



Improving Public Health and Safety in Yuba County's Disinvested Communities

Workshop

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Attachments: No

Approved by: James Corless

Referring Committee: Transportation

1. Issue:

Staff from Yuba County and the Yuba Sutter Blue Zones Project will discuss the local context for adapting the built environment to improve the health and safety of residents of disinvested communities.

2. Recommendation:

Communities throughout the six counties need safe, active modes routes, requiring both small-scale and transformative changes to the built environment. Yuba County and Blue Zones Project will describe their approaches to address community-level and subregional needs for safer connections.

3. Background/Analysis:

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) for the Sacramento region proactively links land use, air quality, and transportation needs. In the Sacramento region, residents living in Environmental Justice Communities typically walk, bike, and take transit at a higher rate than the rest of the population. As part of the required analysis for the plan, the MTP/SCS also identified that residents of disadvantaged communities in unincorporated Yuba County were 59 percent more likely to walk, 62 percent more likely to bike, and 305 percent more likely to take transit compared to other areas of the unincorporated county. The County's 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment (prepared by Health Insights, May 2019) identified that 50.3 percent of Yuba County residents had adequate access to locations for physical activity, compared to 89.6 percent of California residents.

The SACOG board adopted the Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP) in 2022 and since that time, staff have been working on implementation. The REAP identifies Board Practice of hosting workshops that highlight foundational racial equity and inclusion (REI) concepts and best practices. The August workshop will offer a chance to discuss how Yuba County and Blue Zones Project have worked with partners to improve the health and safety of residents of disinvested communities, primarily through changing and updating the built environment.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

For many years, Yuba County has been working to complete transportation networks in disadvantaged communities using regional, state, and federal grants. These investments provide safer complete streets networks for residents to use to travel to school and other critical destinations. Sidewalks and bikeways also provide an opportunity for increased physical activity, a focus area of the Blue Zone Project. The Blue Zone

Project started working with the Yuba Sutter community in 2021 to make healthy choices easier where people live, work, learn, and play. The Blue Zones Project encourages changes in our community that lead to healthier options, focusing on tobacco cessation, healthy food access, and the built environment. The overlap of how the built environment contributes to physical, mental, social, and professional well-being created a space for partnership, leading to the bi-county effort for a safety action plan.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

There is no fiscal impact.