIL-PLACERVILLE WEST

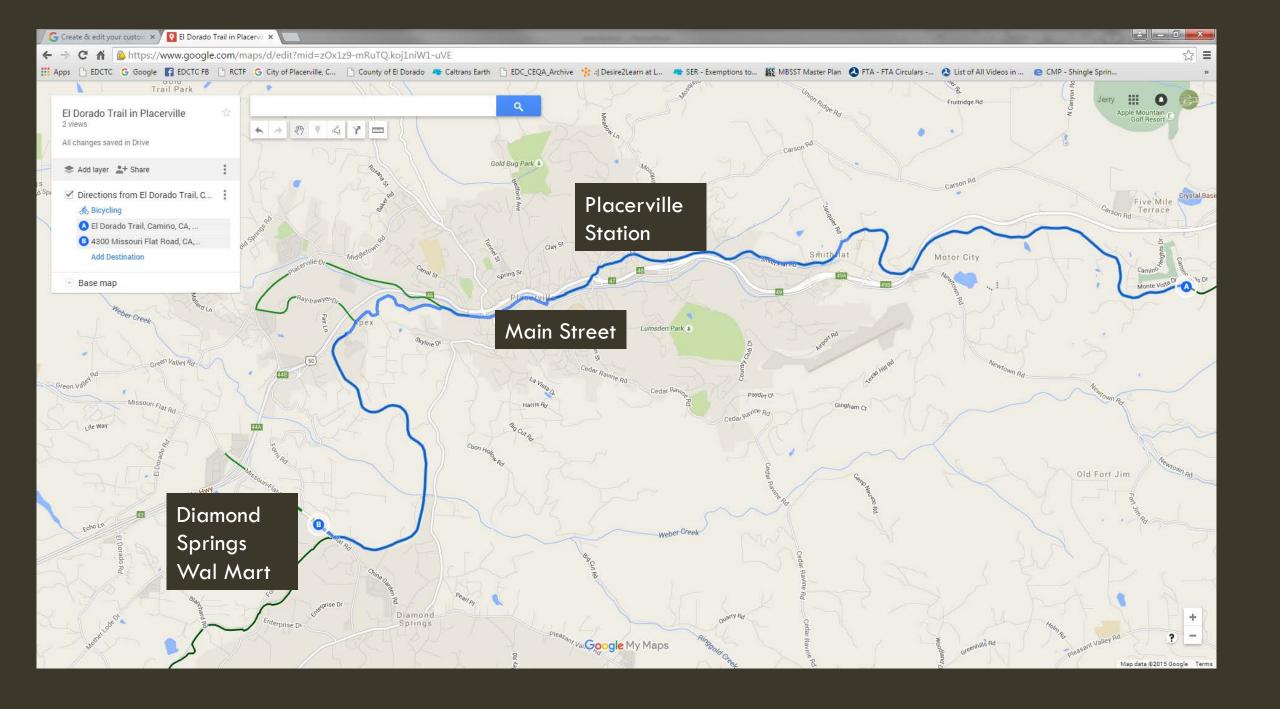




THE EL DORADO TRAIL – PLACERVILLE TO DIAMOND

SPRINGS





#### EL DORADO TRAIL

The El Dorado Trail concept is for a trail that spans the entire length of El Dorado County from the western county line to the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The current alignment of the El Dorado Trail includes two railroad rights-of-way, the Michigan-California railroad right-of-way, and the Sacramento-Placerville Transportation Corridor.





TRANSPORTATION
CORRIDOR
ALTERNATIVES

http://www.edctc.org/3/ SPTC\_Analysis.html



## COOL, CA – POPULATION 4,100

Rural Suburban State Routes 49 and 193

#### COOL, CALIFORNIA POPULATION 4,100

Northside School Bike Path

Northside School Enrollment approximately 350

K-8 School

Auburn Lake Trails, California is located in El Dorado County.

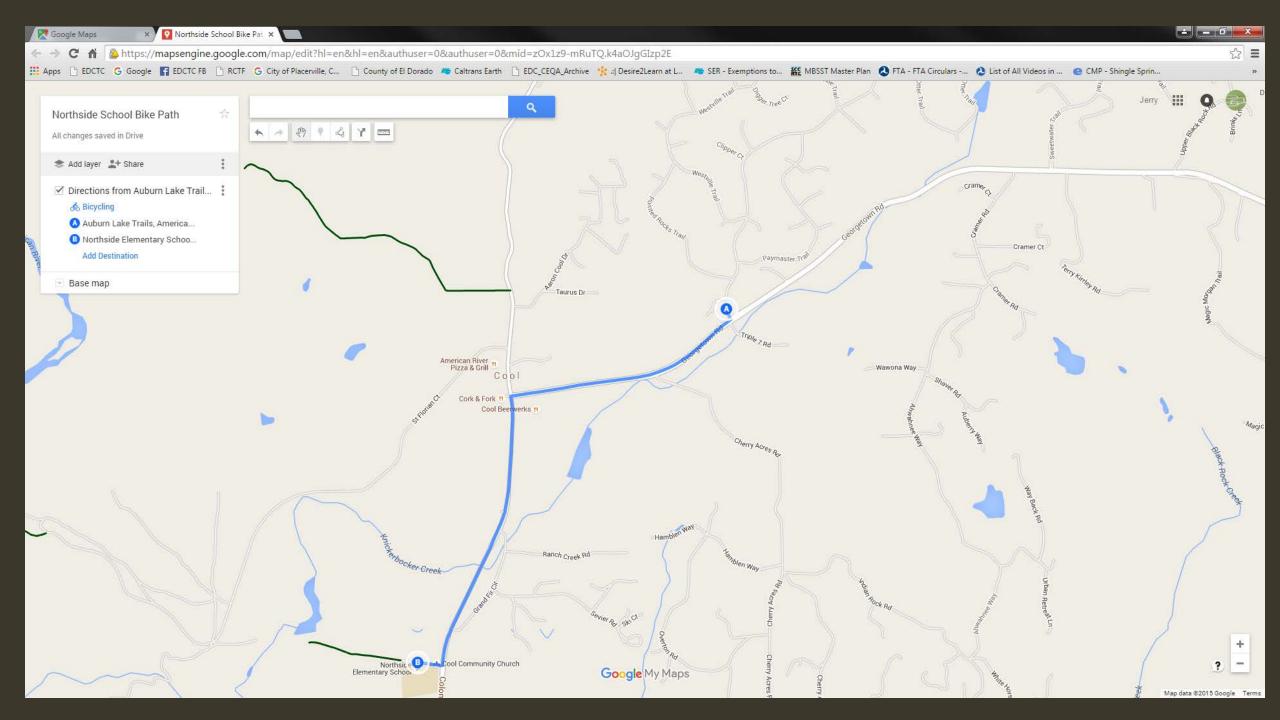
Auburn Lake Trails is a suburban community with a population of 3,325.

The median household income is \$79,820. In Auburn Lake Trails, 70% of residents are married, and families with children reside in 31% of the households.

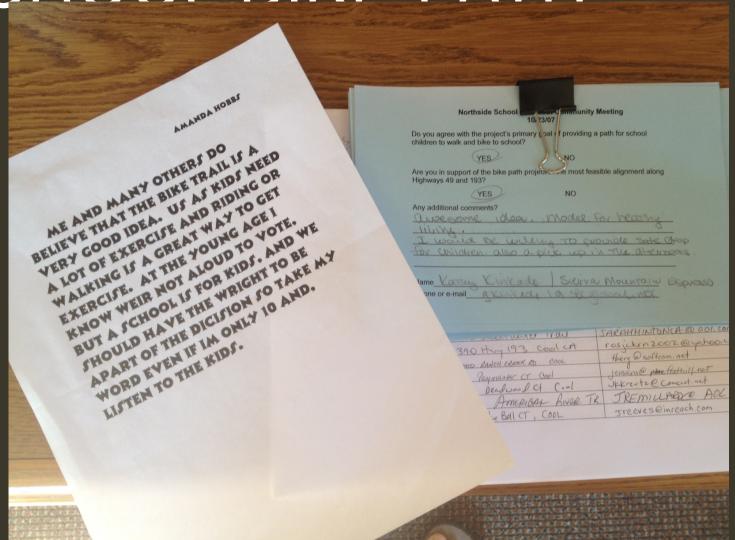
Half the population of Auburn Lake Trails commutes 35 minutes or less to work, with 26% of residents holding white collar jobs and 74% residents holding blue collar jobs.

## NORTHSIDE SCHOOL BIKE PATH





SUPPORT FOR NORTHSIDE SCHOOL BIKE PATH

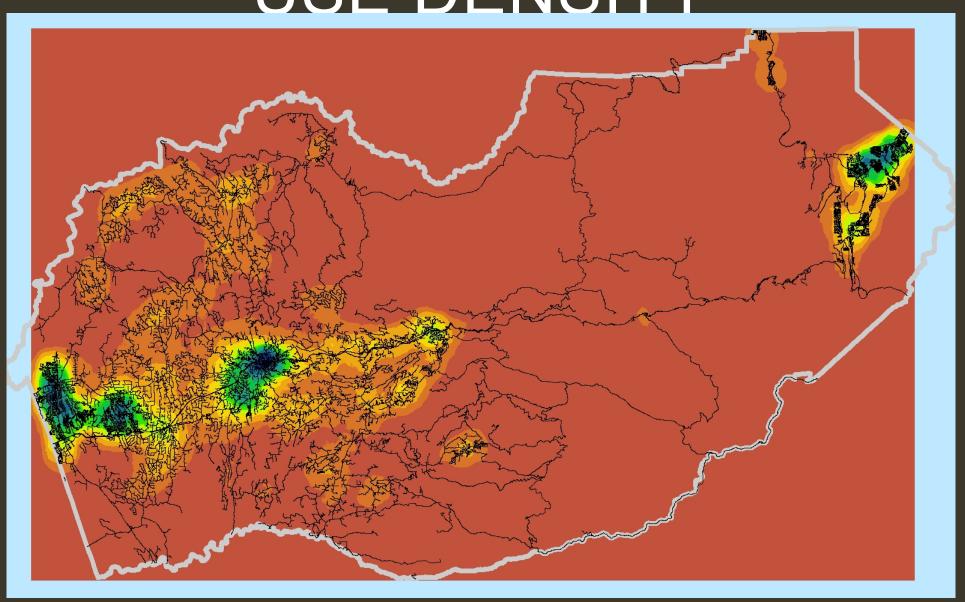


## NORTHSIDE SCHOOL BIKE PATH

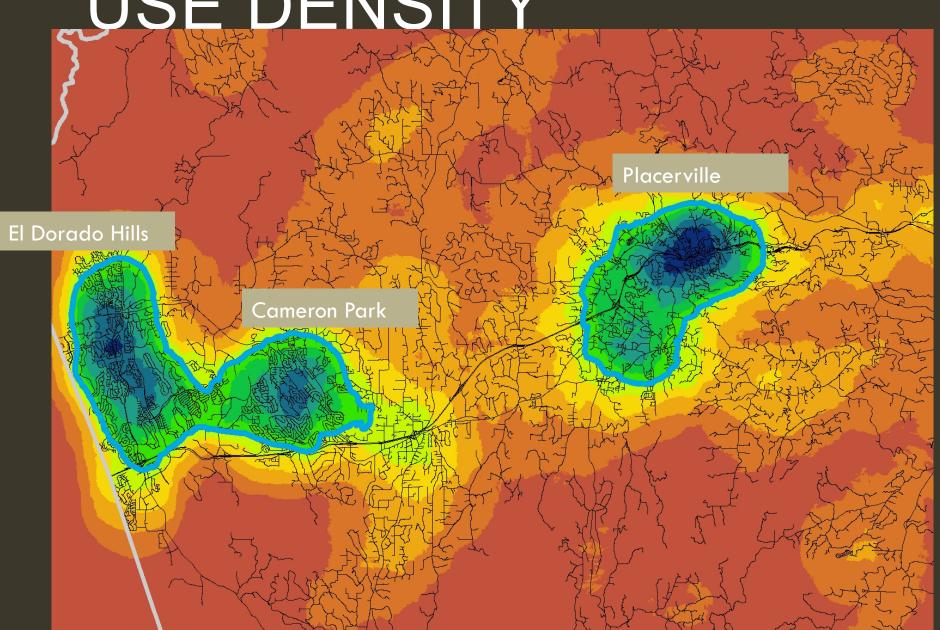


## THE OBVIOUS RURAL LAND USE CHALLENGE

## EL DORADO COUNTY LAND USE DENSITY

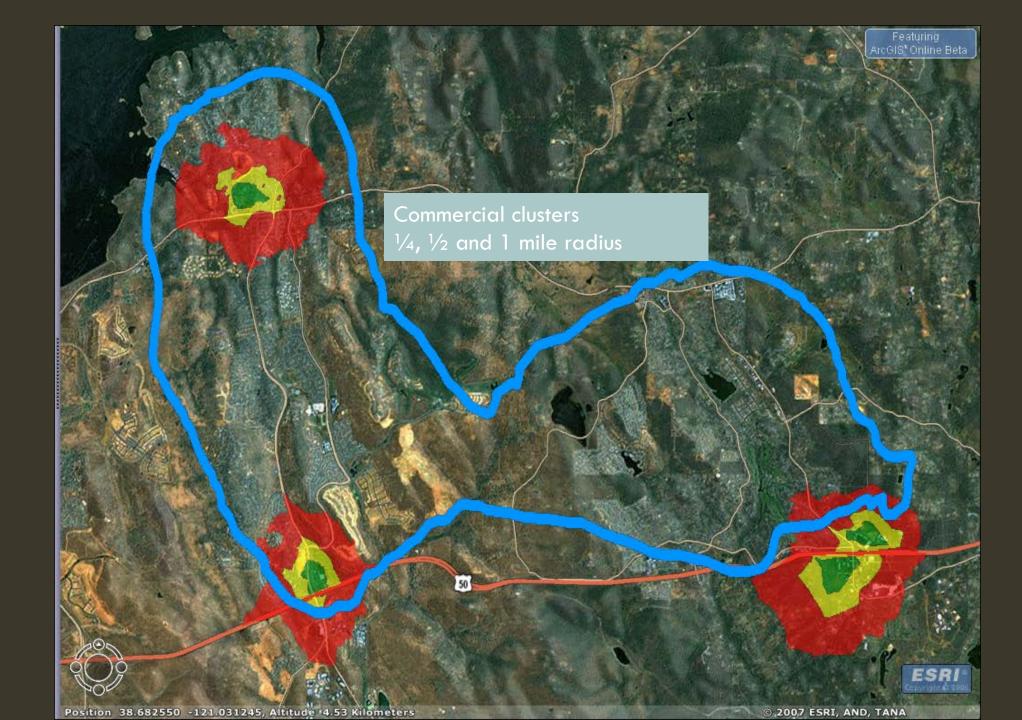


EL DORADO COUNTY LAND USE DENSITY

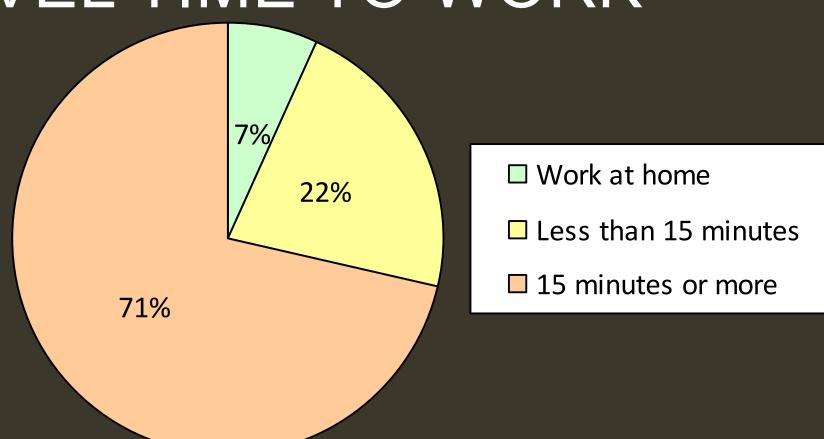


#### LAND USE CHALLENGES

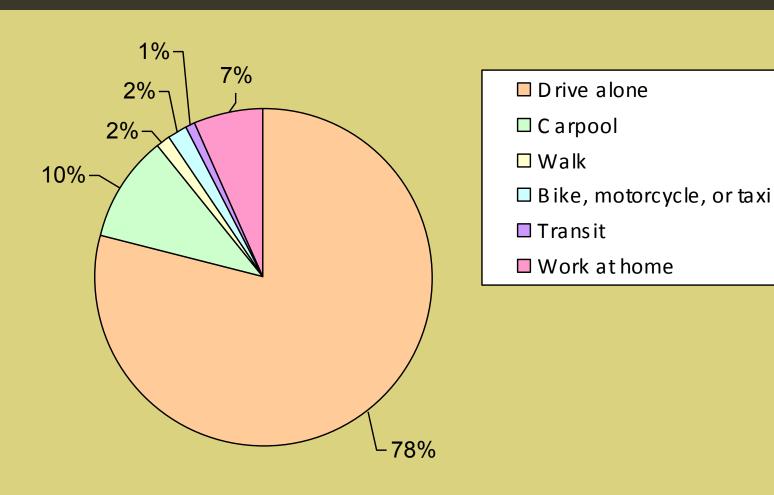
- 27,990 residential parcels in 'dense zones:'
- 0.6% are within 1/4 mile of grocery store
- 5.3% are within  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of grocery store
- 22.4% are within 1 mile of grocery store
- Even in higher density areas, about 78% of potential residences are >1 mile from any grocery store

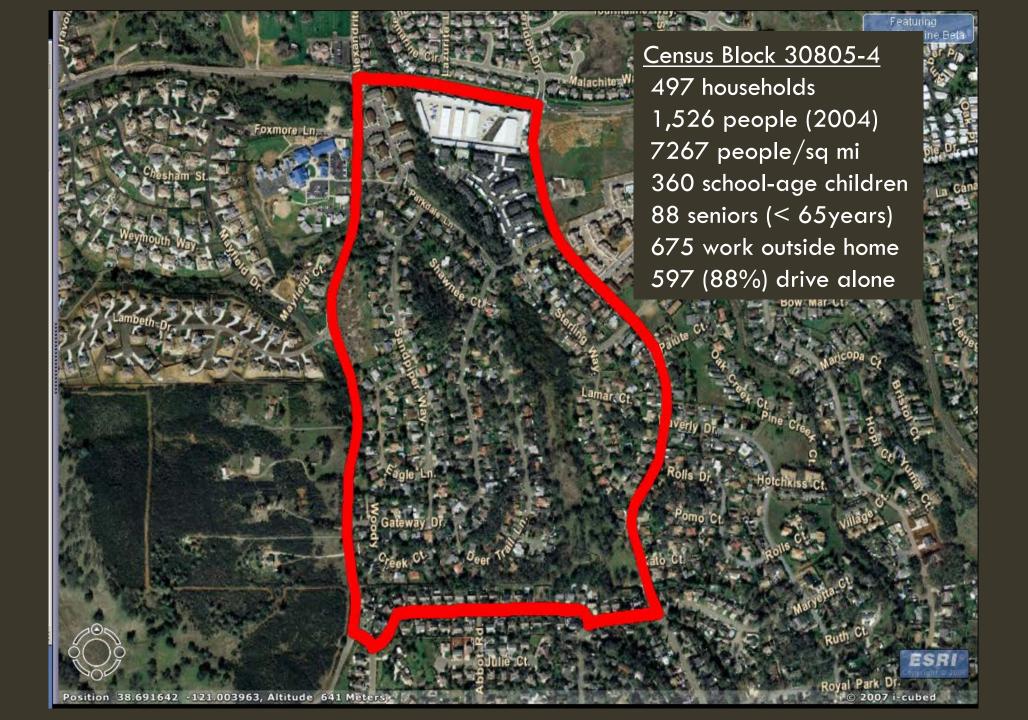


#### CAMERON PARK: POPULATION: 19,946 TRAVEL TIME TO WORK



## CAMERON PARK – TRAVEL MODE TO WORK







#### CAMERON PARK

Sandpiper way

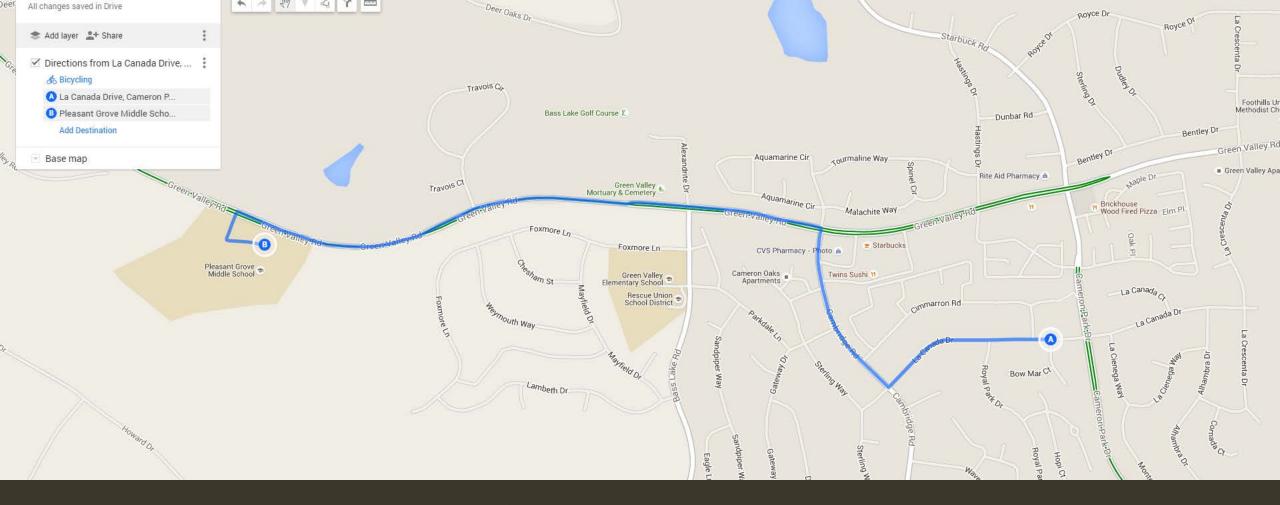


### CAMERON PARK

Gateway Drive



### CAMERON PARK



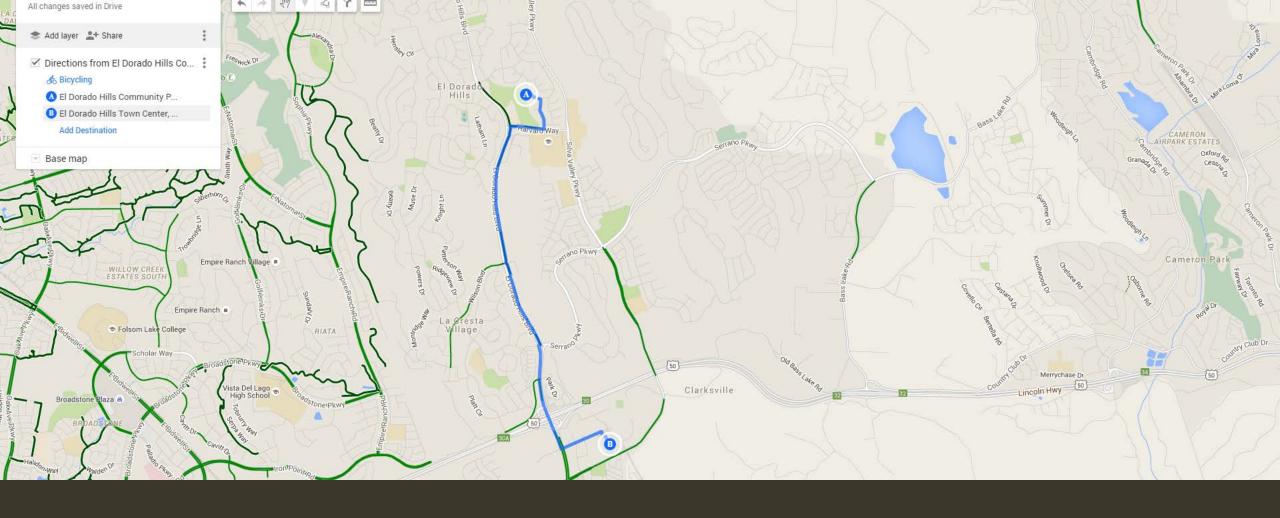
# CAMERON PARK – SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROJECT



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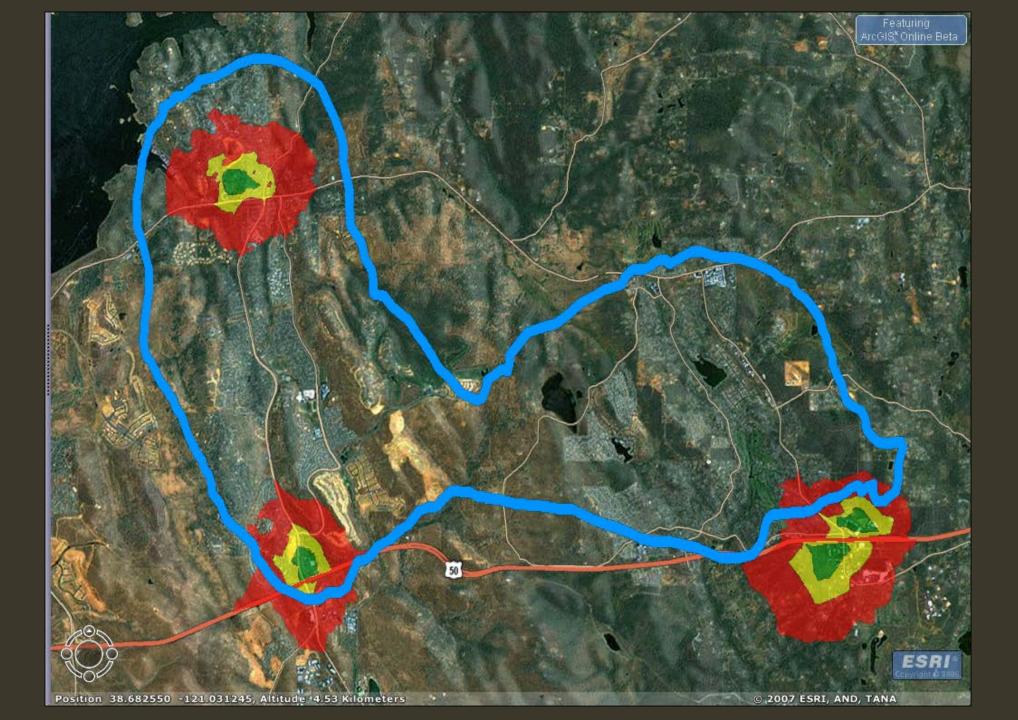


# CAMERON PARK – SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROJECT



### EL DORADO HILLS

Population 42, 108



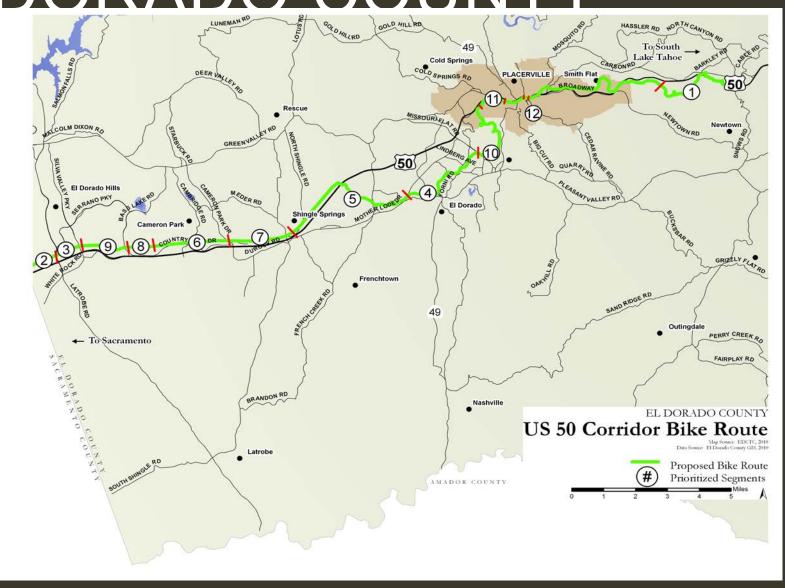


#### EL DORADO HILLS BOULEVARD BIKE PATH



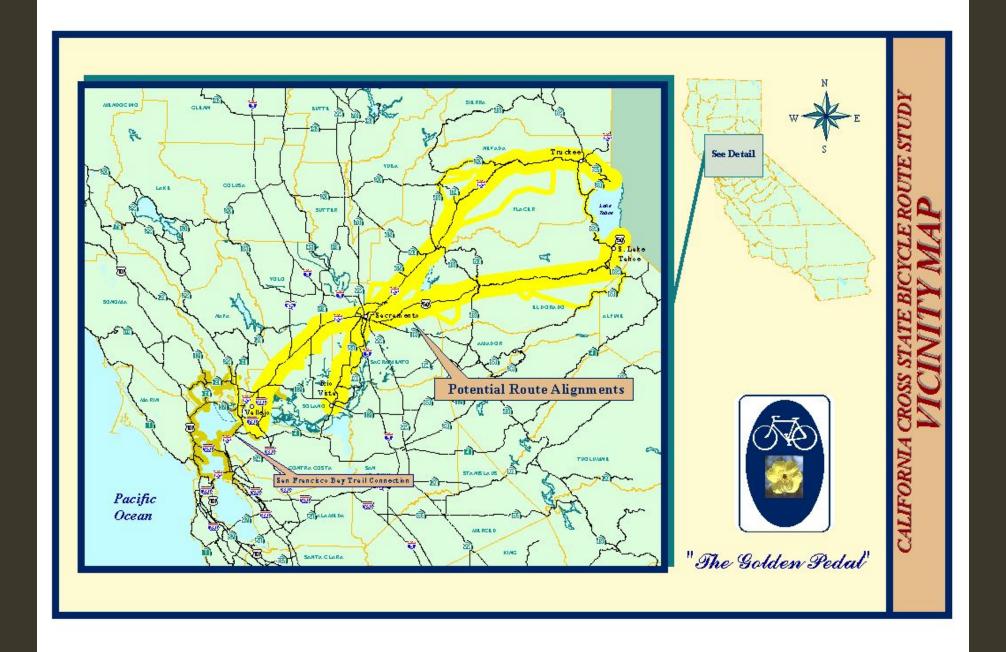
#### EL DORADO HILLS BOULEVARD BIKE PATH

## US 50 CORRIDOR BIKE ROUTE – FI DORADO COUNTY

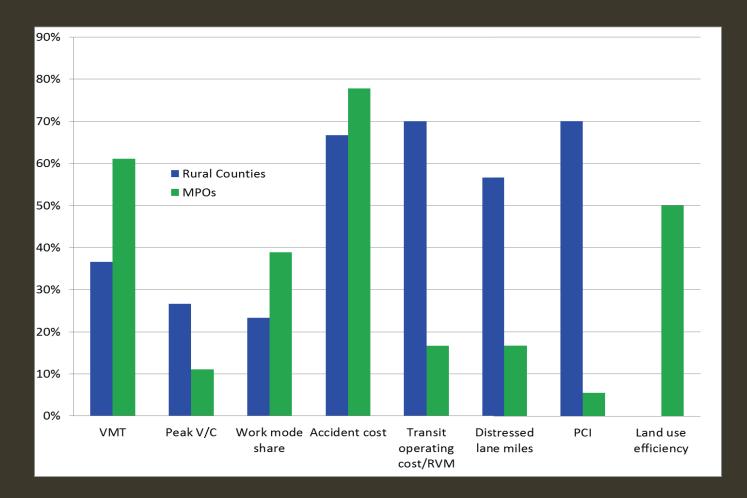


# CROSS STATE BIKE ROUTE-BAY AREA TO LAKE TAHOE





Performance Measures focused on urban areas



Traditional performance measures do not recognize rural area characteristics

Data sources focus on collection around Urban Areas: PeMS, HPMS

Recreation and tourism hub for urban residents

Agriculture – food supply for urban areas

Vital links for freight transport to urban areas

Urban areas have larger budget and staffing for maintaining performance measures

Performance based metrics place emphasis on urban socio-economic characteristics and exclude rural communities, i.e. Disadvantaged Communities

#### **Rural Communities**

Funding mechanisms are urban centric

Per Capita Needs are greater

System maintenance and connectivity

Maintaining lifeline transit service

#### **Urban Communities**

Air pollution

Congestion

Reliability

Transit for choice riders

Land Use

Congestion and System Reliability

Primarily a concern in urban areas

It's easy and convenient to drive in rural areas

#### Population Related Statistics

Strict benefit-cost measures favor urban areas because of higher traffic volumes, more active transportation options and users

Per-capita cost of accidents takes into account higher proportion of fatal crashes in rural counties

Benefit-cost ratios higher in urban areas because of higher population densities

# CHALLENGE TO GETTING PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR CARS IN RURAL AREAS

Challenge Opportunity

Greater daily distances travelled

Lack of facilities and connectivity

It's easy and convenient to drive

Challenging terrain, longer distances, limited safety, and route awareness

Urban centric funding forcing rural jurisdictions to invest limited resources in auto centric system

Take advantage of higher density and mixed-use areas

People with interest in outdoors and active transportation

Identify and build useful connections within and between rural communities

Encourage land use patterns which encourage multi-modal options by linking transit, active transportation, and auto trips.

#### MORE INFORMATION

El Dorado Trail

www.eldoradotrail.com

Cross State Bike Route Study

http://edctc.org/C/Non-Motorized/
CrossStateComplete.pdf

**SPTC Alternatives Analysis** 

http://www.edctc.org/3/ SPTC\_Analysis.html