

# Transportation

- Facts & Trends**
- The County has never had a County-wide transportation plan. The Transportation planning consultants for this effort are preparing studies and information. Stay tuned for new information in April 2007.
  - Many of the Central communities rely on Highway 50, which experiences peak period traffic.
  - All other regional travel in the County is dependent on a few roads-- Interstate 80, Highway 50, Highway 95A, and State Route 208.
  - As population in north and central parts of the County grows, opportunities for transit may arise.



# Community Character & Design

- Facts & Trends**
- The rural character of the County is changing as new development occurs.
  - The County has a rich and colorful past, particularly evident in Old Dayton and Silver City.
  - Some of the County's communities are developing as "bedroom" communities, meaning they do not necessarily have distinct economic engines of their own.



## Issues

**What do You Think?**  
(Please fill in a comment form)

### 1 Reliance on Highway 50

Lyon County has four communities along the US 50 Corridor: Moundhouse, Dayton Valley, Stagecoach, and Silver Springs. In addition, schools, a State prison, a county library, a hospital, an industrial park, and a county airport all have direct access to US 50. Currently, all interstate and intrastate traffic on US 50 must go through these four communities due to the lack of another east/west roadway causing peak period congestion. Traffic can come to a standstill because of accidents, dust storms, or other natural disasters. NDOT has completed a Draft Final US 50 East Corridor Study which will be presented to the public. The County will need to develop a plan that defines potential future transportation alternatives along the corridor.

### 2 Roadway Congestion

At present, virtually all local and regional travel within the County is dependent on Interstate 80 (through Fernley); Highway 50 (east/west from Carson City to Fallon and points east), Highway 95A (running north/south, through Yerington), and State Route 208 (east/west from Highway 395 to Highway 95A in Yerington). In the future, all of these roadways will be subject to increasing levels of congestion due to lack of alternative travel corridors and significant projected traffic volume increases. The Transportation Element of the Plan will need to address these concerns.

### 3 Potential for Long-Term Transit and Alternative Transportation Opportunities

At the present time, fixed-route transit service is not available in the County. However, as population centers continue to develop in the Fernley and Dayton areas (with increasing numbers of workers commuting to Reno, Carson City and other areas), and as travel between communities within the County increases, opportunities for transit service and other alternative transportation measures may arise in the future. The Plan will need to acknowledge and address this likelihood, and consider how new development can be shaped to accommodate possible transit service in the near-term and longer-term future. Other measures, such as park n ride facilities, may be considered as well.

### 4 Development of Cohesive Circulation/Transportation System

One of the key opportunities of this planning process is the ability to prepare, for the first time ever, a comprehensive transportation system plan for the County. This element should address county-wide needs for vehicle, rail, pedestrian, and bicycle travel. One important consideration will be identification of alternative routes connecting different parts of the County for emergency access, in case major corridors are cut-off due to flooding, dust storms, etc. Another consideration will be the timing and alignment of the USA Parkway connection between I-80 and Highways 95A and 50. Additionally, consideration of rail facilities, including their use, impact and affect on economic development and land use, should be incorporated.

### 5 Lyon County Airport Access

There are five general aviation facilities in the County: Silver Springs Airport (county-owned), Yerington Municipal Airport, Dayton Airpark (private), Rosaschi Airpark (privately owned public facility), and Farias Wheel Airstrip (private). Other private airstrips for individual use are located on several parcels in the County. The role of these facilities, and compatibility of land uses, will need to be considered during the planning process.

## Issues

**What do You Think?**  
(Please fill in a comment form)

### 1 Protecting Rural Character

Many County residents, particularly those in the Smith and Mason Valley areas, care deeply about their agricultural/rural setting and visual beauty. The Plan will need to incorporate strategies that allow for planned growth and development while maintaining these desired attributes of the region.

### 2 Preserving and Promoting Historic Character

The County has a rich and colorful past, with a westward settlement and mining history dating to the mid-19th century. This is particularly evident in Old Dayton & Silver City. The Plan will need to address how to retain and enhance these aspects of the County's history.

### 3 Improving Community Design and Development Quality

As the County continues to grow, it is important to ensure that new development places increasing emphasis on improving the quality of the built environment with improved guidelines/standards, while recognizing the difference in character between urbanizing and rural areas. Some of the communities in the Central Lyon County are operating as "Bedroom Communities," meaning that they do not necessarily have community centers or distinct economic engines of their own or public spaces.

**What do You Think?**  
Please provide comments  
today and throughout the  
planning process!