

Communities can be designed or modified to significantly reduce auto dependency.

What works?

Features that decrease the number and length of auto trips include:

- Convenient access (within a ten-minute walk) to a comfortable, safe and dependable transit system
- An easy-to-use and safe network of bike routes and trails for cyclists of all ages with links to transit and other destinations
- Pedestrian-friendly streets linking major destinations
- A compact development pattern with a mix of homes, stores, schools and offices
- Centrally located neighborhood-serving retail and services
- A variety of apartments, condominiums and townhouses suitable for all family sizes and income levels
- Squares and plazas, cultural centers, parks and playgrounds

What are the benefits?

For residents:

- Less money spent on auto expenses, leaving more money to spend on food, clothing and housing
- Less time spent driving, leaving more time to spend on recreational, social and leisure activities
- More time spent walking or biking, leading to reduced stress and healthier lifestyles

For the local economy:

- Less money spent on gasoline, leaving more money to fuel local businesses rather than foreign oil producers

For the environment:

- Less pollution and greenhouse gas emissions

What can be done?

The first step in reducing auto dependency is to prepare plans that promote compact, pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use development linked to transit. The plans should include:

- Specific land use and circulation framework proposals
- An implementation strategy identifying funding, priorities, and a short- and long-term schedule
- Design guidelines, standards and code adjustments

Plan implementation will follow if the public understands that the plan is good for their:

- Wallet
- Health
- Environment



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