



Building Sustainable Communities

Beth Osborne

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy
US Department of Transportation



Overview

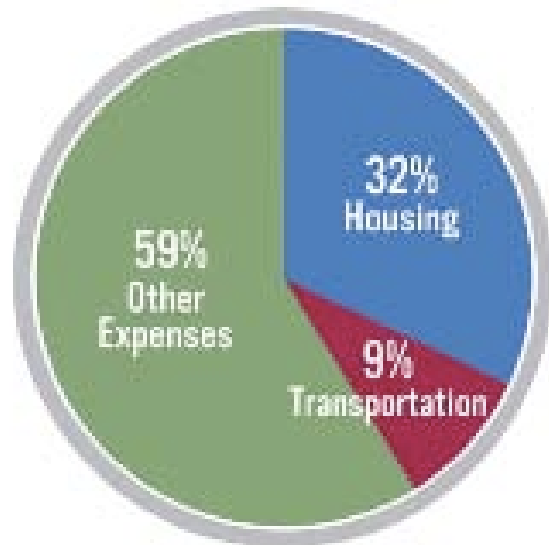
1. Current Challenges
2. Sustainable Communities: Defined
3. Sustainable Communities: Benefits
4. Federal Initiatives

Where are we now?

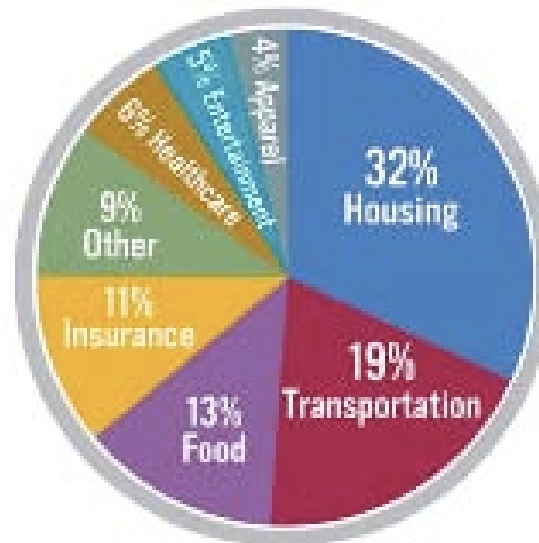


Infrastructure decisions affect household budgets....

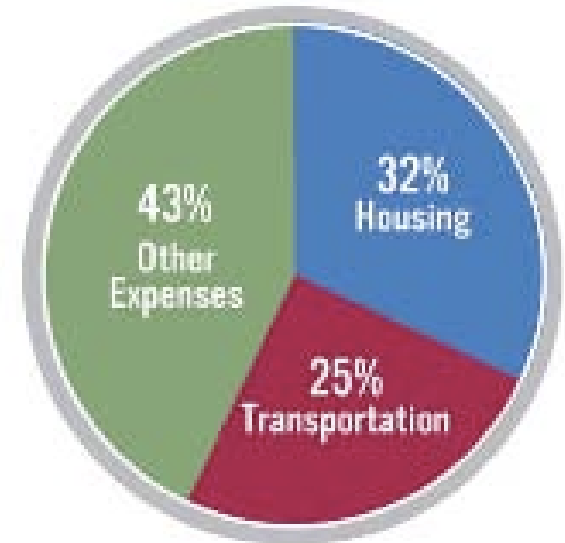
TRANSIT RICH NEIGHBORHOOD



AVERAGE AMERICAN FAMILY



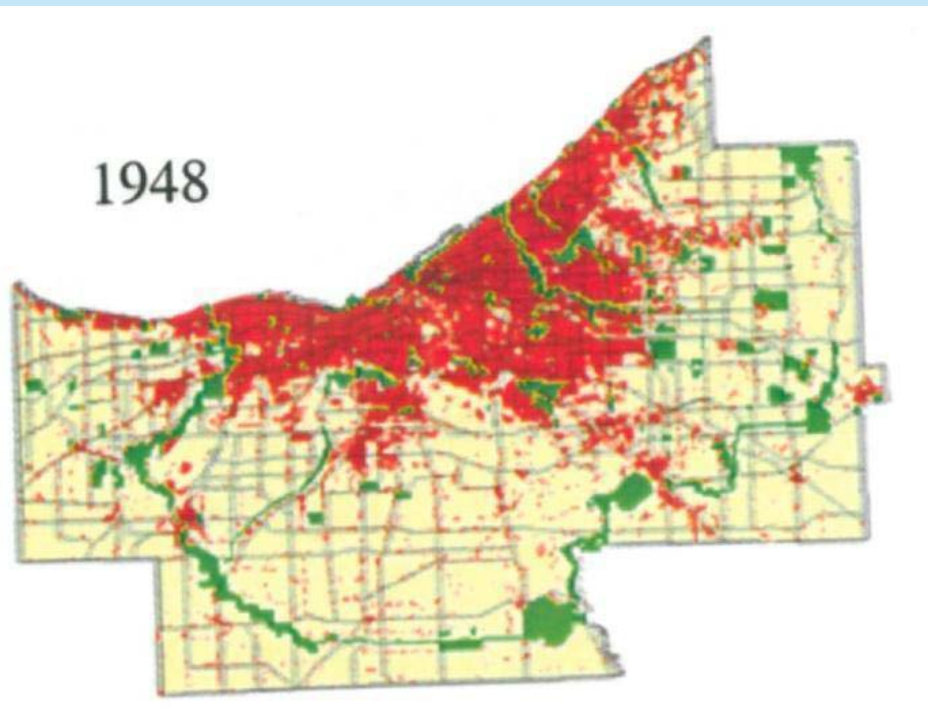
AUTO DEPENDENT EXURBS



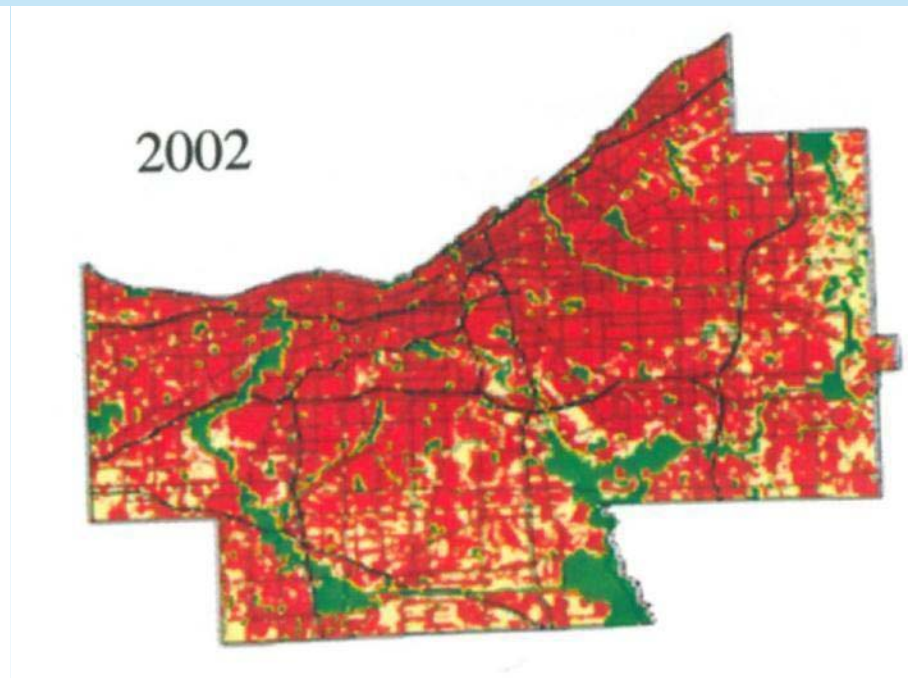
While the average family spends 19 percent of the household budget on transportation, and households in auto-dependent neighborhoods spend 25 percent, households with good access to transit spend just 9 percent. This savings can be critical for low-income households.

Source: Center for TOD - Transportation Affordability Index, 2004 Bureau of Labor Statistics

...and local government budgets

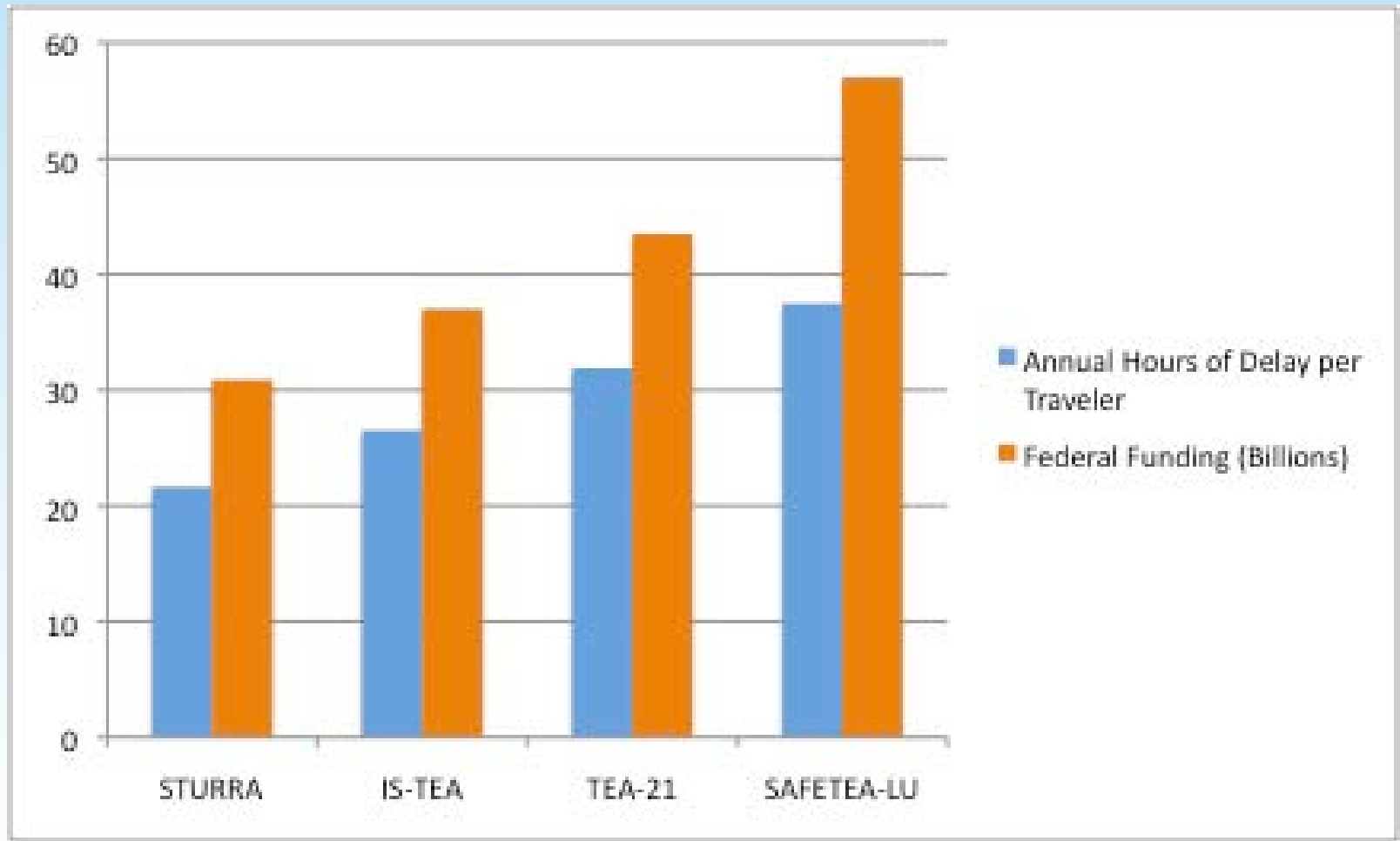


U.S. Census 1950
1,389,582 pop.



U.S. Census 2002
1,393,978 pop.

...while we are spending more and getting less

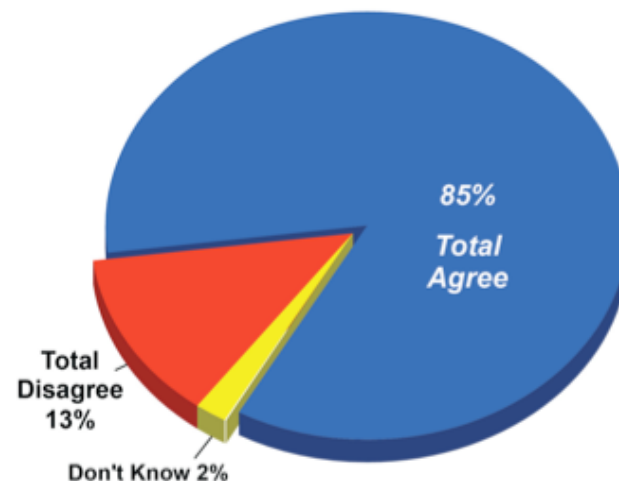


... and not getting what we want

- 73% of people say they have "no choice but to drive as much as I do," and 57% would like to spend less time in their car.
- Two thirds want more transportation options.

Politics or Need?

Public response to the following statement:
Transportation infrastructure funding
decisions are based more on politics than
on need.



What are Sustainable Communities?



Sustainable Communities ...



Places that balance their economic and natural assets so the diverse needs of local residents can be met now and in the future.

Transportation Options

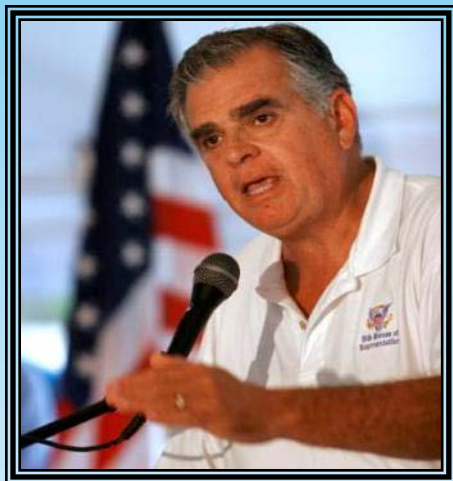


Range of Housing Types



Unique Community Assets





Livability means being able to take your kids to school, go to work, see a doctor, drop by the grocery or post office, go out to dinner and a movie, and play with your kids at the park, all without having to get into your car. Livability means building the communities that help Americans live the lives they want to live—whether those communities are urban centers, small towns, or rural areas.

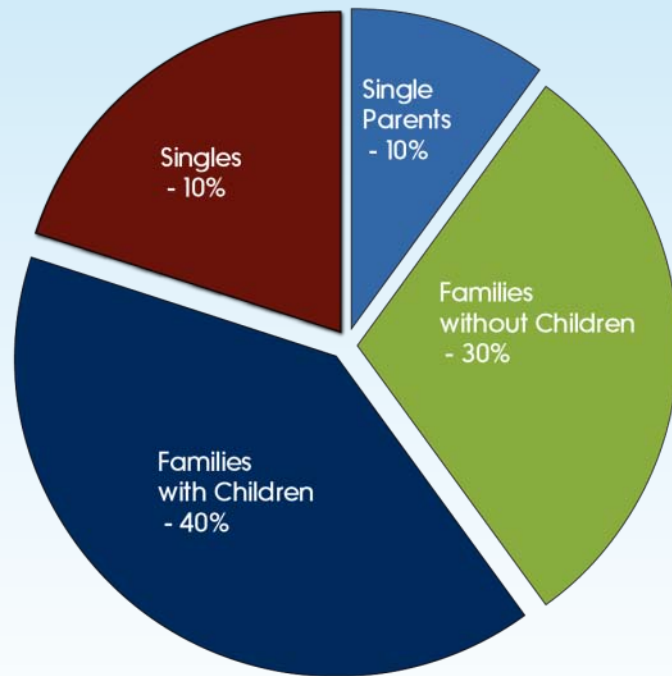
—Secretary Ray LaHood
U.S. Department of Transportation

What are the benefits?

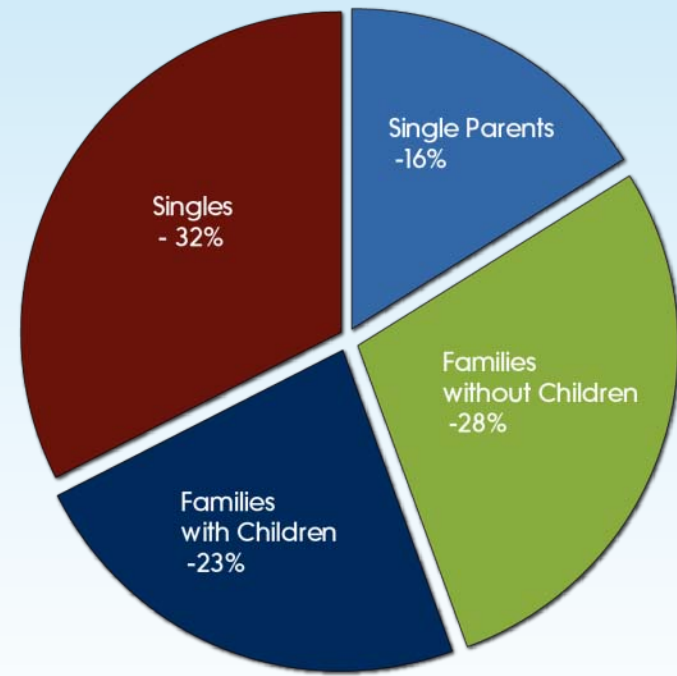


Meet Market Demand

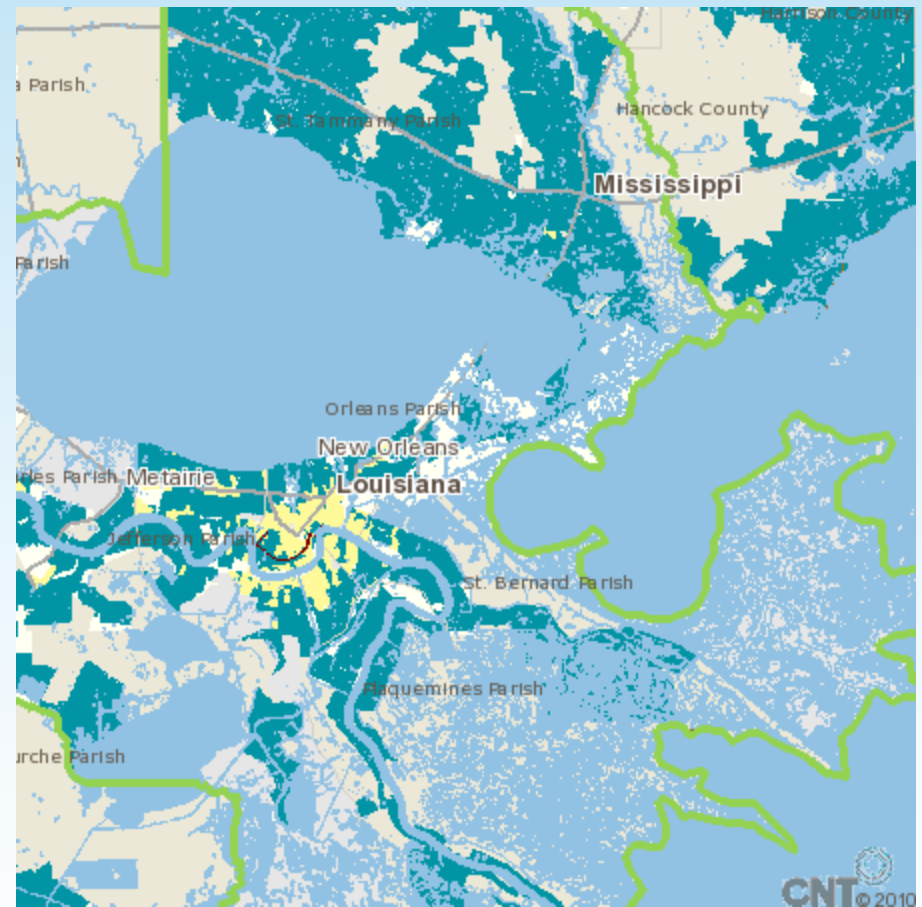
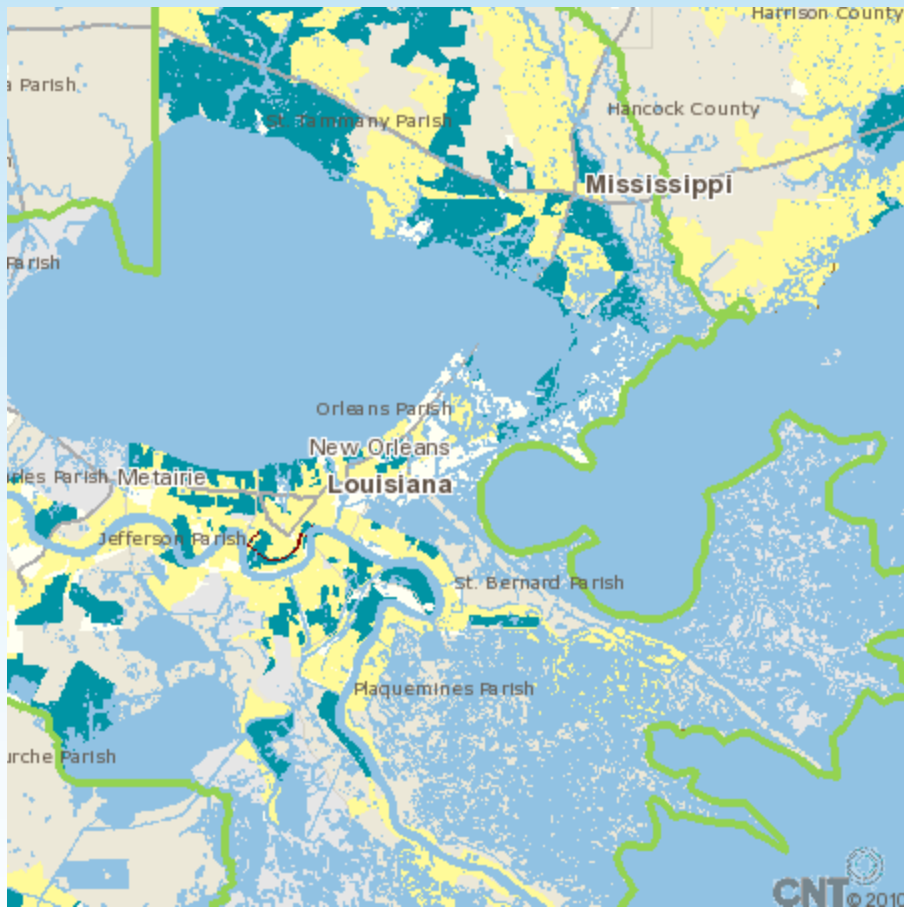
1970 U.S. Census



2003 U.S. Census



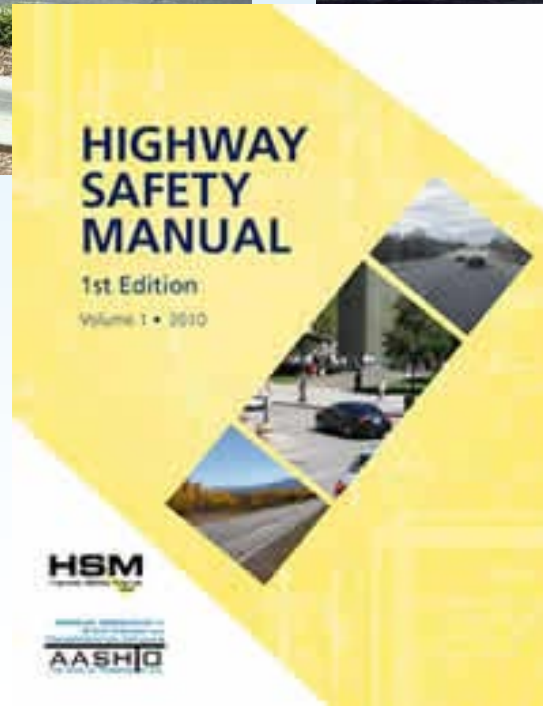
Save People Money



Provide Healthy Choices

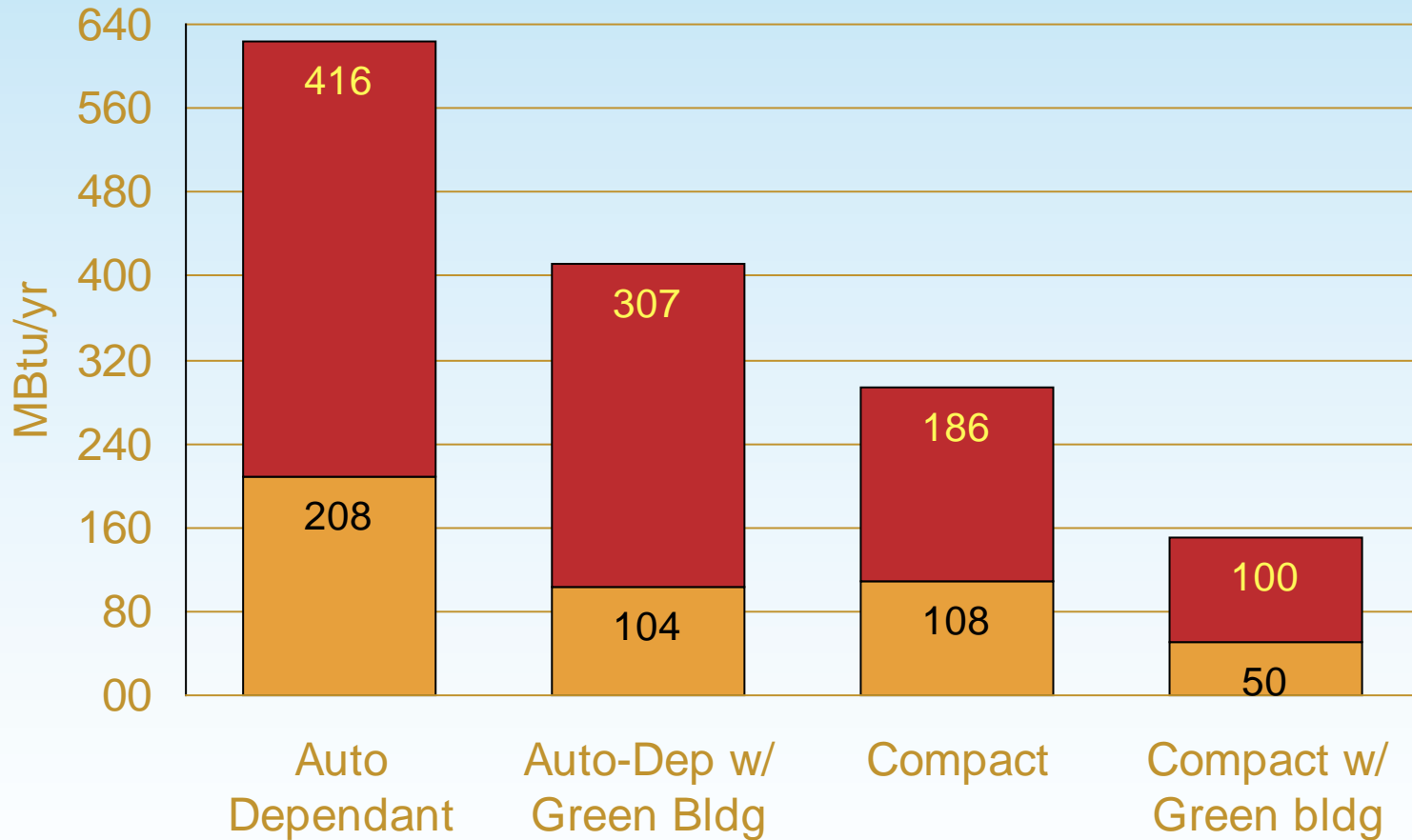


Make Us Safer.



Saves Energy

■ Home ■ Transportation



Source: Energy Information Agency Table 2.1a

How are we doing?



Partnership for Sustainable Communities





Transportation Choices



Housing Choices



Economic Competitiveness



Support Existing Communities



Align Federal Policies



Value Communities



Partnership At Work

- TIGER and TIGER II
- HUD Community Challenge Planning Grants
- Brownfields & Smart Growth Technical Assistance
- Urban Circulator and Bus “Livability” NOFA

DOT Livability Initiative

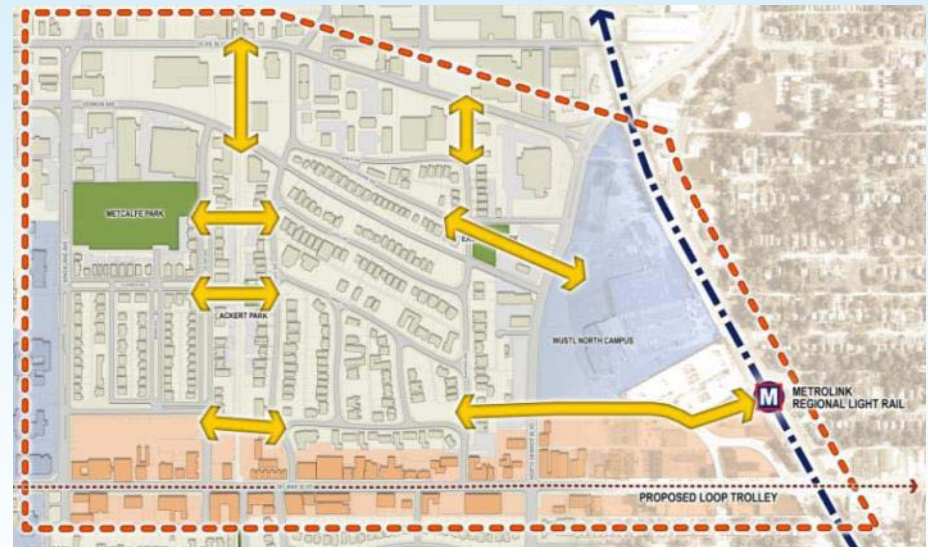
- Promoting Performance Goals
- Strengthening Asset Management
- Establish Infrastructure Bank
- Use Discretionary Grants



Increasing Long-term Planning

- Integrated Planning
- Includes housing and transportation

TIGER



Thanks!

Visit us at:

www.sustainablecommunities.gov

