

Recommended Solutions from the Environment Goal Group

Goal: To Protect and Sustain Community and Natural Environments

High Priority

Problem Statement	Project	Initiative	Policy
Transportation Choices and Options Impact the Environment	Improve traffic flow by improving signal timing, ITS, and travel info	Education (eg. Ozone Action Days) choices to reduce environmental impacts (various actions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Better tax incentives to use hybrids b) Encourage fuel efficient modes (rail, water, hybrids, etc.) of transportation c) Regulations – Require idle trucks/buses to shut engines off/anti-idling at truck stops and parking facilities
Transportation/Land Use Planning Affect Quality of Life and Sprawl			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Reduce driving by planning livable/workable communities (higher density, mixed use, transit oriented development) b) Coordinated county master plan and zoning plan c) Encourage state enabling legislation for transportation impact fees (for development) – reflect real costs d) Require multi-use paths in site plans, with connectivity
Improve quality of life by expanding pedestrian and bicycle options		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Education (awareness of increased property values proved by statistics) b) Connect key destinations (schools, developments, parks, points of interest) with bike/ped trails and paths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Make commercial areas people-friendly b) Require sidewalks community-wide c) Acquire property for rail-trail extensions & completion of system
Quality of Life Issues are Important to the Community			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Reduce scatter lighting - more focused lighting (light pollution) b) Mitigate surface run-off with BMP's: Grass swales (rain gardens), storm-water detention, pervious surfaces, open pavers, trees/native grasses – improve water absorption
Traffic congestion and signalization impact communities	Improved signalization (ITS, sequencing, signal warning, timing)	Put in more hubs and loops to take buses to main destinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Put more freight on rails to lighten roadways b) Make developed areas more conducive to pedestrians c) Consider roundabouts as the preferred alternative for intersection improvements
Urban sprawl is consuming farmland and disrupting rural life			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Require greater land use density (cluster housing, tax incentives for density) in developed areas and include parkland in plans b) Provide financial incentives and tools to preserve farmland and natural areas c) Encourage county plan commissions to adopt 20 acre rule

