



**The Diamond Springs and El Dorado Area
Mobility and Sustainable Community
Vision Project**

**Community Visioning Workshop
October 27, 2011**

Why hold a visioning workshop?

The formation of the Diamond Springs and El Dorado Community Advisory Committee in 2009 and the findings of the State Route 49 Realignment Study in 2010 made it clear that there is a need to ask meaningful questions about what the communities of Diamond Springs and El Dorado want to look like physically, economically, socially, and environmentally in 5, 10, or 20 years.

In response to this need, the El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC) began the Diamond Springs and El Dorado Area Mobility and Sustainable Community Vision Project (Vision Project) in March 2011 to initiate a dialog with the community about how to address mobility issues, to draft core values, and create a vision for the future.

The Planning Process

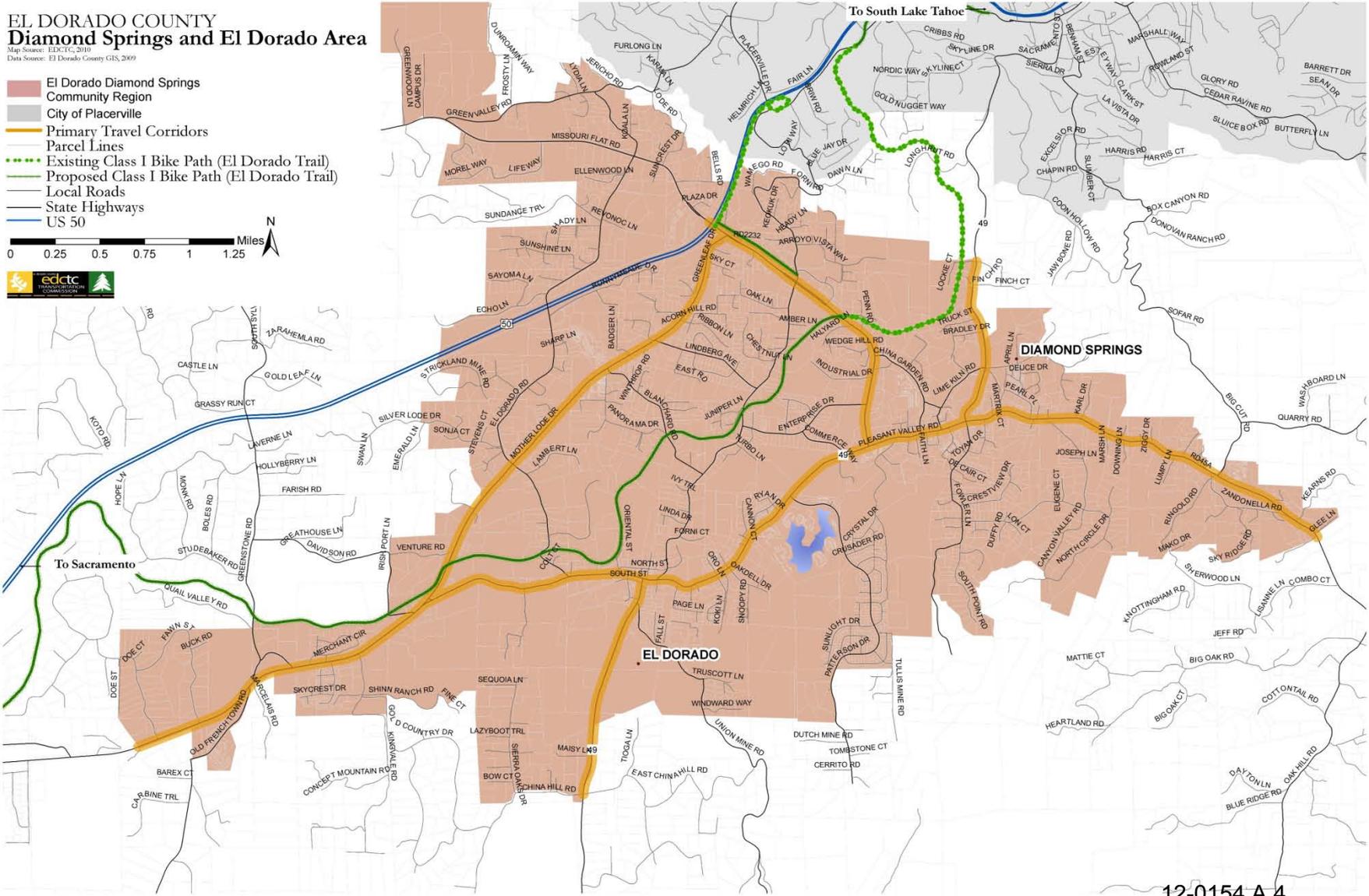
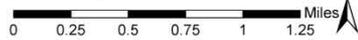
The Diamond Springs and El Dorado Area Mobility and Sustainable Community Vision Project (Vision Project) utilized the Diamond Springs and El Dorado Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) to draft core values and a community vision through a series of five meetings during the spring and summer of 2011. A Community Visioning Workshop was held on October 27, 2011 to provide the public with an opportunity to weigh in on the concepts developed by the SAC.

VISION PROJECT AREA

EL DORADO COUNTY Diamond Springs and El Dorado Area

Map Source: EDC/CTC, 2010
Data Source: El Dorado County GIS, 2009

- El Dorado Diamond Springs Community Region
- City of Placerville
- Primary Travel Corridors
- Parcel Lines
- Existing Class I Bike Path (El Dorado Trail)
- Proposed Class I Bike Path (El Dorado Trail)
- Local Roads
- State Highways
- US 50



The Vision Project SAC was made up of 45 groups and organizations including:

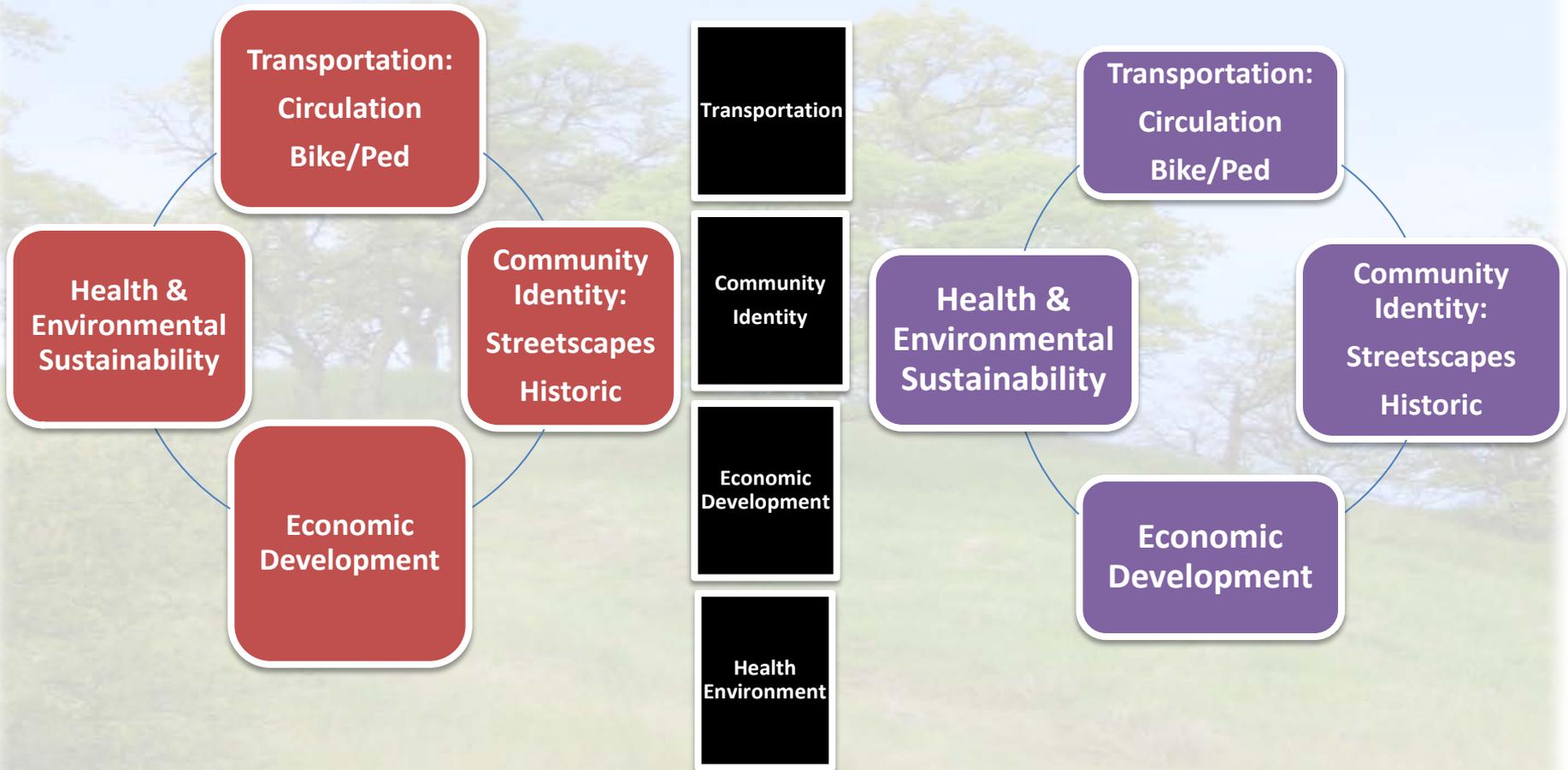
Diamond Springs – El Dorado Community Advisory Committee
Diamond Springs-El Dorado Fire Protection District
Diamond Springs Merchants Association
Diamond Springs Miwok Tribe
El Dorado Community Center
El Dorado County Parks and Recreation Commission
El Dorado Merchants Association
Friends of Diamond Springs – El Dorado
No Gridlock Committee
P.I.C.O. Inc. (Protecting Indian Creek Oaks, Inc.)
Residents Involved In Positive Planning, Inc. (R.I.P.P.)
Save Our County
Surveyors, Architects, Geologists, and Engineers (SAGE)

During the planning process the SAC considered:

Current Reality

Goals

Vision "Buckets"



Community Values and Vision

October 27, 2011 Community Visioning Workshop





What is visioning?

Visioning is a process by which a community defines the future it wants. Through public involvement, communities identify their core values and vision of the future. Visioning can help a community in identifying important and current issues.

A landscape photograph showing a grassy hill with several trees. The sky is clear and blue. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**WHAT DO YOU SEE WHEN YOU SEE
DIAMOND SPRINGS?**



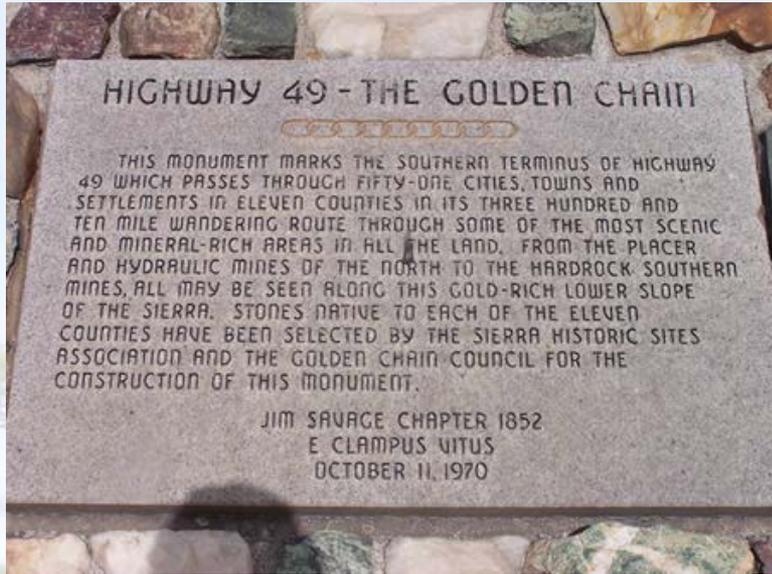


Has any other El Dorado County community created a vision for the future and then manifested that vision?

Yes! Almost fifty years ago a handful of individuals saw the opportunity to change their community and did it. While it wasn't easy to set their individual fears and differences aside, in the end they overcame them by finding common ground in the desire to have greater control over their lives and the changes they could see coming to their community. Empowered by a shared vision of the future and trusting that the outcome would benefit everyone, the group created Apple Hill, changing not only their community, but the county and the region as well.

The vision of Apple Hill addressed many of the elements being considered by this visioning effort, including economic development, community identity, and health and environmental sustainability, but one thing it did not consider was traffic circulation. While the example of Apple Hill teaches that it is possible for a community to create a powerful vision of the future, it also reminds us to be open to possibilities, and to not only assume, but to expect that a vision can become a reality.

Celebrate Our History and Heritage



El Dorado's train depot was located on the north side of town and sat on the rail line that connected Sacramento with Placerville in 1868. The old school house in the picture still stands today.



Mobility Challenges Are Opportunities to Improve How We Get Around











~~THE~~ MAYBE WE
NEED TO CHANGE
"DIAMOND SPRINGS"
TO
"GAS STATIONVILLE,
USA"

The canopy
completely
undoes the
western motif
of the bldgs.

This should
never have
been approved.
So much for
Sacred sites.

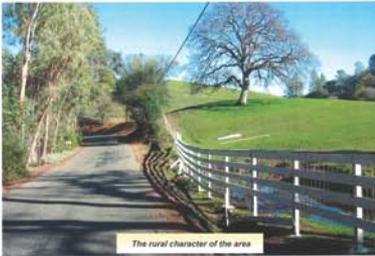
WHERE DID THE
MIWOK SPRING GO?
I THOUGHT IT WAS
GOING TO BE SAVED?

How many
Indian
artifacts are
buried here
... or hauled
away as fill
dirt?



Diamond Springs and El Dorado Community Values

"We Value..."



The rural character of the area



Gold Rush / pioneer history and assets



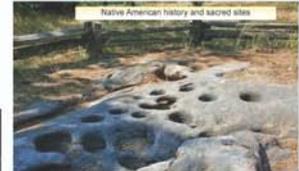
Ease of travel in and through the community on smaller, uncongested roads



An environment free of pollution



Open and wildlife habitat



Native American history and sacred sites



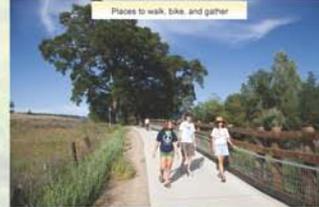
Diverse sources of employment



Gold Rush / pioneer history and assets



A strong sense of community, knowing your neighbors



Places to walk, bike, and gather



The historic railroad corridor, park, and the El Dorado Trail

El Dorado's historic depot was located on the same side of tracks and set on the left side that connected Sacramento with Placerville in 1859. The old depot is now in the ground and stands today.



Distinct, small communities



Safe and efficient bicycle and pedestrian paths



Golden Chain / Highway 49



Local agriculture and community gardens



Keeping commercial development separate from the historic areas of Diamond Springs and El Dorado with a good transition from commercial to historic



Diamond Springs and El Dorado Community Values

In the Space Below Write What You Value About Your Community.

Minimal cultural Lighting
rural feeling/narrow roads
historic architecture/old west/gold rush
Gardens
Streams and water falls

Historic Boutiques, ie. Wines Cellar, etc.
Create Local Jobs. Live & Work w/ your own community
Views of pasture land, oak trees, mountains, wildlife
Being able to see the sunrise/sunset
Riding my bike from my house to the trail
Local business - grocery, restaurant, clothing...
Rural feel w/access to retail close by.
Agree with all above statements
Keep area safe and healthy for our children
The reasons above are why we live here
El Dorado County residents do not
want overcrowded overdevelopment and
want to remain rural lifestyle - Amen!

• Safety
• fix up old buildings
• slow down claim
• please fix street
• no MRF!

5th Grade
Thank you!!
E

People who love the city live there
El Dorado County residents
love the country and its being
destroyed all around us.
Stop high density building

OAK TREES

want open spaces

tree canopy over road!

We want wildlife
in our community

we want to hear birds sing

I really like
the way you
presented it
it was
great!
-Liz!

4/17/2014
of our
22

Rural self-
like style
need to
in 45
4

A Peek into the Future

Diamond Springs and El Dorado Community Vision

In the Space Below Write in Your Vision for the Future

A Peek into the Future

Diamond Springs and El Dorado Community Vision

The distinct, small foothill communities of Diamond Springs and El Dorado are steeped in Gold Rush history and are integral links in the Golden Chain Highway, State Route 49. As you roll into town, the thing that catches your eye is that the area has retained a visible link to the Gold Rush era by thoughtfully maintaining the historic character of the core downtown area of each community. Located just minutes from a major commercial district, the transition from modern commercial architecture to the historic downtown area invites you to step back in time and experience a slower pace of life. Buildings from the 1800's have been maintained according to strict historic guidelines intended to celebrate the history of the area while new buildings in the historic core are constructed with an eye towards historic detail, right down to the painted on soot stains above faux gas lamp fixtures. A sense of history ripples through each town, inviting visitors to stay a while and enjoy the history that comes to life in these two charming and vibrant foothill communities.

In addition to its roots in the Gold Rush, the communities of Diamond Springs and El Dorado also honor the culture and traditions of the Miwok Tribe, people whose lives were anchored to the land through rituals and sacred sites long before the first nugget of gold was discovered. Spaces within each community are dedicated to preserving and documenting the Miwok Tribe's unique sense of place, the story of their connection to the land experienced as sacred ground that inspires people travel to the area to study the rich collection of information and learn about the "old ways" of Native American life in the foothills of California.

Visitors to the area have the opportunity to experience their own connection to the land by using one of the many bike and walking paths to access scenic vistas such as fields of lupine and poppies in the spring, a herd of deer grazing on the tawny grasses of summer, or to see leaves of yellow and gold blanketing a secluded path in fall. Multiple gathering spaces along the trails, especially in the railroad park or along the El Dorado Trail, invite a picnic or just a brief rest stop in the shade of an oak tree. Residents also enjoy the quiet living and unique neighborhoods that dot the area surrounding the two small towns. Many walk or bike to their most common destinations and a strong sense of community is evident in the friendly greetings as neighbors meet on street corners and in the cooperative problem solving that occurs in town hall meetings.

Both residents and visitors delight in the fine food that is found in the restaurants and outdoor cafes sprinkled along the main streets of Diamond Springs and El Dorado and in the unique shops that make the area a popular destination to find that special gift. Delicious meals prepared by local chefs feature locally grown food, fine pastries, and El Dorado County wines. To take a taste of the community home with you, shop the farmer's market in Diamond Springs on a Saturday morning and enjoy live music from local bands as you browse through rows of locally grown fresh fruit and veggies, cut flowers, pastries, and things not usually found at a supermarket like organic heirloom tomatoes. After you've spent a day meandering through the towns by car, foot, or pedal, then head out of town to enjoy the South County wine country or head east to Apple Hill, but come back again another day to rediscover Diamond Springs and El Dorado, two unique foothill communities flourishing in the present through their connection to the past.

A Peek into the Future

Diamond Springs and El Dorado Community Vision

In the Space Below Write in Your Vision for the Future

and are integral...
the thing that catches your eye is that the area...
...maintaining the historic character of the core downtown...
...minutes from a major commercial district, the transition...
...historic downtown area invites you to step back...
...buildings from the 1800's have been maintained...
...celebrate the history of the area while new...
...eye towards historic detail, right down to...
...A sense of history ripples through...
...story that comes to life in these two...
...Diamond Springs and El Dorado...
...whose lives were anchored to...
...get of gold was discovered...
...documenting the Miwok...
...and experienced as sacred...
...ection of information and...
...California...
...connection to the land by us-...
...such as fields of lupine...
...ses of summer, or to see...
...multiple gathering spaces along...
...the El Dorado Trail, invite a picnic or just a...
...enjoy the quiet living and unique...
...owns. Many walk or bike to their...
...is evident in the friendly greet-

- We need high speed internet to provide & sustain higher paying jobs innovative people to our community
- Lets see original design plan to lesson...
...name? Consider 'old SAC' as an ex...
- We need an area park/rec faci

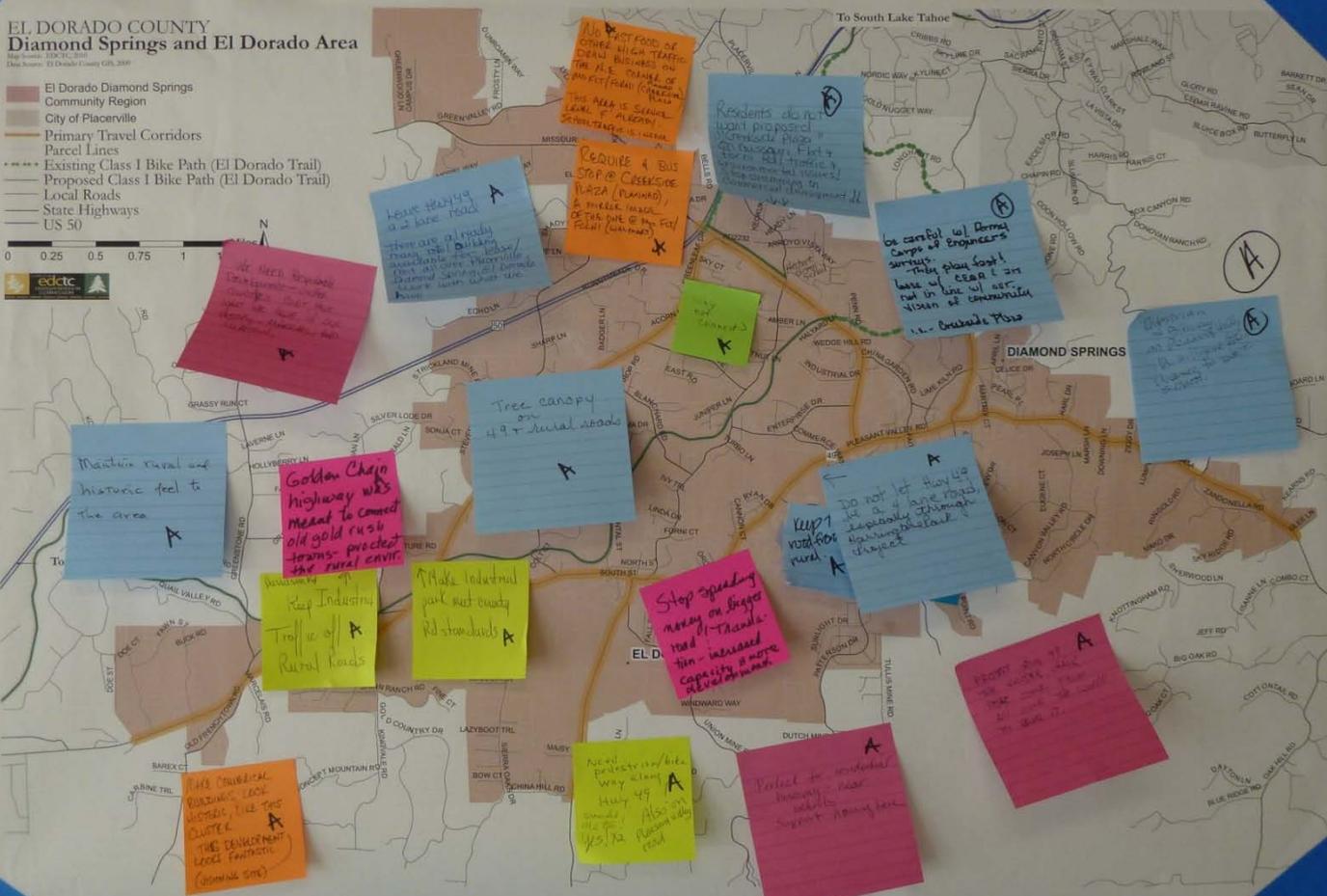
.../colleges/campus to
...area of weather to draw
...currently see.
...to the D/ED Comm. Adv. Com. mtg
...- Firehouse Cont. Rm 6:00pm
...Diamond Springs + E.D.

THE VISION PROJECT AREA IS THE SHADED AREA ON THE MAP BELOW

EL DORADO COUNTY Diamond Springs and El Dorado Area

Map Source: 12/17/11, 2010
Data Source: El Dorado County GIS, 2010

- El Dorado Diamond Springs Community Region
- City of Placerville
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E TRL

MAKE CONCRETE BUILDINGS LOOK HISTORIC, LIKE THIS CLUSTER.

A

THIS DEVELOPMENT LOOKS FANTASTIC
(VISIONING SITE)

ONCE FA

Golden Chain highway was meant to connect old gold rush towns - protect the rural enviro.

URE

Pedestrian & Bikerway Valley on Pleasant Rd will give kids a chance to bike to school.

A

Maintain rural and historic feel to the area

- Offer financial incentives to developers who do a historic-looking development like Bruce Wirtanen's Town Center. Do not let commercial development look like Folsom or “Anytown” USA.
- We need high-speed Internet to bring in the bigger businesses, colleges, and high-tech campuses to provide and sustain higher-paying jobs. We have the beautiful area and weather to draw innovative people to our community.
- Require new development to have a posted sign of good size (at least 4' x 4') that reads: “For information on planned development on this site go to www.____”

Next Steps in the Planning Process

EDCTC was awarded a \$250,000 Community-Based Transportation Planning Grant by Caltrans to fund the Diamond Springs and El Dorado Area Mobility and Sustainable Community Plan (Community Plan). The results of the Vision Project, including the work of the SAC and the Community Visioning Workshop, will inform the direction of that planning effort which will begin in the spring of 2012.

The objective of the Community Plan is to:

- Enhance modal choices and connectivity to meet future transportation demands
- Work with El Dorado County Planning, DOT, Caltrans, and the community to identify the multi-modal transportation infrastructure that will provide the foundation for long-term economic and community well-being while protecting historic, cultural, and environmental resources.
- Streamline Caltrans' Local Development - Intergovernmental Review (IGR) process in the project area.
- Provide an implementation plan, including cost estimates and funding strategy for recommended improvements.
- Leverage State and Federal funding to build local projects.

CONCLUSIONS

The values and vision “straw man” developed by the SAC was validated by the community’s comments at the visioning workshop.

- Lasting Legacy: The community now has the first bones of a vision and set of values to provide a context for infrastructure improvements to the community:

“How will transportation and other infrastructure improvements support the community’s values and vision?”

- The vision and values are living documents that can help the community determine where they want to go before they decide how to get there.
- The Diamond Springs and El Dorado Community Advisory Committee is a natural home for these documents.
- Vision Project resulted in a planning process that can be replicated in other small communities of the county: Pollock Pines, Camino, Pleasant Valley, Fairplay, Somerset, Georgetown, Cool, Coloma.

The El Dorado County Transportation Commission Would Like to Thank the Following for Their Generous Support of the Vision Project:

- **The Stakeholder Advisory Committee for giving their time, energy, and passion to the project for 8 months**
- **Bruce Wirtanen and the Diamond Springs Town Center for providing the space for the workshop**
- **Paul Radcliffe for the use of his fine art photography that so beautifully captures the heart and character of the area**
- **Mike Speegle for the use of his collection of historic photographs of Diamond Springs and El Dorado**
- **The Community for participating in the workshop**