

**Transportation or Public Health Issue?**

**An Environmental Justice Planning Project**

This work has been supported by



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**IF YOU FIND YOURSELF HANGING BY A WIRE-----**



**something is wrong!!**

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**PROJECT ORIGINAL GOAL**

**A very ambitious goal**

**Identify, develop, and implement regional strategies to address racial/ethnic, rural/ urban social class disparities in motor vehicle accident related morbidity and mortality in the San Joaquin Valley**

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## Facing Reality

Although Our goal remains to be the same, we found it unrealistic to find resources to cover all 6 counties in one project.

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**SOLUTION:** Modified our goal to conduct a small scale pilot project.

**Goal:** Explore Motor Vehicle Accidents in two Fresno County rural, Latino communities from the perspective of the residents and community stakeholders.

### OBJECTIVES

- To engage low-income Latino and other residents of rural Fresno county communities in understanding the underlying causes of motor vehicle accidents and associated health impacts.
- To increase public awareness among low-income Latino and other residents of rural communities of CALTRANS/Fresno County transportation service and infrastructure improvement planning process.
- To engage a small group of deeply committed rural low-income Latino community members, professional planners, and local leaders in developing specific proposals for feasible CALTRANS/Fresno County and other interventions to increase transportation safety for rural residents.

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## Team accomplishments to date

- Reviewed available literature to investigate what has been done in the area;
- Identified, obtained, and analyzed the federal motor vehicle fatality data set "FARS (Fatality Analysis Reporting System) for the SIX SJV counties
- Identified focus and documented need for the project;
- Collaborated with California Highway Patrol Commissioner for Fresno and Hanford county;
- Collaborated with Emergency Medical Services and obtained and analyzed EMS data;

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## Team accomplishments to date

- Developed good rapport with community based organizations' partners in both communities for the pilot planning project.
- Developed a Concept paper- highlighting the extensiveness and severity of the problem of disparities in regional motor vehicle fatalities, as well as tentative plans to understand and impact their causes.
- Identified funding source for a planning project.
- Developed partnership with the Fresno Council of Governments and Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning
- Submitted a grant proposal to the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) Environmental Justice grants.

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## lessons learned

- Not enough work has been conducted to identify and address the social determinants of MVA (upstream).
- No known success models to use in identifying and addressing the social determinants of MVA (upstream).
- Determining root causes of disparity in general is a challenge and specifically as it relates to Motor vehicle mortality/ morbidity.

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## Unique Characteristics

- Difficult to clarify determinants
  - Traditional reliance on analysis of fatalities to make leadership decisions.
  - Non-traditional data and Data Collection.
  - Myth: the silver bullet (magical solution).

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## Biggest Challenges

- Non-Traditional partnership between the Fresno Council of Governments and Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning and The University.
- Non-traditional topic- not often thought of as public health issue.
- Disparate nature of collecting qualitative data on MVTA from community members and stakeholders.
- Building trusting relationships with residents of the rural communities
- Building a relationship with appropriate policy makers

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## Team's vision for success by the end of 2009

Engage members of under-represented, low-income, minority communities in the process of Identifying social determinants of MVA in their communities.

Engage community members in developing a planning model to reduce MVAs in their areas- that can be used in similar communities

Sustain the pledged support of committed community-based organizations that are rooted in the communities to enhance the likelihood of the project's success.

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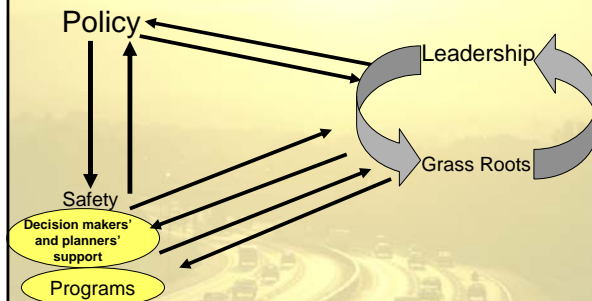
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## What policies and practices will support this vision?



*"It's not 'Safety Programs', it's a Grass Root Leadership Program supported by Safety"*

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Questions?



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