

# **STRONG TOWNS**

What is  
Strong Towns?

[StrongNorthTahoe.org](http://StrongNorthTahoe.org)

**Strong Towns** is a nonpartisan, nonprofit media advocacy organization. They are comprised of a small team of in-house professionals and thousands of members from communities across North America.



## The Strong Towns Mission:

“We seek to replace America’s post-war pattern of development, called the “Suburban Experiment,” with a pattern of development that is **financially strong** and **resilient**. We advocate for cities of all sizes to be **safe, livable, and inviting**. We work to elevate local government to be the highest level of **collaboration** for people working together in a place, not merely the lowest level in a hierarchy of governments.”





# ZONING & AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**Local Conversations** are groups of local advocates focused on specific projects for their city. These are everyday people from all walks of life, coming together to foster **meaningful change** in their neighborhoods!



Santa Barbara, CA: Incremental Housing and Redevelopment



Nevada City: Bottom Up NV City advocates active transportation



Poway/ Rancho Bernardo, CA: Built and installed bike racks

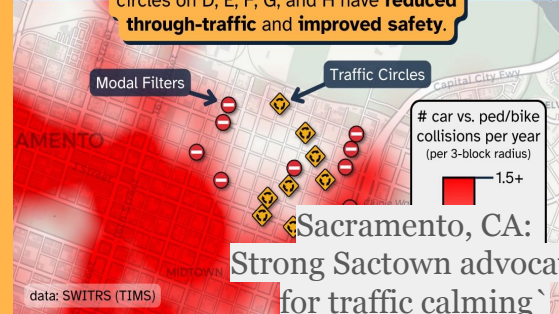


Reno, NV: Strong Towns Reno Micromobility

Davis, CA: Strong Towns Davis Strongest Town Nominee



Since the 1990s, modal filters and traffic circles on D, E, F, G, and H have **reduced through-traffic** and **improved safety**.





# Core Campaign: Bottom Up Approach

An aerial photograph of a roundabout with a central landscaped island. The roundabout is surrounded by a mix of green trees and paved roads. In the background, there are more trees and a parking lot. In the foreground, there are several large white buildings, possibly a commercial or industrial site, with a parking lot in front of them. The overall scene is a mix of natural and built environments.

The Community and the Agency's have done great work over the years developing Vision Plans and Tahoe Basin Area Plan. **Let's prioritize the desired projects identified in those documents.**

Public projects that align with community priorities move effectively and efficiently through the process.

Small business owners and property owners are stewards of where they live and of Lake Tahoe. Let's focus on creating more stewards with direct investment into the community.

# Core Campaign: Transparent Local Accounting

To reveal the financial implications of the current conditions, local accounting must:

- **Make sense**
- **Be accurate and transparent**
- **Be prepared with local citizens in mind**

Local government should effectively support residents **collectively shaping their communities**. But in order to do prioritize, you need **clear, accurate, accessible information** about your local finances. You should know your tax dollars are contributing to making your place more resilient, not more financially fragile.

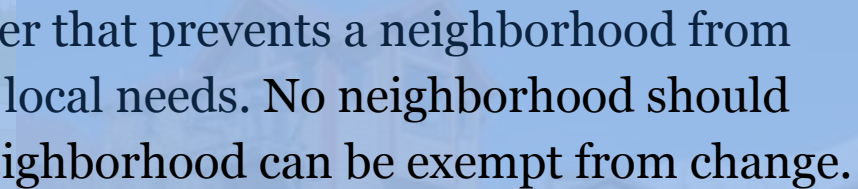


# Core Campaign: Incremental Housing



For decades, our housing policies have put investor returns and macroeconomic goals over the universal human need for shelter. **Restrictive housing policies** and **zoning laws** have also prevented communities from collectively building the prospering towns they desire.

There should be no substantial barrier that prevents a neighborhood from **evolving over time** in response to local needs. No neighborhood should experience radical change, but no neighborhood can be exempt from change.



A **bottom-up orientation** to housing requires strong local leadership. We should be opening the doors for community members and small developers to pursue the next increment of development in their town.

# Core Campaign: End Parking Mandates and Subsidies

Parking mandates and subsidies cause harm to families, business owners, and small-scale developers by taking away flexibility and increasing costs.

Parking spaces do not generate revenue, so parking minimums cost the public in the form of extra infrastructure that must service all that parking—but without the taxable value to recoup public investment.



Ending parking mandates and subsidies in Tahoe allows for small to midsize mixed use redevelopment and more housing options



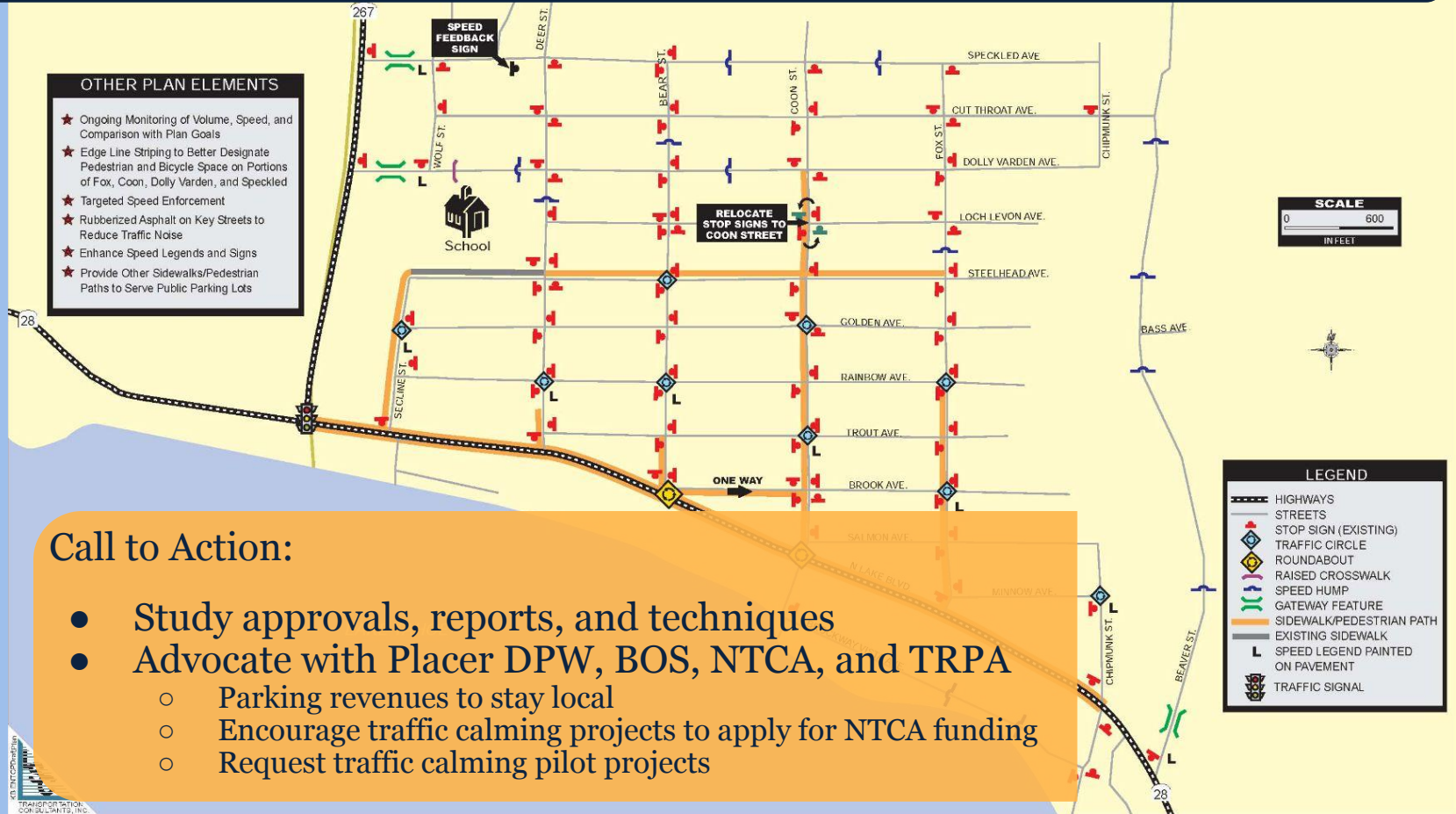
# Core Campaign: Safe and Productive Streets

Imagine a street full of people - talking, shopping, playing, creating, or just relaxing... this is the kind of local street that **prioritizes human safety and wealth creation**, instead of automobile throughput.



Bad street design is the **primary cause of vehicle crashes** involving fatalities and traumatic injuries. But we have the power to build safe streets that are **dominated by people** and accommodate automobiles—not the other way around.

# Kings Beach Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan





# Safe Route To Schools: Steelhead Ave.

Imagine a year round safe route to KB Elementary that:

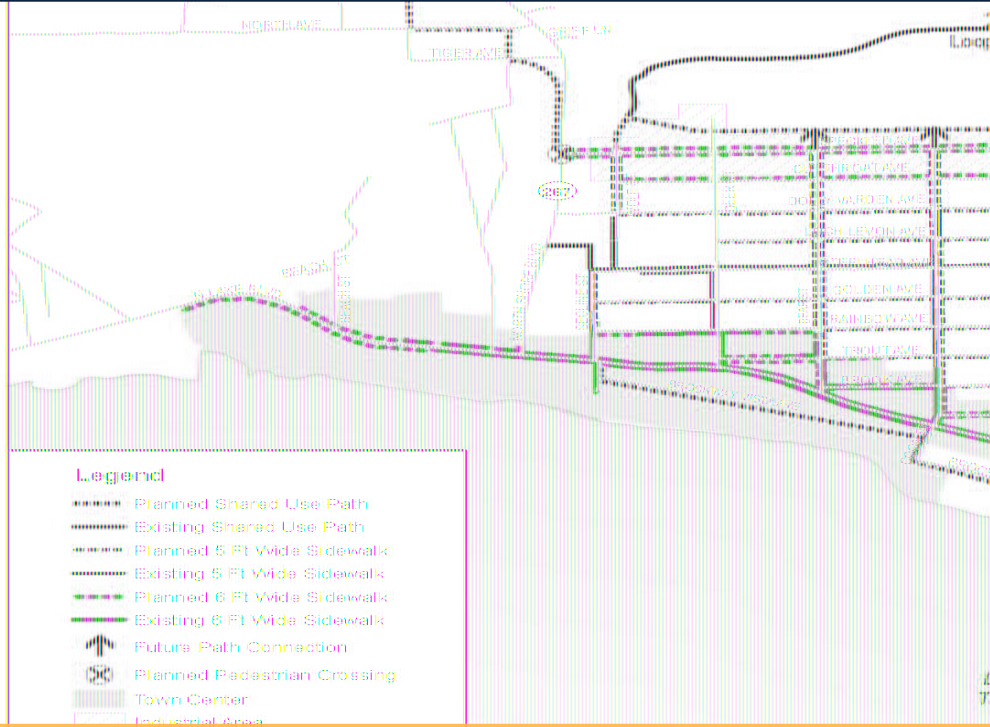
- Is plowed like Truckee River Bike Path TC to Palisades
- Does not allow parking of cars on sidewalk



## Call to Action:

- Post pictures of cars parked on sidewalks or snow stored on sidewalks
- Encourage residents and guests to not park on sidewalks; clear sidewalk snow on your frontage
- Support Placer County Parking Management Plan - highlight enforcement

# Kings Beach Sidewalks



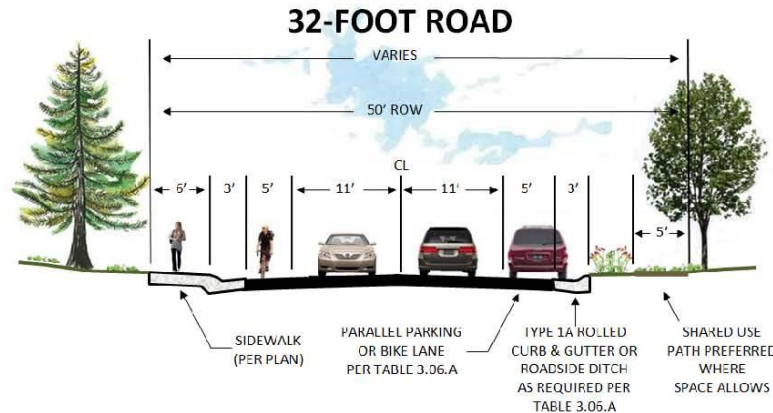
- This exhibit is from the TBAP. How was it made?
- KB needs to decide if we want all these sidewalks and how to pay for them?
- If you add an ADU, would you need to build sidewalks?



# Kings Beach Sidewalks Section



(2) **32-Foot Paved Roads Typical Cross Section:** Two 11' wide travel lanes, two 5' wide paved bike lanes (or shoulders for parallel parking where connection to bicycle facilities is greater than a half a mile), concrete rolled curb and gutter, 5' or 6' wide sidewalks on one or both sides, lighting and landscaping. If the roadway connects to bicycle facilities and has appropriate car volume and speed, bike sharrow pavement markings should be considered.



- Fish Streets about 22ft wide, 40ft ROW
- Mammal Streets about 32ft wide, 50ft ROW

- New road width is 33ft to 43ft
- Measure the asphalt in front of your house
- Wider roads = faster speeds

# Sidewalk Alternative: Edge Lane Roads?

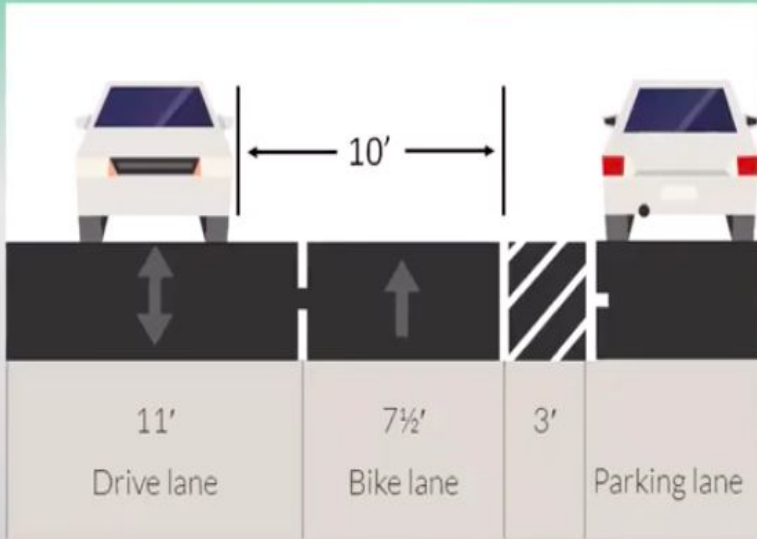
## Edge Lane Roads What Are They?

- **Reduces Speeds:** Visually narrows the street, replicates a single lane road
- **Safer Passing:** Motor vehicles leave more space between themselves and bikes/ped they pass. Dooring zone can be provided for on-street parking
- **Organizes modes:** Clear indication where bikes, peds, and strollers should be in relation to parked and moving motor vehicles
- **Installation costs less:** Provides bike and ped facilities without adding concrete sidewalks and curb and gutter.
- **Snow Removal:** as of now the sidewalks act as snow storage for roadway snow. ELR and road can be cleared at same time without damage to concrete sidewalks and curb ramps.
- **Reduces Coverage:** saved coverage in the public ROW can be allocated to housing, functioning downtowns, or other beneficial purposes.
- **Property Values:** property values are higher where streets are narrower

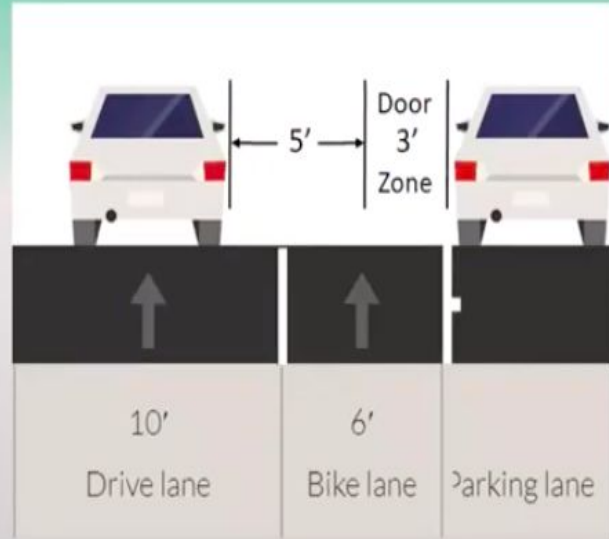


# Sidewalk Alternative: Edge Lane Roads

ELRs can provide more separation than bike lanes



Edge Lane Road



Door Zone Bike Lane

Credit: michael williams  
<https://www.advisorybikelanes.com/>

Example assumes 32' between parking lanes

# Sidewalk Alternative: Edge Lane Roads

## Temporary Installation on Blaine Street:



Blaine Street; Tyler to Taylor: Center Driving Lane = 14', Bike Lanes = 6'  
Blaine Street; Taylor to Adams: Center Driving Lane = 10', Bike Lanes = 6'



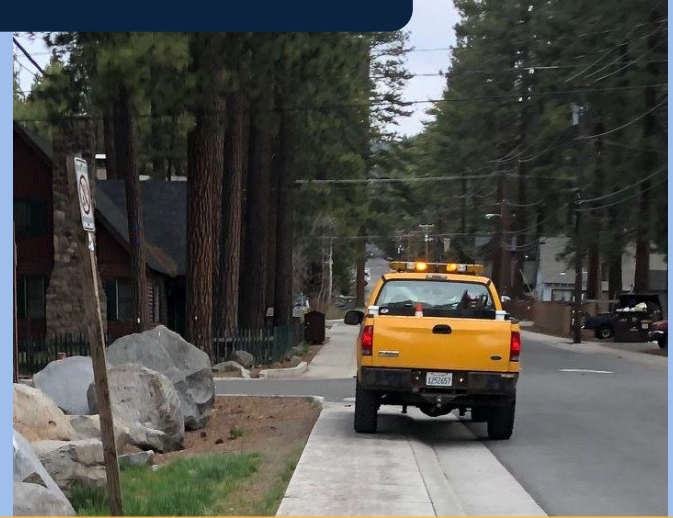
Credit: michael williams  
<https://www.advisorybikelanes.com/>



# Traffic Calming and Sidewalk Advocacy:

As a community member you are the expert on:

- How to get around town
- Where to park
- What alternate modes make sense
- Where we should allocate funding
- Your vision of North Lake Tahoe



Call to Action and Advocacy:

- Understand current Area Plan and typical details
- Advocate for traffic calming and multi modal but NOT wider streets
- Request transparent accounting for informed decision making
  - If we build sidewalks, can we maintain them, can we use them?
- Support pilot projects and encourage County staff
- Tactical Urbanism

Ultimately, Strong Towns comes down to **educating and empowering communities**. All of the content they produce - books, videos, articles, webinars, courses - is just a starting point from which **everyday people can find the words and confidence needed to take action in their town.**



**Strong North Tahoe** is whatever we, the residents, want it to be!  
That being said....



# What is a Strong Town to you? Get involved!



## **Come to a meeting!**

Make your voice heard, or just come to listen.



## **Sign up for updates!**

Sign up at [bit.ly/snt-updates](https://bit.ly/snt-updates) to stay in the loop.



## **Join us and share our message!**

Facebook: [facebook.com/groups/strongnorthtahoe](https://facebook.com/groups/strongnorthtahoe)

Website: [strongnorthtahoe.org](https://strongnorthtahoe.org)

# Ready to Help?

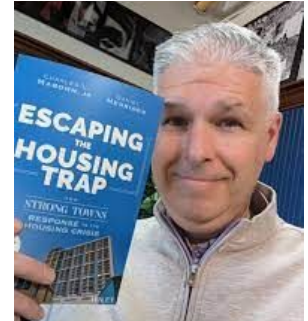
SNT is looking for volunteers:

- Social Media Coordinators
- Spanish Speakers
- Latinx SNT members

Next Event?

- Movie Night
- Street Walk

Want to help? Email us at  
[we@strongnorthtahoe.org](mailto:we@strongnorthtahoe.org)



Ask for Strong  
Towns books at  
the KB Library