

The PATH Forum

Planning for Active Transportation and Health

an effort of the
Healthy Rural Roads Project

Funded by the
Caltrans Environmental Justice Program

- Project goals
- Info from Roundtables
- Insight on efforts from other Pacific Northwest regions
- Model for interdisciplinary collaboration: transportation, health, land use, social services and economic development



Project Team

A group of people are riding bicycles on a paved path that runs alongside a body of water. The path is on the left side of the frame, and the water is on the right. In the background, there are some buildings and a cloudy sky. The people are wearing helmets and casual clothing. The overall scene is outdoors and appears to be a recreational or commuting activity.

- **Natural Resources Services,
RCAA**
- **Nelson/Nygaard Consulting
Associates**
- **Jeff Hobson, Transportation &
Land Use Coalition**
 - **Todd Litman, Victoria
Transport Policy Institute**
 - **Management Steering
Committee**

Project Goals

- **Planning integration between transportation, land use, health, social services, and economics to provide a more coordinated and equitable foundation for decision-making.**



Project Goals

- **Proactive consideration of needs of various social groups that will be impacted by transportation planning decisions.**

- **Improved transportation investment equity.**

Project Goals

- **A planning process that prevents non-automobile project elements from ‘falling off’ under-funded or overspent projects before completion.**

Project Goals

- Tools to help governments of limited means – particularly in Humboldt County – achieve these goals.
- Tools to help transportation interest groups know how best to support such efforts.





Project Tasks & Schedule

- Input to *Summary of Research*
- Transportation-Disadvantaged Populations data
- Tables: 'Local Plans, Studies & Data Sources'
- Available on website:
www.nrsrcaa.org/nrs/hrr

Project Tasks & Schedule



- **Best Practices Report** (early Feb.)

- **Humboldt County Transportation-Disadvantaged Populations Report** (early March)

- **PATH Guide** (early April)

- **Opportunities Analysis** (early May)

November Roundtables

- Summary, presentation at www.nrsrcaa.org/nrs/hrr
- Discipline-centered discussion and input



November Roundtables

■ **Transportation Professionals**

- Need better public participation processes
- Intergovernmental coordination works

■ **Land Use Planning & Economic Development**

- Need better tools for establishing baseline data of TDPs; measuring use in absence of good facilities; measuring impacts and benefits
- Need more inclusive participation process, need public education about process

November Roundtables

■ Social Services & Advocacy Groups

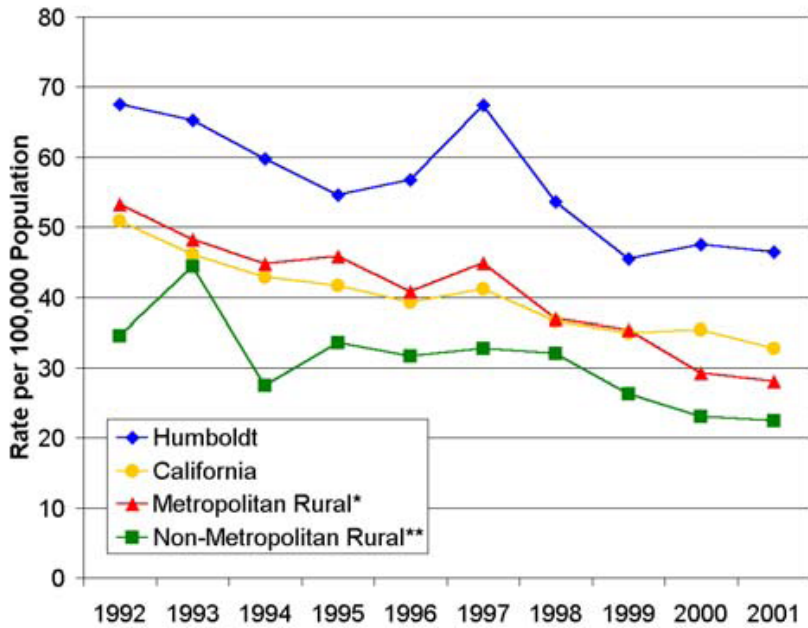
- Transport is most important component to providing services
- Don't expect government to solve all problems: need more collaboration
- Want better ways to provide input to planning process

■ Health Professionals

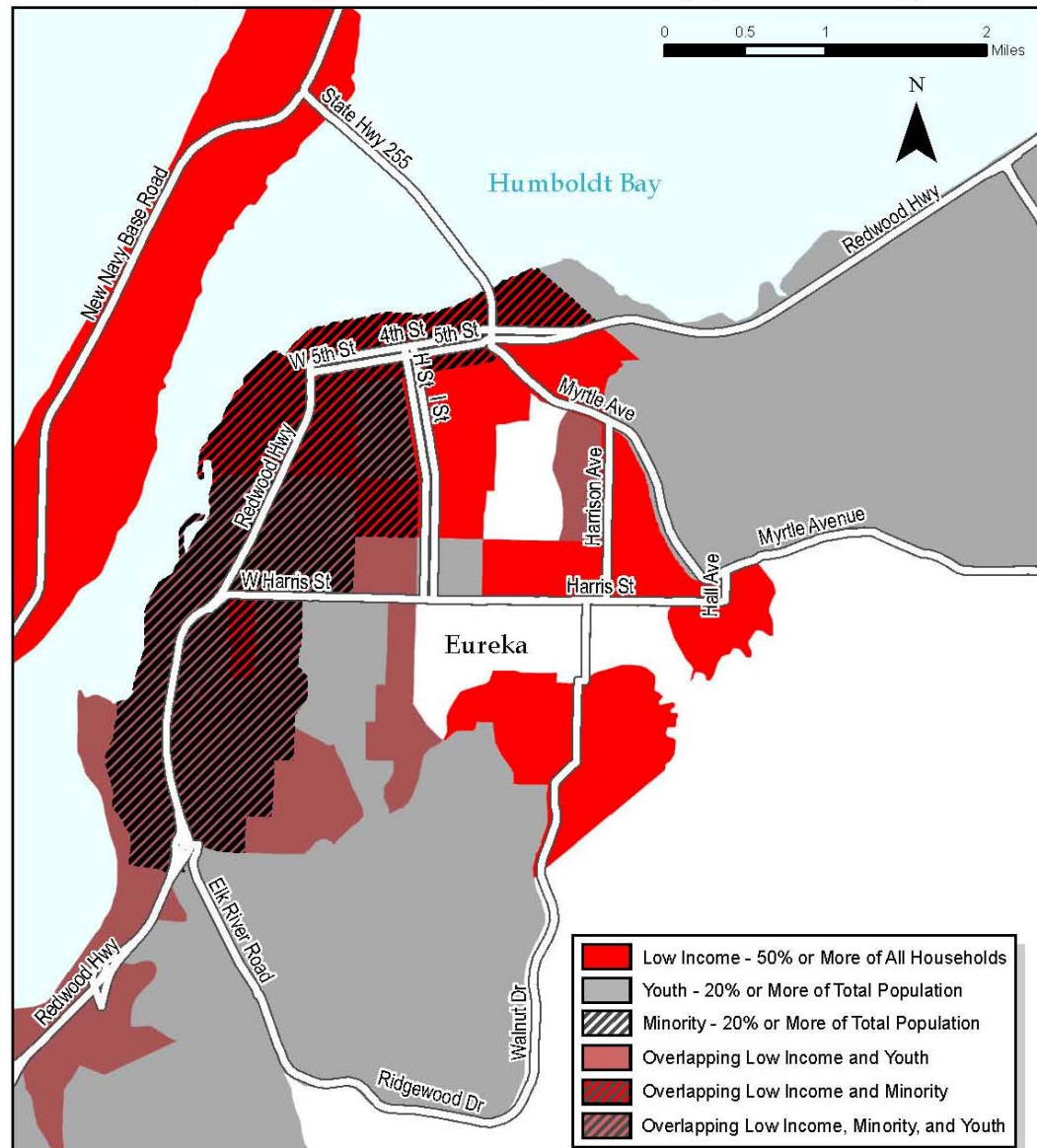
- Many people rely on transit for access to basic health services
- Services brought to people? Expensive; transport hard to fund

Data Analysis

Bike & Ped Safety



Eureka Low Income, Minority, and Youth Populations (by Block Group)



Minority includes Asian American, Pacific Islander, African American, Native American, Hispanic, and Multi-racial populations.
 Youth includes persons age 15 or younger.
 Low Income includes households earning less than \$35,000.

Transportation-Disadvantaged Populations

■ People facing significant unmet transportation needs:

- Low-income
- Elders and youth
- Physical or Mental Disability
- Minorities
- Non-Driver or Carless
- Geographically Isolated

■ How to better identify and include in planning process?

- Quantitative: GIS
- Qualitative: planning integration, 'consultations'

Interdisciplinary Planning

A photograph of a suspension bridge at dusk or dawn. The bridge has two large concrete arches and is supported by cables. The road on the bridge has yellow double lines. In the background, there are dark mountains under a deep blue sky. The overall scene is dimly lit, suggesting twilight.

- **Decisions made by each sector influence the others**
 - **Transportation**
 - **Land use**
 - **Economic development**
 - **Health**
 - **Social services**
- **Bringing non-traditional considerations to the transportation planning process**
 - **What types of information can be easily shared?**
 - **'Planning Considerations' from each discipline**

Workshop Tasks

- 1. Each participant represents a role:**
 - Social Equity
 - Land Use
 - Economic Development
 - Transportation Systems Efficiency & Sustainability
 - Health & Safety
- 2. Group agreement on 'proposed goal/s'**
- 3. Small groups, by role:**
 - Three objectives to meet goal/s
 - Present objectives to large group; identify planning considerations addressed
 - Note types of information needed
- 4. Discuss objectives with large group**
- 5. Input on 'planning considerations'**
- 6. Group highlights to all participants**