### Cary, NC: A Case Study

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# 2009 EPA Building Healthy Communities For Active Aging Award



Friday, February 5 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Sheraton Seattle Hotel Diamond Room, 1st Floor across from WSCTC, 1400 6th Ave.

he Local Government Commission is hosting a special reception to honor the financial contributors of the 9th Annual "New Partners for Smart Growth: Building Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities" conference in Seattle, Washington.

This impressive group of agencies, organizations, foundations and firms reflect the true nature of collaboration, and represent the many different disciplines, perspectives and ideas featured at the conference. Each group has demonstrated a commitment to implementing smart growth and livable communities principles; and without their generous support, this conference would not be possible.

As an honored guest of the Local Government Commission, we would like to invite you to attend this special reception. Reception attendance is by invitation only, and an RSVP is required to attend.

Please complete the attached RSVP form to identify the individuals who will be using your invitations to attend this event. Please return the form to Michele Warren at the Local Government Commission (mkwarren@lgc.org / fax 916-448-8246) no later than Friday, January 22. Please note that this invitation is for the Friday evening reception only and does not provide access to the conference itself.

CONFERENCE SPONSORS 
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Association of REALTORS®

Smart Growth Network
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

CONTRIBUTORS Federal Highway Administration
Federal Transit Administration

Kaiser Permanente
U.S. Forest Service – Urban and
Community Forestry Program

#### BENEFACTORS

Arup Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District Sound Transit U.S. EPA Region 10

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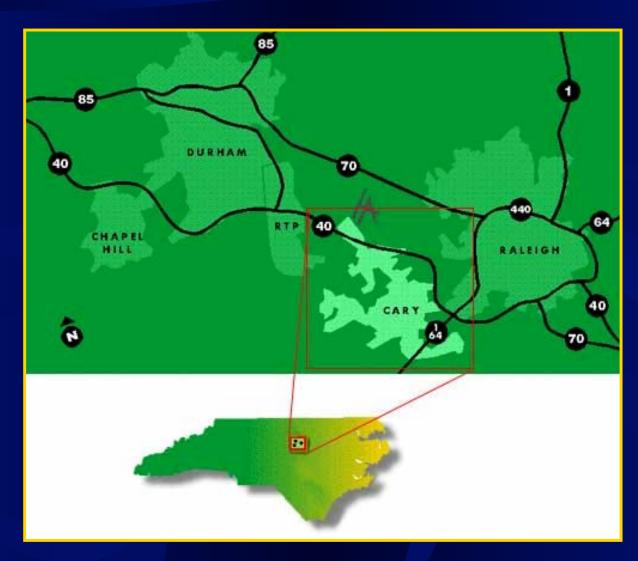
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#### FRIENDS Nelson Nygaard Consulting Associates

FOUNDATION SUPPORT The Rockefeller Foundation
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The Town Of Cary, North Carolina Received The Achievement Award (Public Entity) For Its Programs That Include Preservation Of ... Open Space, Creation Of Extensive Walking And Biking Paths, ... Planning For Pedestrian Friendly Mixed-use Developments, And Implementation Of Fitness And Wellness Programs Designed By And For Older Adults.

## First, A Little Bit About Cary



### First, A Little Bit About Cary

- Location, Location, Location
- Recognized By Various
   Publications As One Of The Top
   Communities In The U.S. To Live
- Long History Of Land Use Planning And Regulation Of Private Development, Even When Faced With Rapid Growth

### People & Trends

Cary Population

**-1960: 3,356** 

-2010 Estimate: 143,049 (1/1/11)

-2035 Projection: 184,870

### People & Trends

- Older Population
  - Median Age = 38.1 In 2008; Was 33.7 In 2000
  - Fastest Growing Segment Of Cary Population Is Of Retirement Age
    - 17.32% Of Total Population Is Over Age 55 (Source: 2007 ACS)
  - Number Of Persons Over 65 Increased By 70%

### People & Place

"The Town Of Cary Is Defined By Its Distinctive Sense Of Place. Citizens Feel Encouraged To Lead Healthy Lifestyles"



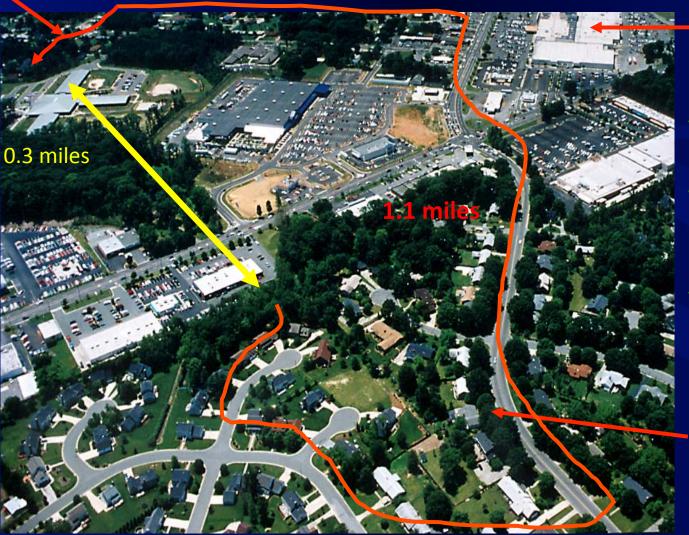
#### Town Goal, Focus Area 1:

Community Planning - Planning For Quality Of Life Is To Achieve A Well Planned Community Using Innovative And Proactive Planning Approaches And Techniques



### Is There A Better Way?

**School** 



Shopping

- Each Activity Is Low Density
- Activities Are
  Separated From
  Each Other
- Connections
  Between
  Activities Are
  Circuitous

**Homes** 

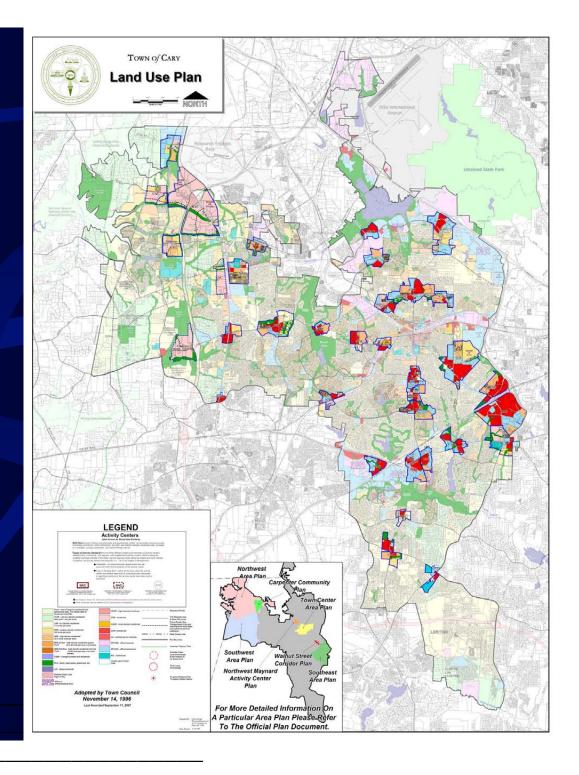
**Source: Triangle J Council of Governments** 



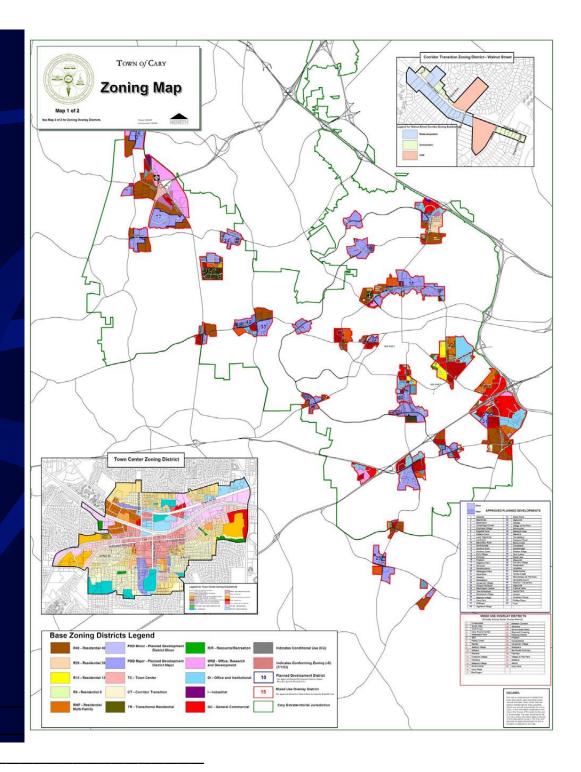
# Cary's Vision For Land Use & Transportation

- Land Use > "Activity Centers" = "Building Blocks" Of Town's Long-range Plan
  - Physically & Aesthetically Unified, Concentrated, Mixed-use Areas
  - Walkable, Compact, Pedestrian And Transitfriendly
- Transportation → Multimodal
  - Provide A Safe, Convenient And Efficient Multimodal Transportation System
  - Provide Safe And Convenient Facilities And Service For People Who Choose Not To Use An Automobile

Planned Mixed Use Centers...



... And Zoned Mixed Use Centers

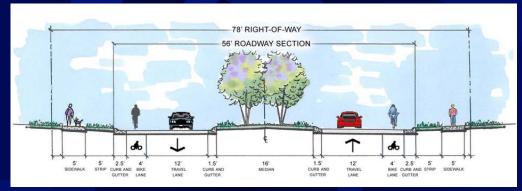


### **Plan For Alternative Modes**









### Why Bother? Value & Benefits

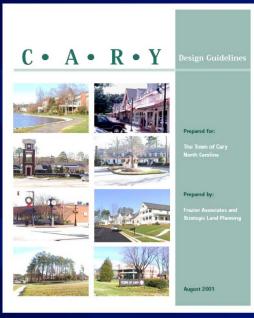
- Capitalizes On Existing Water & Sewer Systems
- Provides For Transit With Concentration At Nodes
- Improves Connections Between Developments
- Yields Better-designed And More Livable Community

### Why Bother? Value & Benefits

- Maximizes Economic Development Of Land
- Promotes Infill Development
- Provides Travel Choice; Reduces Impact On Arterial Roads
- Increased Housing Choices (Key For Seniors)

# Making It Happen. How Are We Getting There?

- Plans & Policies
- Ordinances/Regulations
- Design Principles
- Guidelines
- Entitlement Process
- Development Review Process



### Plan for Humans







### **Connect Uses**



### Create a Sense of Place

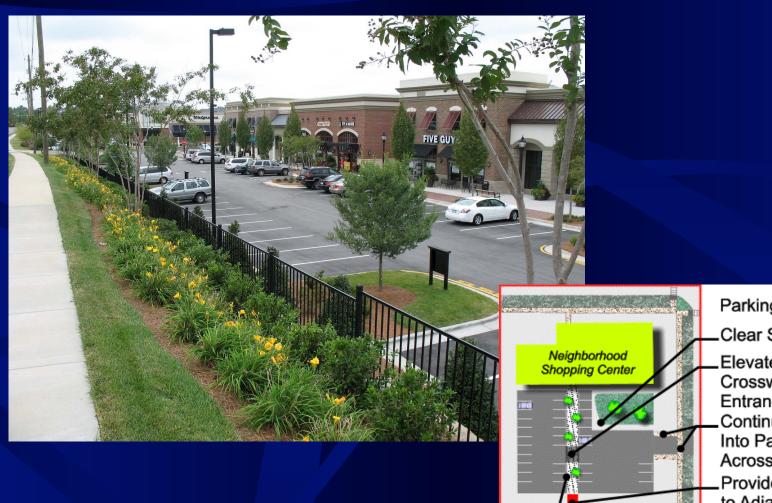








## **Orient Buildings To Users**



Parking in Rear

Clear Sight Lines

Elevated, Marked Crosswalks to Store **Entrance** 

Continue Sidewalks Into Parking Area and **Across Driveway** 

Provide Connections to Adjacent Properties

Parking Stops to Ensure Clear Pedestrian Passage

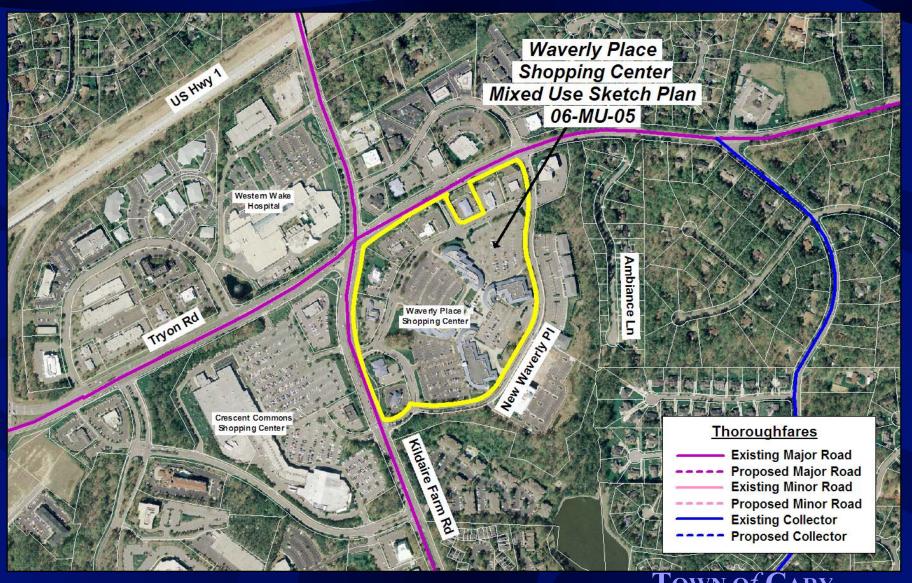
### **Create Main Streets**



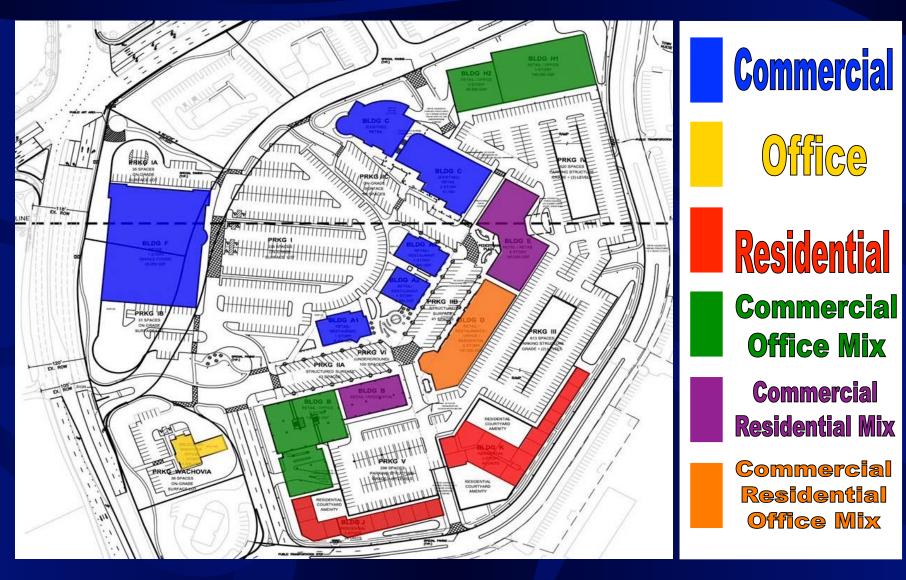
### **Provide Open Space**



### Not Only New, But Old Centers



### Mix of Uses



## Are We Succeeding?







# It's More Than Physical. Cary's Programs & Services...

### **Activity Centers = Active Living**

 Popular Locations For Retirement Communities:

- Proximity To Services
- Compact Design
- Transportation Choices



### **Active Aging Developments**

- Glenaire
- Carolina Preserve at Amberly
- Searstone







### Affordable Housing

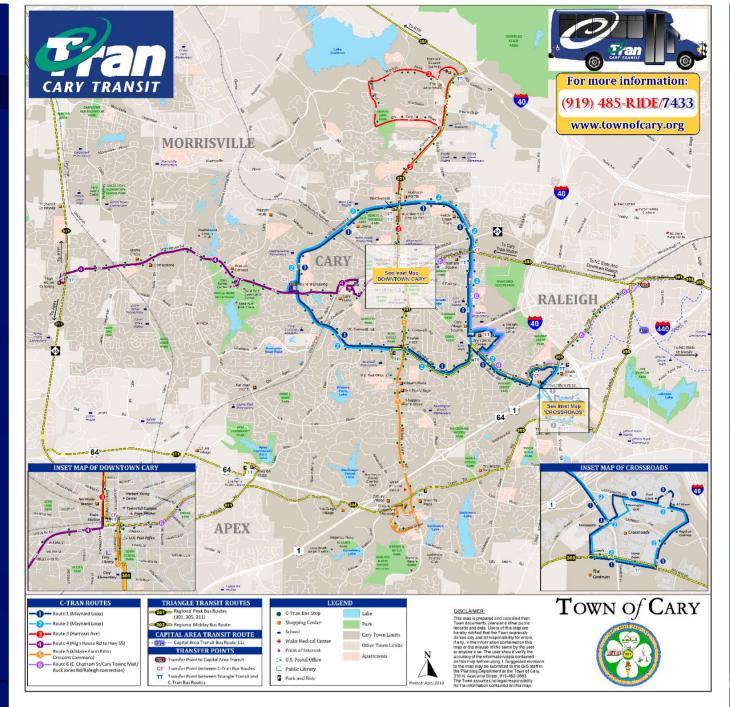
- Resources For Seniors
   Emergency repair program
  - \$5000 limit per house
- 450 new housing units constructed
  - 260 were for residents 55+
- 52 housing units rehabilitated
  - 39 senior-owned
- Partnerships
  - Weatherstone
  - Highland Village





### **C-Tran Service**

- C-Tran System (Est. 2000)
- C-Tran Provides Town-wide Door-to-door And Fixed Route Bus Service
  - Door-to-door Service: Senior & Disabled
  - Fixed Route Service For General Public
    - 3 Routes (N-S, E-W, And Maynard Loop)
    - Free Transfers On C-Tran Routes, TTA Day/Month Pass Good For TTA And C-Tran
- Bike Rack-n-roll Program
- TTA Regional Rail, Seeking Public Input
  - TTA Regional Bus
  - C-Tran And Feeder Bus Routes
  - Grow Services To Meet Demand
  - Support Station Area Development
  - Express Bus (HOV, Queue Jump)



#### **C-Tran**

- 180,000 Projected Riders This Fiscal Year (15% Seniors)
- Projected 72,000 Trips To Seniors This Year (45,000 Door-to-door And 27,000 Fixed Route)
- Cary Currently Provides Doorto-door Service For Approximately 3,500 Registered Seniors (60+) And Disabled Residents



### **Bikes Belong**

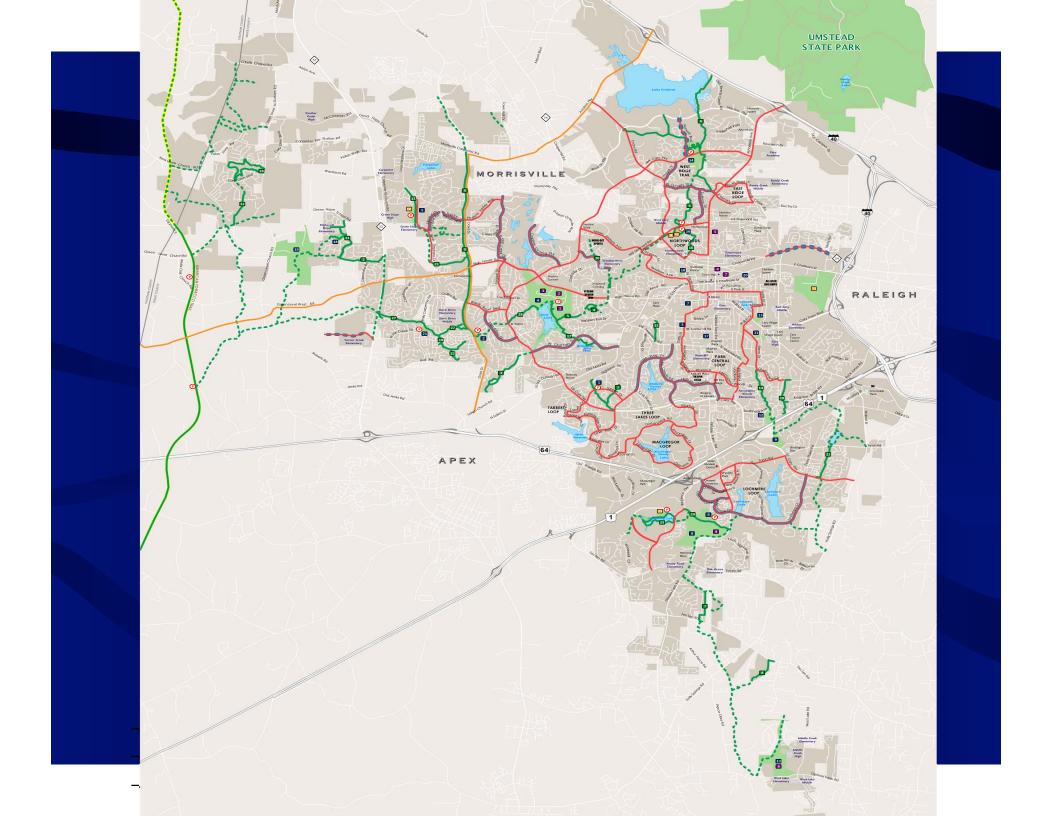
- League Certified Bicyclefriendly Community; 2002
- Range Of Bicycle Facilities
- Bike & Hike Map
- Bicycle Parking Ordinance
- Bicycle Education Video
- Wayfinding Signage



### Walk This Way

- 27 Trail Greenway System
  - 52 Miles Active Greenways
- Town-wide Sidewalk Request Program
  - \$1 Million Annually
  - Petition Component
  - Sidewalk Matrix For Evaluation
- Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan
- North Carolina Fit Community
- Nationally Accredited Parks, Recreation And Cultural Resources Department; 2002





### **Cary Senior Center**

**Goal: Create Active Retirement Years** 

- 16,700 Sq. Ft. Facility
- Full-time Resources For Seniors, Inc. Employee On-site
- 5,322 Program Hours/ 22,872 Participants (As Of July 2009) Over The Last 5 Years
- Certified NC Senior Center Of Excellence; 2008
- National Institute Of Senior Centers Research Award; 2009

### Rewards

**Healthier Citizenry Greater Choices Air Quality Benefits Reduced Emissions** Sustainable Development **More Efficient Transportation System** 

### **Questions?**

### www.townofcary.org

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