

Environmental Justice: Context-Sensitive Planning Grants

North Beale Corridor Complete Streets & Revitalization Plan

- **Grant Amount:** \$92,670
- **Grant Recipient:** County of Yuba
- **County:** Yuba

Project Area – The unincorporated community of Linda in fast-growing South Yuba County. North Beale Road is a busy five-lane road that provides primary access to the east Linda area. It connects to State Highway 70, linking Linda to the cities of Maysville and Yuba City to the north and northeast, and to Olivehurst to the south.

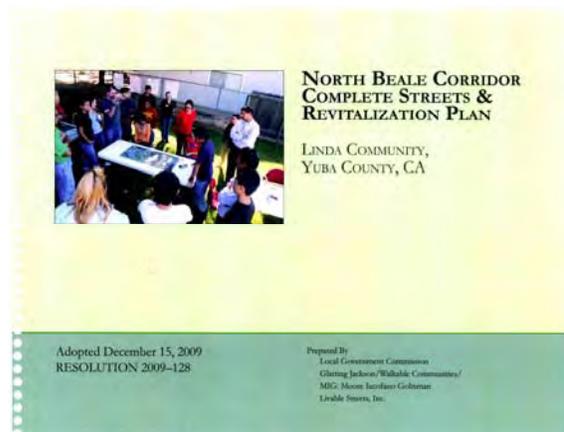
Project Focus – South Yuba County is undergoing tremendous growth that will continue to add more vehicles to the corridor. A July 2006 traffic study put the daily volume of vehicles at nearly 26,000. By 2025 that number is expected to grow to 50,000. This increase should lead to more commercial development; however, these high volumes present a barrier to creating attractive, safe and active pedestrian environments. Safe, clearly-marked pedestrian crossings are lacking, and there are few sidewalks. The lack of transit facilities and sidewalks, and deteriorated road edges together severely limit mobility choices for those who cannot or choose not to use cars for local trips.

Project Goals – The project will engage community leaders, residents and businesses through an intensive, highly participatory, multi-day community design workshop known as a “charrette” to develop a plan with detailed street and corridor design recommendations for North Beale Road. The ultimate products will be a plan to create attractive, safe and active pedestrian environments, with smooth and

efficient traffic operations for the corridor in the face of growing demand in the years to come.

Community Outreach – A multi-day design Charrette was conducted October 23-November 6, 2008. County staff and other agencies, community leaders and residents participated in a series of events to identify concerns, priorities and potential improvements to North Beale Road.

Environmental Justice Community Involvement – Public events began Thursday night October 23 with an opening community meeting, followed by community walk audits and collaborative design tables the following weekend. Based on public input, consultant team transportation and urban design specialists developed recommendations and drawings throughout the period. 45 people participated in the walk audit, which entailed a walk with consultant team members around Linda Elementary School and North Beale Road west of Yuba College. The group observed traffic and pedestrian conditions in the field, discussed concerns, and considered ideas for resolving problems.



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Project Outcome – The purpose of the project is to improve safety and mobility choices for all types of users, stimulate new investment in surrounding properties and

encourage neighborhood revitalization, and provide overall visioning for the future of North Beale Road.

Challenges

- Each day, nearly 26,000 cars and large trucks use North Beale Road. The speed and high volume of this traffic create a challenging and unsafe environment for roadway users and Linda residents alike. In addition, the corridor lacks landscaping, curbs, sidewalks and other street edge and streetscape features that are necessary for pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular safety and to attract successful quality commercial, retail and affordable housing development to revitalize the corridor.
- There are few transit facilities, such as shelters or benches with shading and clear signage. The lack of sidewalks and deteriorated road edges are particularly challenging for people with disabilities who represent approximately 25% of the Linda population according to the 2000 U.S. census. Together, these conditions severely restrict mobility choices for those who cannot or choose not to use cars for local trips.

Successes

- On December 15, 2009 (Resolution 2009-128) The Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution adopting the North Beale Corridor Complete Streets and Revitalization Plan as a design guide to development of North Beale Road from Lindhurst Avenue to Linda Avenue. This new corridor plan provides for improved landscaping, curbs, sidewalks and other street edge and streetscape features that are necessary for pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular safety and to attract successful quality commercial, retail and affordable housing development to revitalize the corridor.