

# HEALTH & ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF BIKEABLE AND WALKABLE COMMUNITIES

Kristen Mitchell

Planning Directors Roundtable

December 2015





79% ... want to be within an easy walk of other places and things in the community.

- National Association of Realtors, 2015 poll



# PHYSICAL ACTIVITY: REDUCES THE RISK OF CHRONIC DISEASE

- 117 million people are living with a chronic disease
  - > 15 m - coronary heart disease
  - > 29 m - diabetes
  - > 13 m - cancer

- America Walks, 2015



- Safety & Related Cost Savings
- Health Impacts
- Business and Employment Growth
- Investment and Property Values



# SAFETY & RELATED COST SAVINGS

Before



After



City of Grandview, Dennis A. Randolph

- 70% of projects resulted in a decline in accidents
- Within a year, the projects (collectively) saved \$18.1 million due to fewer accidents
- 90% decrease in collisions in Grandview, MO



Maryland Department of Planning

Source: Safer Streets, Stronger Economies, Smart Growth America & National Complete Streets Coalition, 2015

# ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION



Seattlebikeblog.com

- More walking trips in 12 of 13 projects (105% in 125<sup>th</sup> St., corridor, Seattle)
- More bicycling in 22 of 23 projects
- More transit trips in 6 of 7 projects



# BUSINESS GROWTH



PPS.org

- Net increase in businesses in 6 of 6 communities
- Increased retail sales in 4 of 4 communities
- Orlando, FL, study area: 77 new businesses, 506 jobs



Maryland Department of Planning

Source: Safer Streets, Stronger Economies, Smart Growth America & National Complete Streets Coalition, 2015

# EMPLOYMENT



NCDDA.org

- Higher employment levels in 7 of 11 project areas
  - § 6 of 11 outperformed citywide growth
  - § 6 of 11 outperformed comparison corridors

# PRIVATE INVESTMENT



Ratiodesign.com

- Increased private investment
- \$160m - Normal, IL

# PROPERTY VALUES



Traveldubuque.com

- Higher property values in 8 of 10 communities (no change in other 2)
  - § 4 of 6 outperformed comparison corridors and citywide trends
- 111% increase in property values in Dubuque, IA

# WEST JEFFERSON, NC

Population: 1,315



Town of West Jefferson, NC

- Two blocks
- Four-way stop signs replaced traffic lights
- Diagonal parking
- Paved crosswalks
- Curb extensions



Maryland Department of Planning

# WEST JEFFERSON, NC



- Underground utilities
- Landscaping
- Pedestrian-scale lighting
- Street furniture

Town of West Jefferson, NC



Maryland Department of Planning

Source: University of Maryland webinar, <http://smartgrowth.org/category/webinar-archives/>, 2015

# WEST JEFFERSON, NC



Town of West Jefferson, NC

- \$208,000 (State)
- \$140,000 (Town)
- \$348,000 TOTAL



# WEST JEFFERSON, NC

§ 10 new businesses

§ 55 new jobs

§ Decrease in vacant storefronts and apartments (33 vs. 5)

§ 14% increase in annual visitors

§ \$500,000 in private investment

Source: University of Maryland webinar, <http://smartgrowth.org/category/webinar-archives/>, 2015



# WEST JEFFERSON, NC

- No traffic accidents at main intersection
- 24% and 53% reduction in crashes and injuries, respectively
- \$2.7m+ savings from fewer accidents (9x town's investment)

Source: University of Maryland webinar, <http://smartgrowth.org/category/webinar-archives/>, 2015



Town of West Jefferson, NC

# WEST JEFFERSON, NC

“I wanted you to know the impacts of the bump-outs in West Jefferson. I knew that they would increase pedestrian safety, but this business (Good Ole Days) is opening another business in Town because of the bump-outs.”

Source: University of Maryland webinar, <http://smartgrowth.org/category/webinar-archives/>, 2015



# BEFORE, WEST JEFFERSON, NC



All photos: Town of West Jefferson, NC

Source: University of Maryland webinar, <http://smartgrowth.org/category/webinar-archives/>, 2015

# AFTER, WEST JEFFERSON, NC



All photos by Martin Seelig, courtesy of West Jefferson, NC.

# LANCASTER, CA

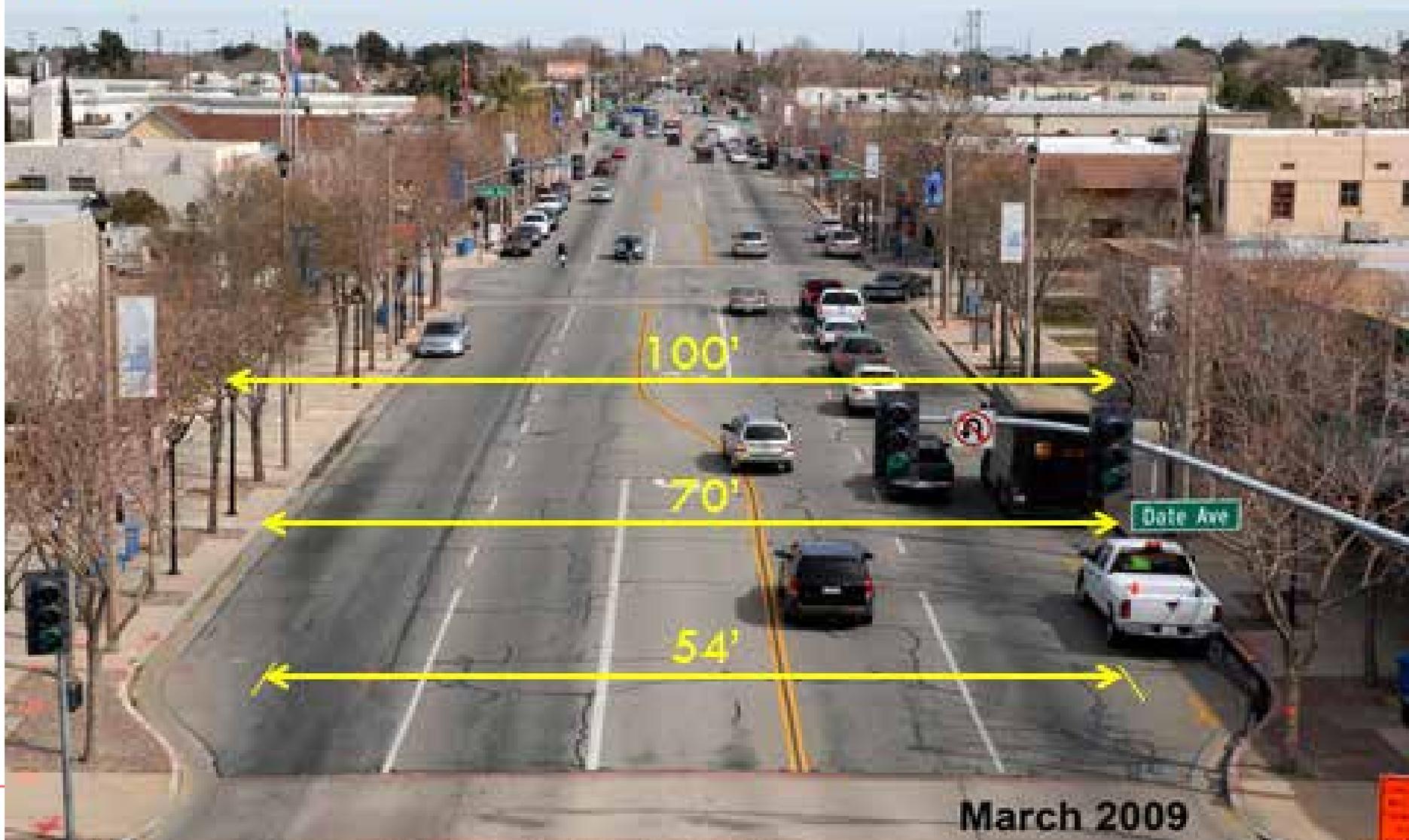
Population: 159,523



City of Lancaster Department of Economic Development

- Nine block revitalization completed in 2009
- Five lanes reduced to two
- Pedestrian plaza
- Enhanced crosswalks
- Angled parking
- Landscaping, lighting, outdoor seating

# Lancaster Blvd – Before





City of Lancaster Department of Economic Development

# LANCASTER, CA



City of Lancaster Department of Economic Development

- \$130 million in private investment
- Almost 50 new businesses
- 800+ permanent new jobs
- 145,000+ sf of new or rehabilitated commercial space
- Retail sales up 96%

# LANCASTER, CA



City of Lancaster Department of Economic Development

- 800+ new or rehabilitated housing units
- 119% increase in revenue for downtown area (2007-2012)
- Est. \$280 million in economic output

# LANCASTER, CA

## Traffic Signals

Before: 8 Signals



After: 2 Signals



City of Lancaster Department of Economic Development

- Overall traffic collisions down 50%
- Injury-related collisions down 85%

*“Walkable urban office space in the 30 largest metro areas commands a 74% premium over rents in drivable suburban areas.”*



not limited to center cities

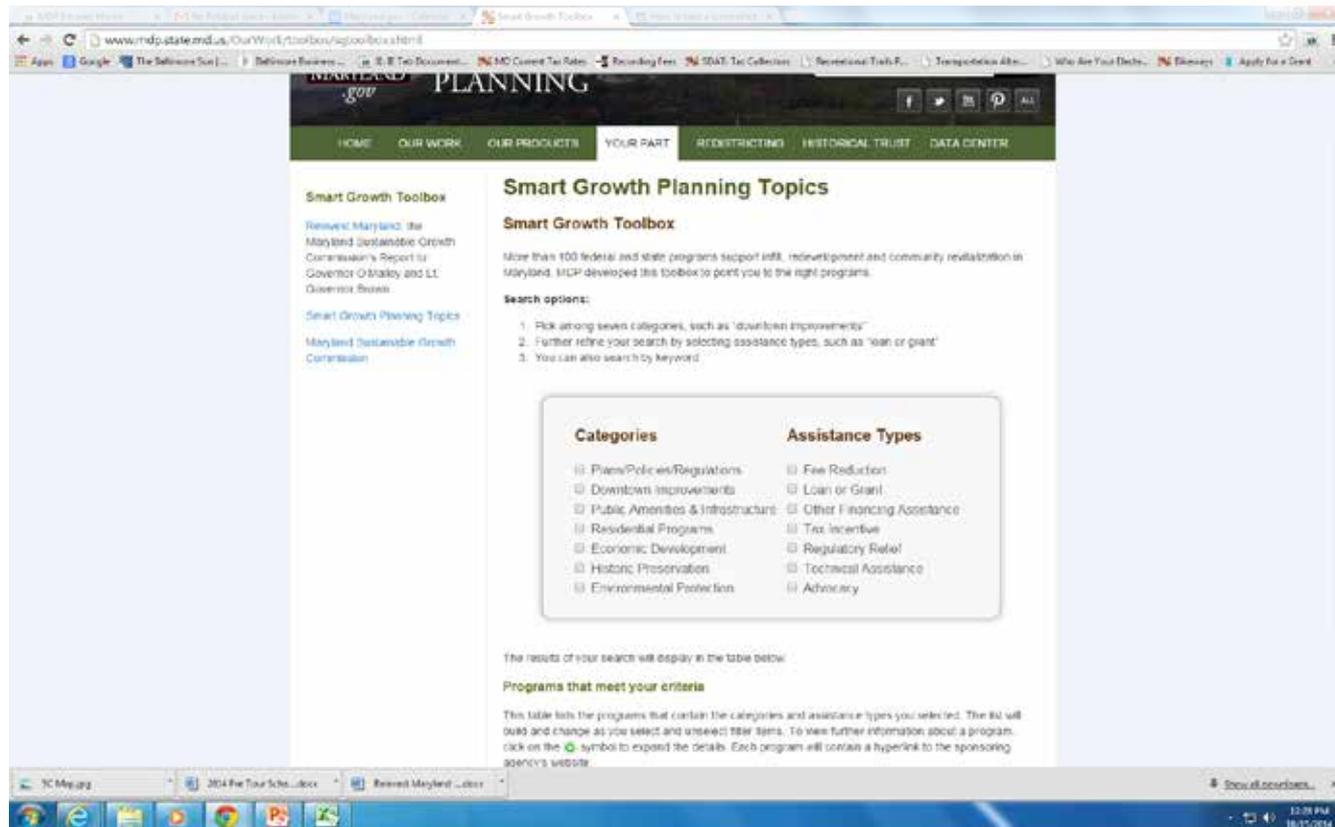
*"In the typical market, an additional one point increase in Walk Score was associated with between a \$500 and \$3,000 increase in home values."*



# MARYLAND'S COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES



# RESOURCES: TOOLBOX



# RESOURCES: INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE

**Smart Growth  
Information Clearinghouse**

*Supporting the development of vibrant, healthy communities*

Visit us at [smartgrowth.org](http://smartgrowth.org) for:

- Latest funding opportunities, events, news and resources related to smart growth
- Networking with smart growth practitioners





**SMART GROWTH  
NETWORK**

[f /smartgrowthonline](https://www.facebook.com/smartgrowthonline)
[@smartgrowthorg](https://www.instagram.com/smartgrowthorg)  
[@smartgrowthorg](https://www.twitter.com/smartgrowthorg)
[in Smart Growth Network](https://www.linkedin.com/company/smart-growth-network)

*A service of the Smart Growth Network, provided by the Maryland Department of Planning under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. EPA Office of Sustainable Communities*

- Smartgrowth.org
- News
- Information
- Funding/Awards
- Events

