

~ Transportation ~

City of Lincoln Enacts Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEV) Transportation Plan

Editor's note: In the last issue of Connections, we announced the release of a new publication, "A Healthy Community Perspective on Aging Well," (available at www.civicpartnerships.org). In this issue, we continue a series on innovative and promising practices that expand upon six domains featured in the publication: Varied Housing Options, Transportation, Community Involvement, Employment, Lifelong Learning, and Supportive Services.

Adults age 55 and older comprise over 21% of the City of Lincoln's population, many of whom live in Sun City Lincoln Hills. With such significant representation, these older adults have successfully influenced the City's transportation planning efforts, including supporting Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEV) legislation that is the first of its kind in the nation.

In 2002, residents of Lincoln Hills formed a Low Speed Vehicle (LSV) group to "educate, inform and socialize in our common interest of operating and maintaining a low speed vehicle within the Sun City Lincoln Hills community and neighboring areas." With over 100 LSV owners as members, the group became a powerful advocate for NEV-friendly policies and civic improvements.

The group worked with city officials and their local Assemblyman to enact AB 2353, Chaptered September 9, 2004, authorizing Lincoln and the City of Rocklin to establish a five-year pilot program for NEV travel.

AB 2353 also allows for the issuance of a restricted driver's license which permits a motorist to be licensed to drive only a NEV.

"The intent was to enable any resident to travel from their home to Downtown Lincoln," says Tom Cosgrove, former Mayor and current City Councilmember. "The NEV project will result in air quality improvements, energy savings, reduced travel costs, and increased mobility and independence for Lincoln's aging and impaired drivers."

Efforts began to extend NEV roadway infrastructure throughout the City. Designated lanes and dedicated parking spaces were established at two nearby grocery stores. The City's Public Works Department has also been requiring NEV parking and electric charging stations at all shopping centers, and most recently at Home Depot and Lowes.

On August 8, 2006, the City Council approved the adoption of two plans – one for NEVs (citywide) and one for golf carts (in a master planned community) – greatly expanding residents' access to stores, medical facilities and public buildings without an automobile. Both plans identify appropriate routes, provide design drawings based on lane standards, identify parking areas and provisions for charging stations, and interface with public transportation nodes where feasible.

The next phase of the project includes



Example of an electric vehicle.

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signing and striping NEV and golf cart lanes. Funding, estimated at \$1 million, will be provided by Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program funds.

For more information, contact John Pedri, P.E., Director of Public Works/City Engineer, at (916) 645-8576 or jpgedri@ci.lincoln.ca.us.

To view the draft plans, resolution and other documents, go to the City of Lincoln's website at www.ci.lincoln.ca.us and select "Agendas and Minutes" on the left side; "Agendas," and type in 8/8/06 in "Find agendas by date." Documents are on pages 521-626.

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