

## **ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION: NEIGHBORHOOD ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND BICYCLES**

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Yolo County, including the four cities, is committed to encouraging residents to explore alternatives to the car as a means to reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to transportation. Yolo County already has an extensive climate change initiative in progress in partnership with many local jurisdictions, of which seeking ways to encourage alternative forms of transportation is an important part. In addition, all jurisdictions in Yolo County encourage development of paths for bicycling, walking, and other exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle. In particular, Yolo County is exploring ways to encourage the use of bicycles and electric vehicles.

**ISSUE #1:** Electric vehicles are more expensive than many other cars, so incentives are needed to encourage residents to purchase them.

**ISSUE #2:** Sources of funding for design and construction of bikeways is limited and maintenance funding is almost non-existent. Off-road bike paths are difficult and expensive to maintain because they require custom equipment designed for narrow paths. There is also limited designated funding available for construction and maintenance of NEV paths, in part because NEV popularity has only recently increased.

**ISSUE #3:** Limited information is available regarding ways to encourage people to further utilize electric vehicles and bicycles.

### **WOODLAND-DAVIS ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR**

In July 2008, the City of Davis, the City of Woodland, and the County of Yolo agreed to jointly fund a feasibility study of an off-road bike path between Davis and Woodland, as well as a corridor for low-speed alternative vehicles, such as scooters and NEVs. The goals of the study are to help address climate change by reducing fuel consumption, increasing bicycling safety, and encouraging exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle. Yolo County is nearing completion of a multi-million dollar project to widen county roads along a route known as the Davis-Woodland Bikeway to increase bicycling safety. The current study seeks to develop a plan for a multi-mode off-road path that would further increase safety, provide alternative transportation options, and provide a recreational amenity for children and their families.