

GOLD RUSH SHARED USE PATH

State Route 49 from Jamestown to Sonora to Columbia

*Request for approval of Letter of Support asking Caltrans to
develop a Project Initiation Document (PID) for the Gold Rush
Shared Use Path from Jamestown to Columbia*

OUTLINE



Opportunity Overview



Project Background



Corridor Challenges & Project Benefits

- **Health:** Asthma & COPD Benefits
- **Safety:** Reduction in Pedestrian & Cyclist Serious Injury & Death
- **Equity:** Educational & Employment Connectivity
- **Access:** Increased Transit System Access
- **Future:** Backbone of Tuolumne County's Active Transportation

OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

On January 20th TCTC received notice from Caltrans regarding an opportunity for state sponsored, Non-SHOPP Project Initiation Document(PID) for projects along state highways. Caltrans' goal is to have innovative and transformative project that support state goals and priorities.

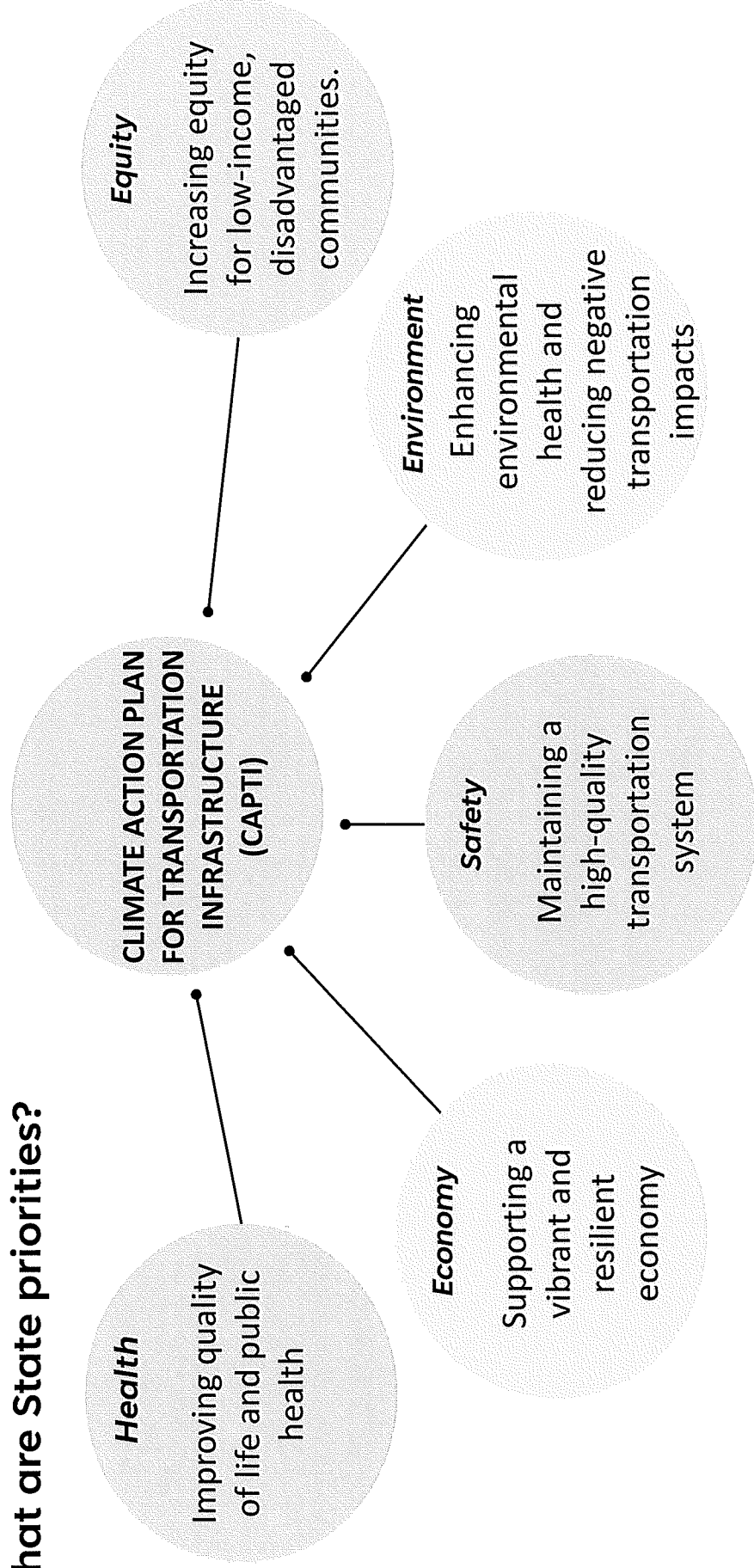
All nominations must be submitted by Monday, February 21, 2022

Caltrans is looking for innovative, transformative, and multimodal projects that support state goals and priorities

PIDs are required to be developed and approved by Caltrans before a project can proceed to the Project Approval & Environmental Document Phase

OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

What are State priorities?



PROJECT BACKGROUND

Project: *Gold Rush Shared Use Path*
Estimated Cost: 9.5 – 20 million dollars

Why this project?

- The County Board of Supervisors, TCTC, and the existing Regional Transportation Plan have prioritized SR 49 Corridor improvements.
- The State Route 49 (SR 49) Congested Corridor Plan and State Route 49 Complete Streets Plan engaged in extensive public outreach. Following that, both point to a pedestrian and cyclist pathway, separate from the highway, connecting Jamestown, Sonora, and Columbia to each other for those choosing to travel without cars.
- Extensive public outreach on the above plans highlighted a desire for residents and visitors to have increased active transportation access.

Project Background

Project Snapshot

What will it do?

- Continuously connect Jamestown, Sonora, and Columbia for cyclists and pedestrians.

Why is this important?

- As disadvantaged communities, Sonora and Jamestown need improved access to employment centers, job training, and higher education at Columbia college.

What about the future?

- This project will be the “Non-Motorized Highway” of active transportation in Tuolumne County in the future.

Project Background

Expected Project Outcomes

- Improved Health
- Increased Safety
- Boosted Equity
- Upgraded Access
- Planning for the Future

Project Background

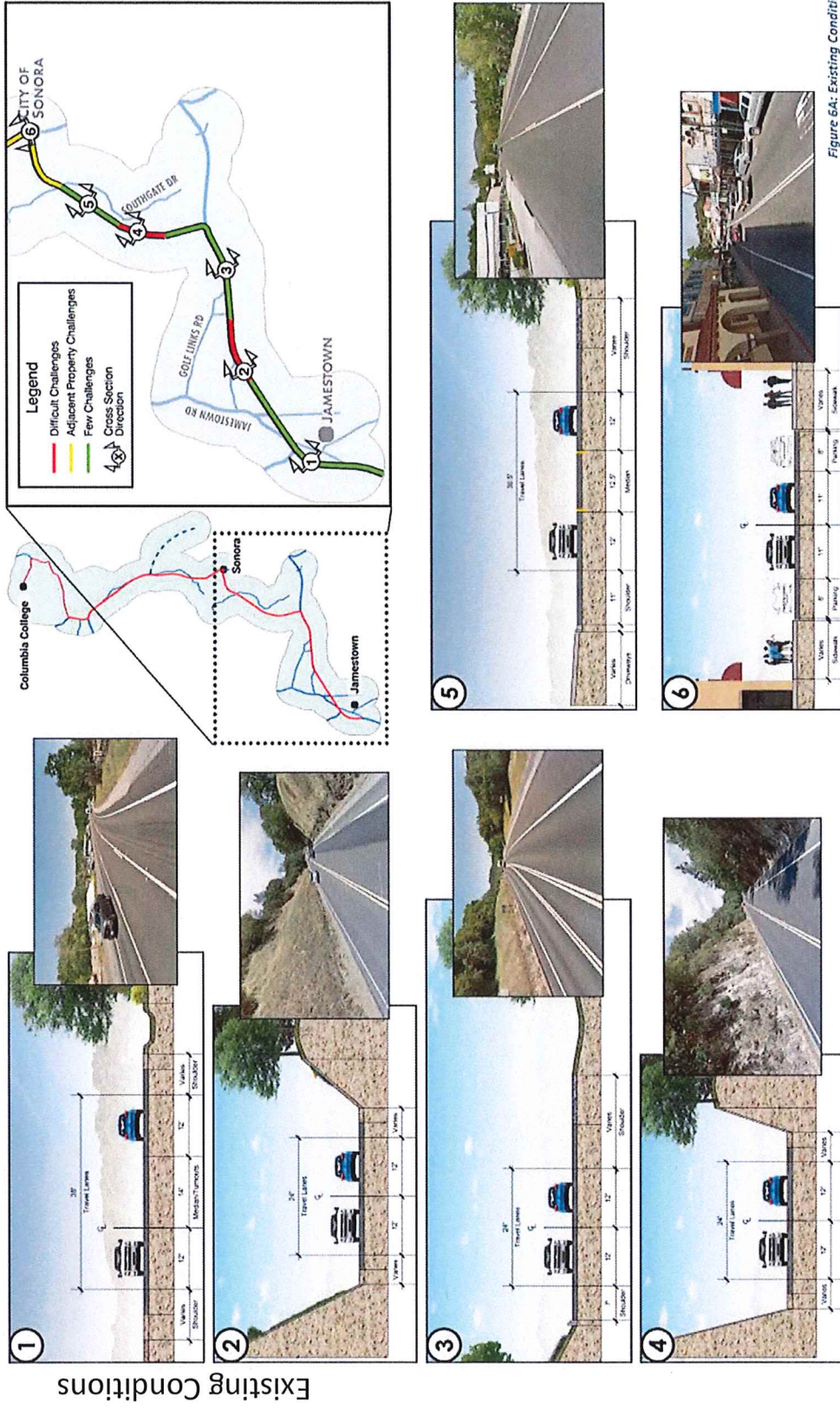
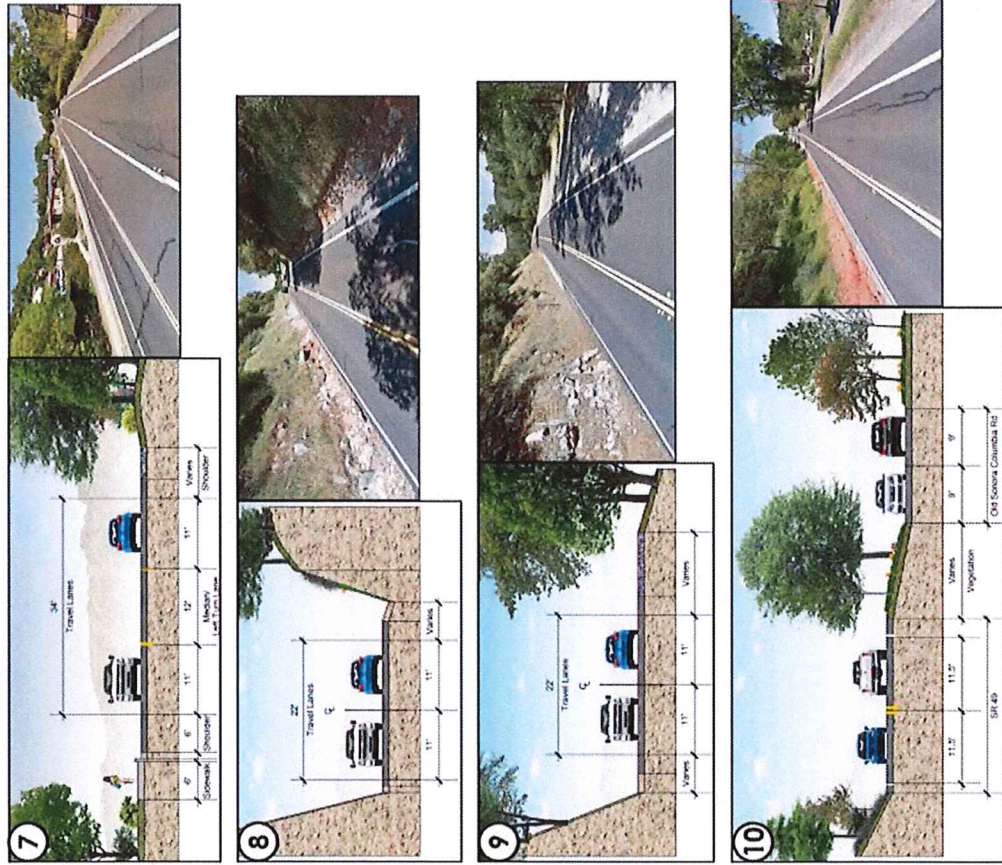


Figure 6A: Existing Conditions

Project Background



Existing Conditions

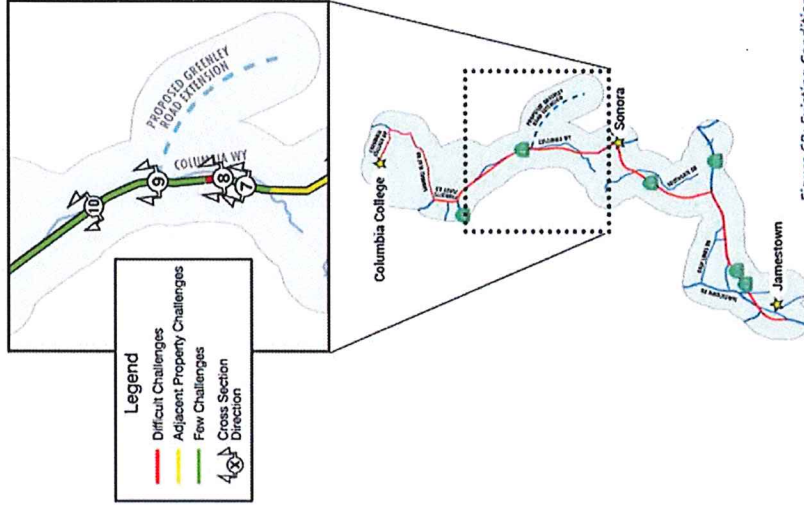


Figure 6B: Existing Conditions

Project Background

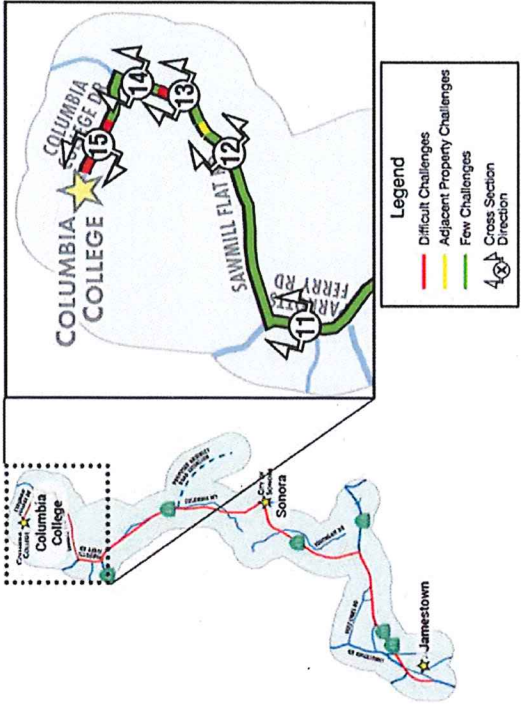
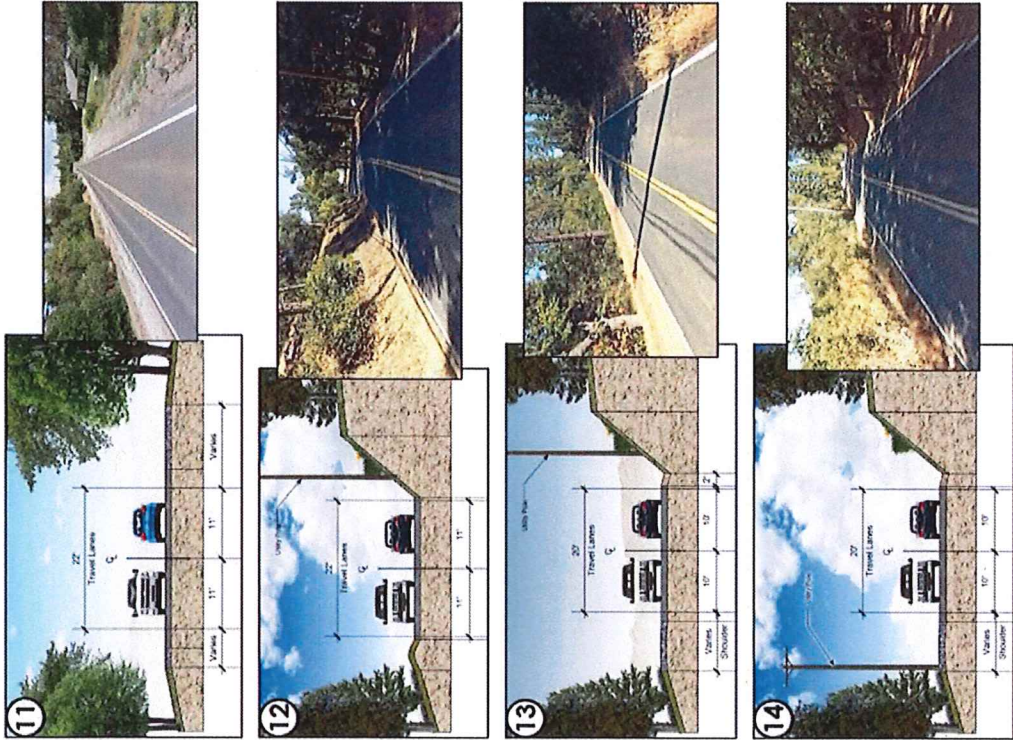
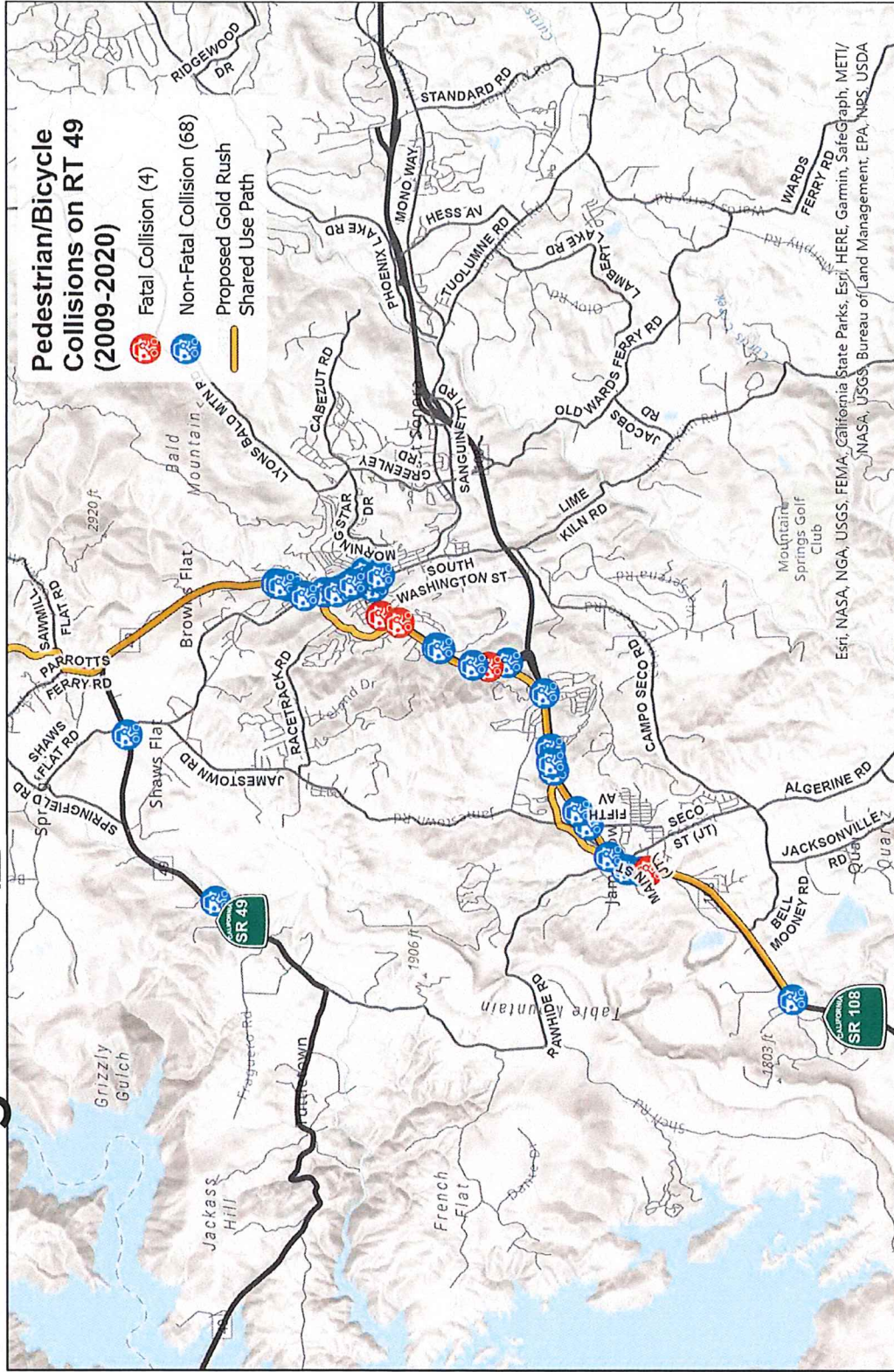


Figure 6C. Existing Conditions

Existing Conditions

Project Background

Existing Conditions



Project Background

Planned Gold Rush Shared Use Path, Other Improvements & Cross-Sections

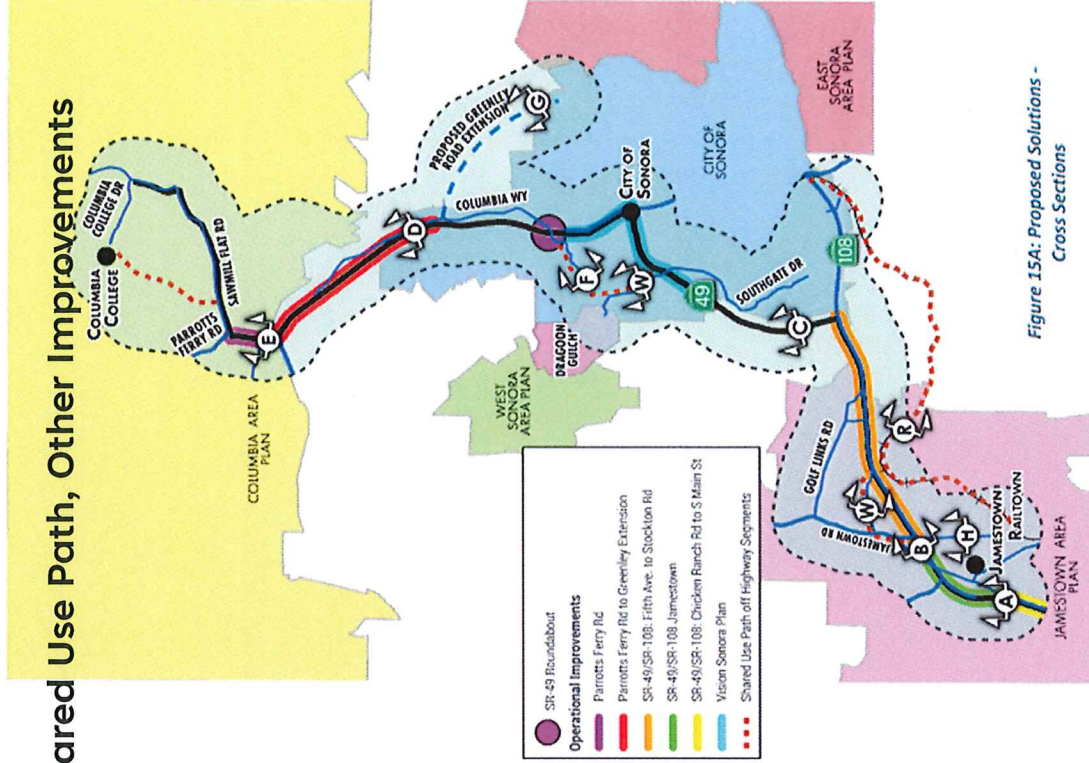
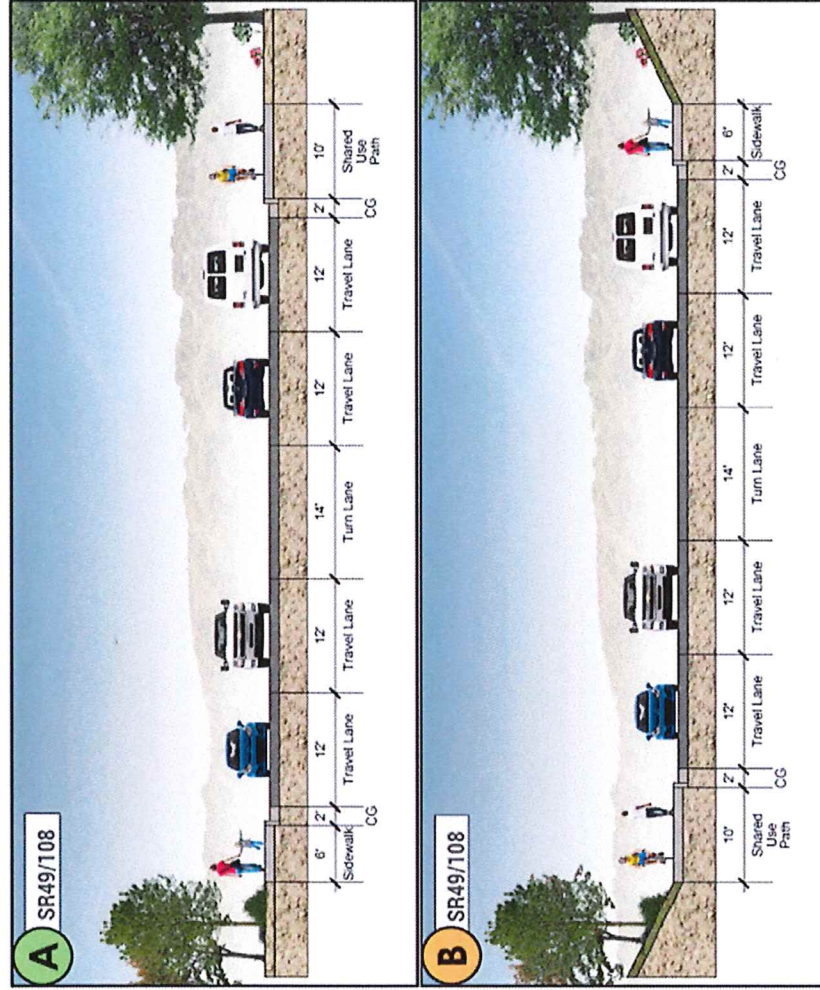


Figure 15A: Proposed Solutions - Cross Sections

Project Background

Planned Gold Rush Shared Use Path, Other Improvements & Cross-Sections

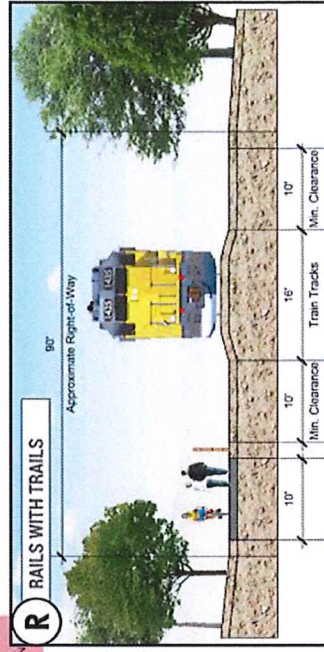
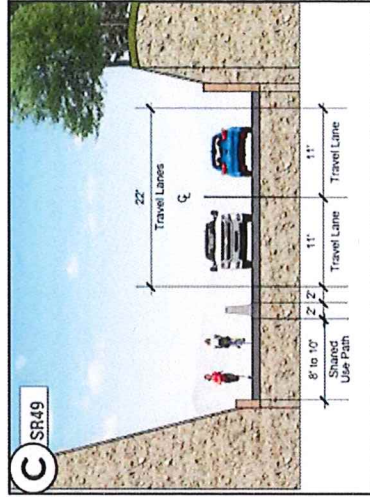
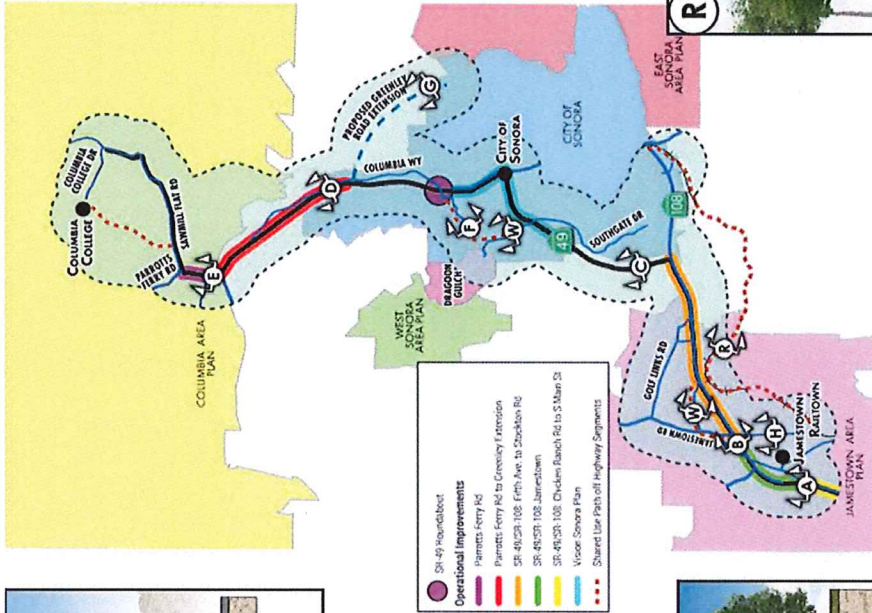
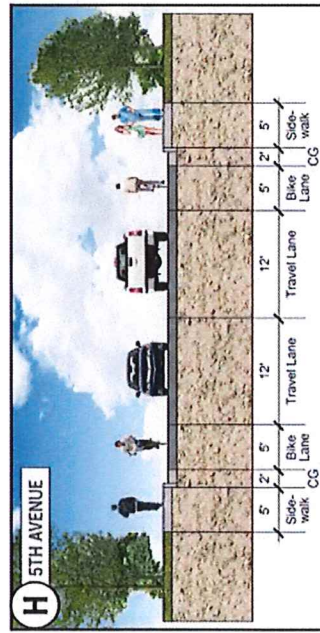
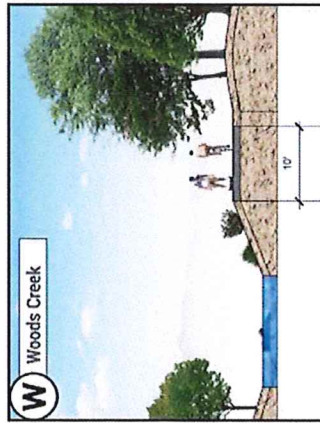
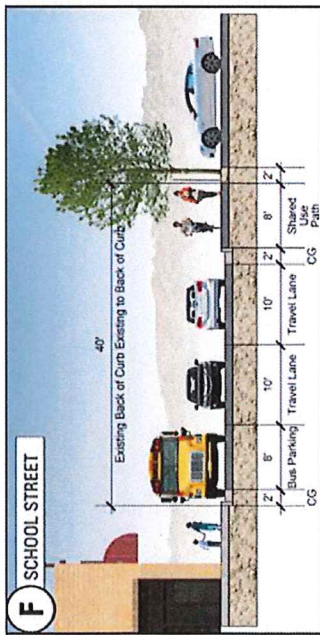


Figure 15B: Proposed Solutions - Cross Sections

Project Background **F**

Planned Gold Rush Shared Use Path, Other Improvements & Cross-Sections

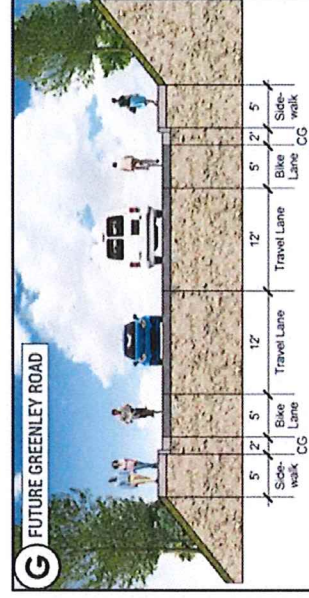
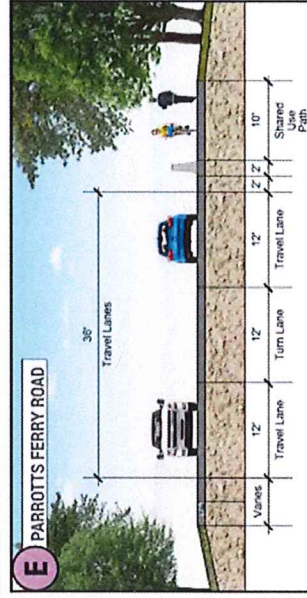
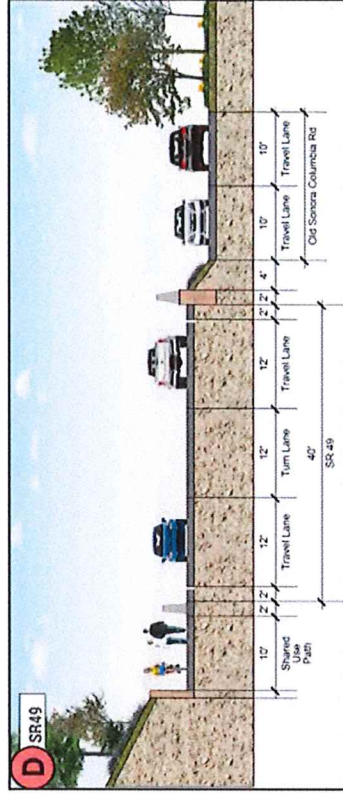
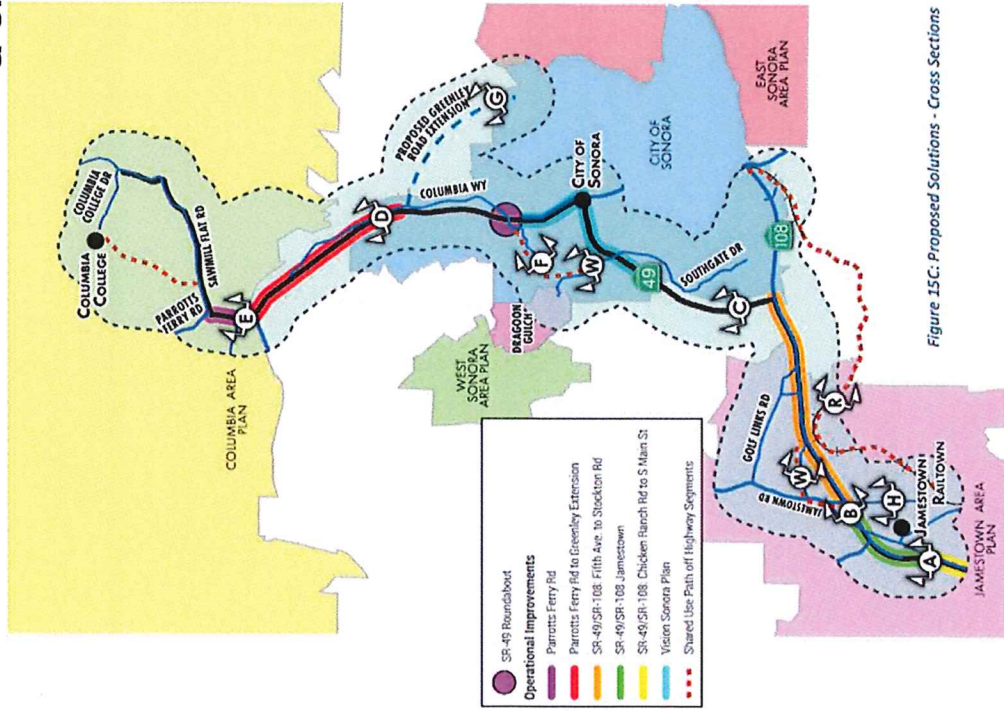
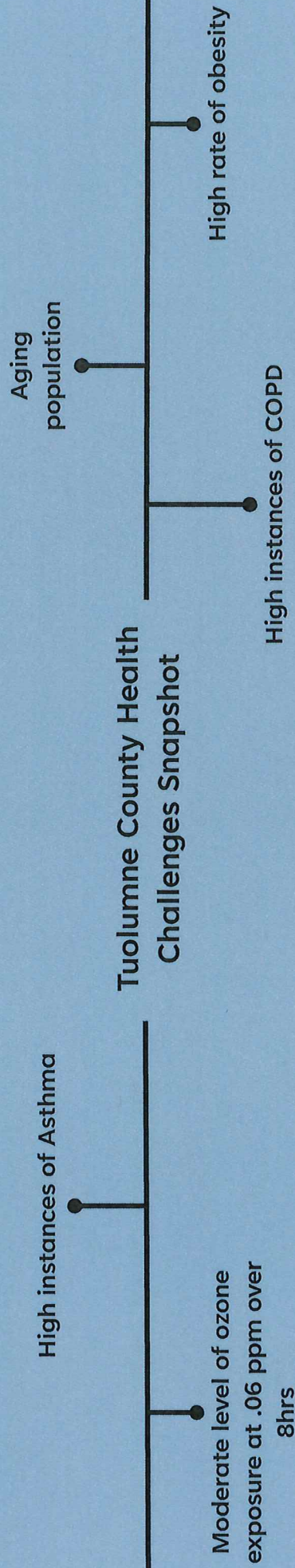


Figure 15C: Proposed Solutions - Cross Sections

CORRIDOR CHALLENGES and PROJECT BENEFITS

Tuolumne County Data At-A-Glance: Health Corridor Challenges

In 2019 Adventist Health Sonora Conducted a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and discovered access to healthcare and chronic disease, including asthma and obesity, were among the most pressing needs.



CORRIDOR CHALLENGES and PROJECT BENEFITS

Tuolumne County Data At-A-Glance: Health Corridor Challenges

Ozone

What is Ozone?

Ozone (O₃) is a highly reactive gas. It is both a natural and a man-made product that occurs in the Earth's upper atmosphere. (the stratosphere) and lower atmosphere (the troposphere). Depending on where it is in the atmosphere, ozone affects life on Earth in either good or bad ways.



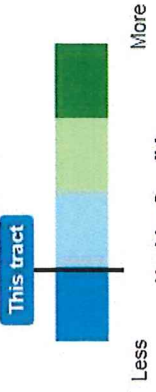
What is the connection to health?

When ozone levels in the air are high, it can cause lung inflammation and more serious respiratory issues. Prolonged exposure to high ozone levels can increase the risk of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, poor birth outcomes, and premature death.



Tuolumne County Project Area Numbers

How does this tract compare?



This tract has a lower average amount of ozone in the air during the most polluted 8 hours of summer days than just 24% of other California census tracts.

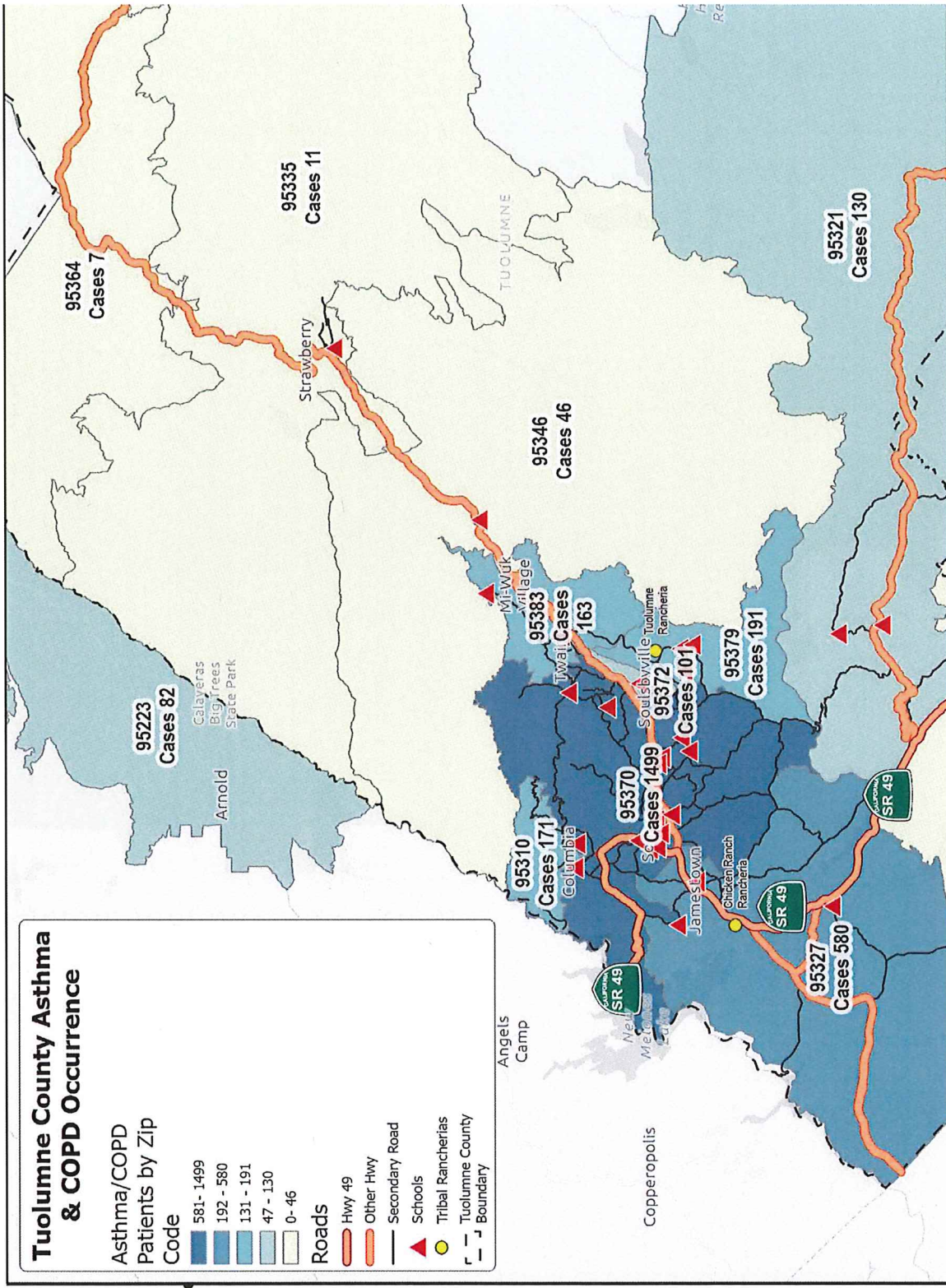
What does this indicator measure?

Average amount of ozone in the air during the most polluted 8 hours of summer days
In this tract, 0.06 ppm is the average of daily maximum 8-hour ozone concentration during the summer months (May-October) over three years (2012 to 2014).

Health Corridor Challenges

Asthma & COPD

This map shows Asthma and COPD patients by zip code and notes schools in red triangles and Tribal Rancherias as yellow circles.

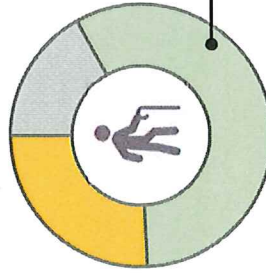




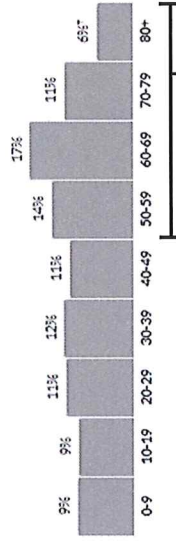
CORRIDOR CHALLENGES and PROJECT BENEFITS

Tuolumne County Data At-A-Glance: Health Corridor Challenges


Population Age



Population by age range



- Tuolumne County has an aging population. The “50-59” and “60-69” age ranges have significant percentage leads over others.
- This indicates that, in ten years, those 65+ will dominate Tuolumne County age demographics
- Elderly residents have extra needs compared to younger counterparts. Most importantly, they have a heavier reliance upon public transit and require safe, accessible paths for exercise and short trips to stores.



CORRIDOR CHALLENGES and PROJECT BENEFITS

Tuolumne County Data At-A-Glance: Health

Project Benefits

Gold Rush Shared Use Path Health Benefits

Walking is one of the best ways to engage in regular, low-intensity exercise for all age groups.

Aging citizens need access to safe, stable walking paths to continue and active lifestyle. The Gold Rush Path will provide this.

Places with access to walking and biking paths have residents with lower rates of obesity

The Gold Rush Path will connect citizens to health care services with planned expansions.

This project will encourage a mode shift from single occupancy travel to walking, cycling, or using transit.



CORRIDOR CHALLENGES and PROJECT BENEFITS

Tuolumne County Data At-A-Glance: Safety Corridor Challenges

Project Corridor Safety Challenges

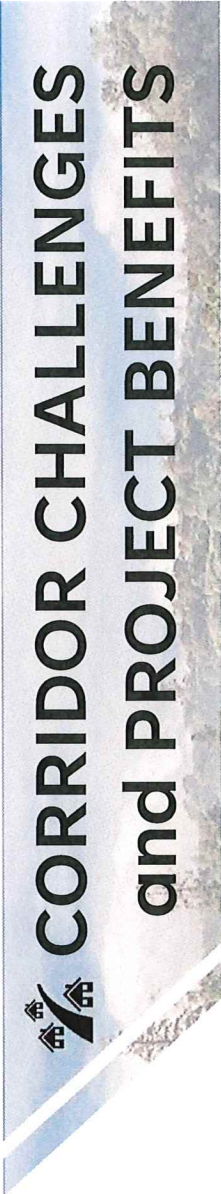
The 2019 Adventist Health Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) also pointed to a high transient population and a motor vehicle crash rate 21% higher than that of California.

Between 2009 and 2020
the project area saw:

**68 Non-Fatal Pedestrian
and Cyclist Collisions**
with motorized vehicles

**And 4 Fatal Pedestrian
and Cyclist Collisions**
with motorized vehicles.

Currently, there are **no safe pedestrian or bicycle facilities** linking residents with resources along the corridor resulting in serious injuries and deaths of pedestrians and cyclists



CORRIDOR CHALLENGES and PROJECT BENEFITS

Tuolumne County Data At-A-Glance: Health

Project Benefits

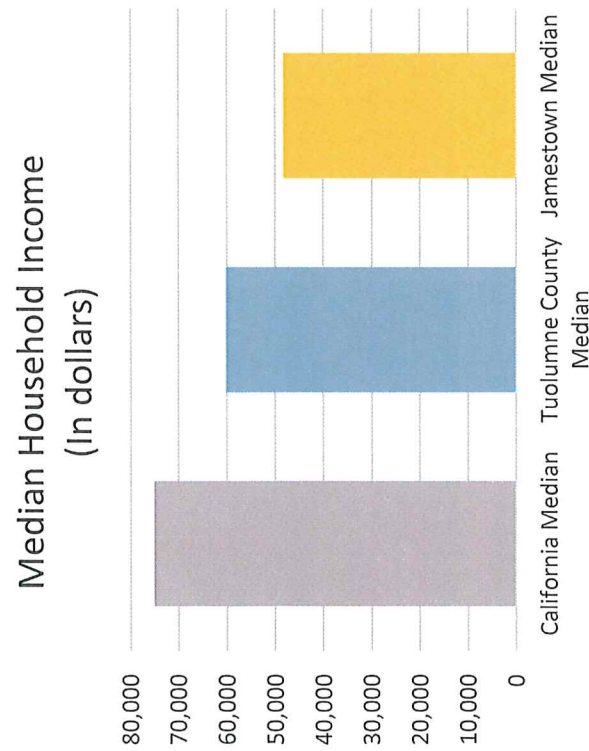
Gold Rush Shared Use Path Safety Benefits

A Class I, continuously connected, shared use path will benefit the most vulnerable in the community by ensuring they always have a **safe way to access health services, employment centers, and educational facilities.**

No resident should have to risk injury or death to travel on foot or by bike through their home county. **The Gold Rush Shared Use Path will significantly reduce deaths and injuries in the SR 49 Corridor**

CORRIDOR CHALLENGES and PROJECT BENEFITS

Tuolumne County Data At-A-Glance: Equity Corridor Challenges



California's Median Household Income: \$75,000

Tuolumne County's Median Household Income: \$60,108

Jamestown's Median Household Income: \$48,253

Note: Though Tuolumne County's Median Household Income is \$60,108 nearly half of the county, 42%, falls in the group of living on "Under \$50,000/yr". Of that group the highest percentage is individuals living on \$20,000 – 30,000/yr.

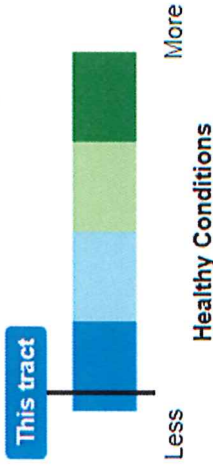
CORRIDOR CHALLENGES and PROJECT BENEFITS

Tuolumne County Data At-A-Glance: Equity

Corridor Challenges

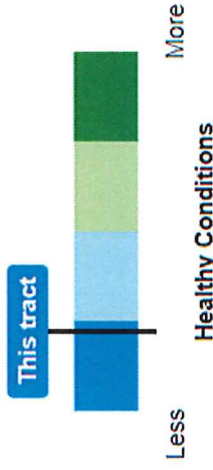
Jamestown Census Tract

How does this tract compare?



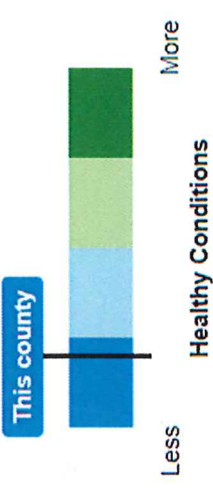
Sonora Census Tract

How does this tract compare?



Tuolumne County

How does this county compare?



What does this mean?

Jamestown's census tract only has about half of its population employed. The average employment percentage for most other census tracts is approximately upper 60th percentile to the 80th percentile.

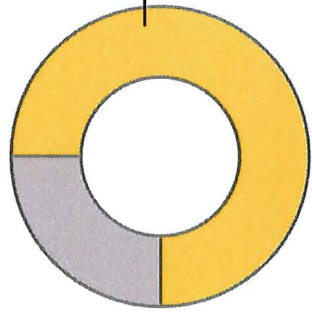
Sonora's census tract has approximately 63.5% of the population employed.



Tuolumne County, as a whole, has approximately 60% of the population employed.

CORRIDOR CHALLENGES and PROJECT BENEFITS

Tuolumne County Data At-A-Glance: Equity Corridor Challenges

Students Who Qualify for
Free or Reduced Meals



-  Students who qualify for free or reduced meals: 75%
-  Students who do not qualify

“Free or Reduced Meal (Student Poverty)” (FRMP) Data for 2020-2021 indicated an average of 75% of students, in all age groups, qualified for free meals in the Jamestown area.



CORRIDOR CHALLENGES and PROJECT BENEFITS

Tuolumne County Data At-A-Glance: Equity

Project Benefits

Lower income areas of Jamestown and Sonora have not benefitted from over \$140 million in highway investments made over the last two decades in East Sonora

Gold Rush Shared Use Path Equity Benefits

Car ownership is expensive and especially so for low income residents. That can be a barrier to accessing jobs, education, health care when safe alternatives to cars don't exist. This project will facilitate non-motorized travel on modes and routes often used by low-income residents.

The congestion and interregional traffic on SR 49 emit greenhouse gases that disproportionately burden disadvantaged communities and elementary schools. Encouraging a mode shift will reduce emissions.



CORRIDOR CHALLENGES and PROJECT BENEFITS

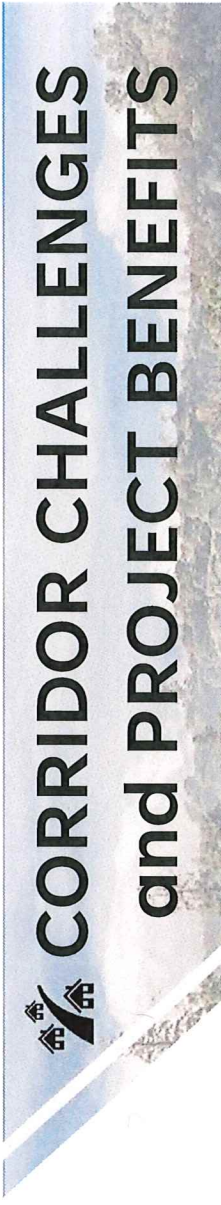
Tuolumne County Data At-A-Glance: Access

Project Benefits

Gold Rush Shared Use Path Access Benefits

The Gold Rush
Shared Use Trail
Will Improve
Access To:

- Motherlode Job Training, major employment centers, Chicken Ranch Resort, and higher education at Columbia College
- Grocery stores, farmers markets, and other services
- Government services centrally located in Sonora
- Health Care facilities
- Tuolumne County Transit
- To Yosemite via YARTS
- To nature at Dragoon Gulch
- To recreation at Rotary Park
- And, finally, to future E-Bike program on the SR 49 Corridor



CORRIDOR CHALLENGES and PROJECT BENEFITS

Tuolumne County Data At-A-Glance: Future

Project Benefits

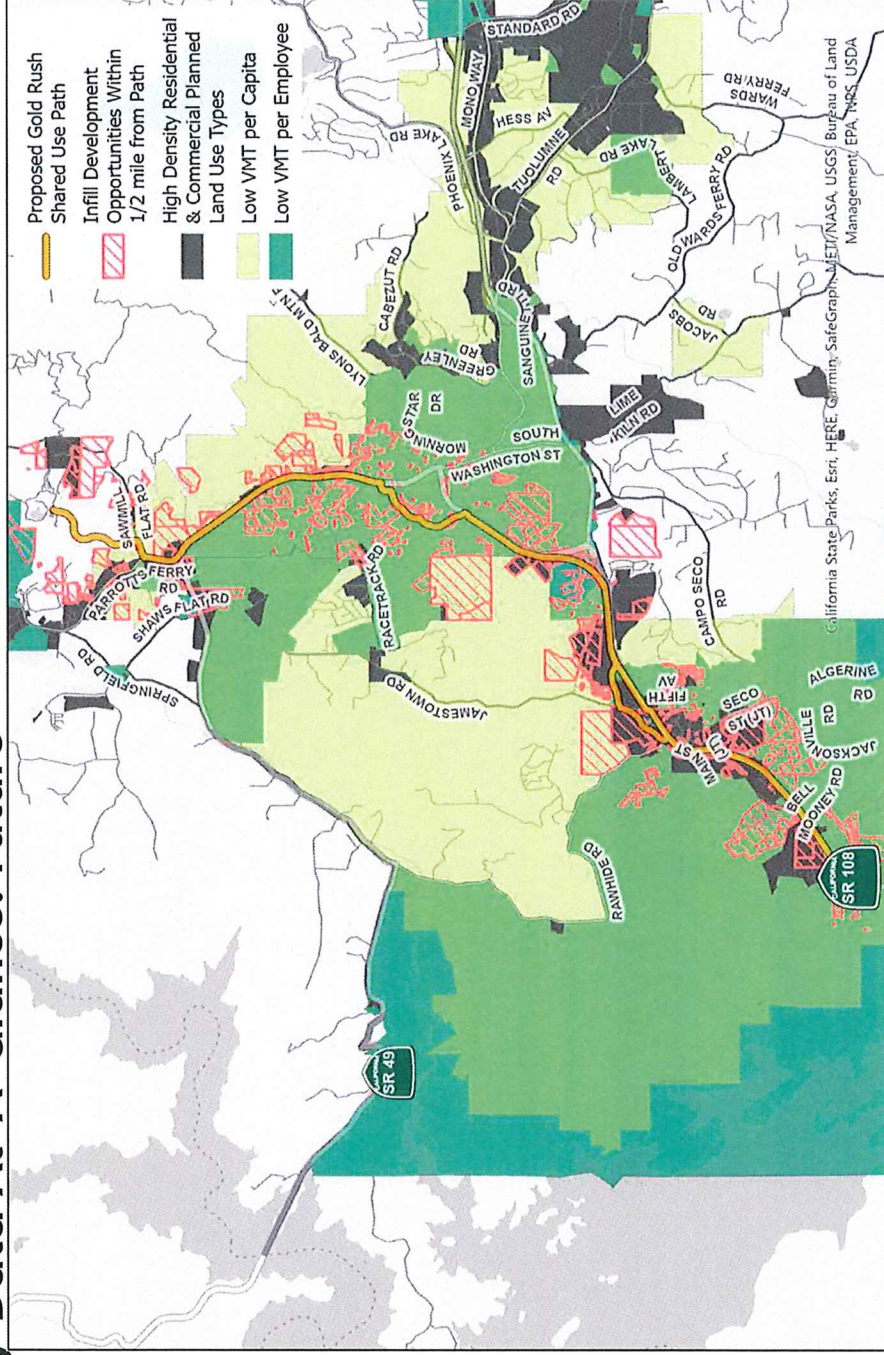
This project supports:

- **Smart growth with a sustainable transportation facility that will encourage infill growth and planned high density residential development.**
- **All of this within Tuolumne County's lowest Vehicle Miles Traveled per capita**

CORRIDOR CHALLENGES and PROJECT BENEFITS

Tuolumne County Data At-A-Glance: Future

Project Benefits





NEXT STEPS

- Authorize chairman to sign Letter of Support
- Solicit Letters of Support from partner agencies in community groups
- Authorize Staff to submit State-Sponsored Non-SHOPP PID Nomination form
- Plan the programming of Federal Congestion Management Air Quality Funds for Caltrans to complete PID
- Direct Staff to work with Caltrans Innovative Concepts Team to develop a Project Implementation Strategy
- Complete VMT and Emissions reduction analysis

Presentation Partners

Thank you to all who helped pull this presentation together!

Madeline Amlin, Tuolumne County GIS

Mario Tambellini, Wood Rodgers

Derek Kirkland, Wood Rodgers

Tuolumne County Public Health

Blue Zones Project

California Highway Patrol

Tuolumne County Transportation Council Staff