



**Smart Growth America**  
Improving lives by improving communities



**National Complete  
Streets Coalition**

# Introduction to Transportation Funding

DNPAO April Webinar

# Objectives

1. Introduce the major funding sources and programs for transportation projects.
2. Discuss how to influence transportation funding and planning to support activity-friendly routes to everyday destinations.



Director, Complete Streets

**Emiko Atherton**

# Key questions



- What are the major sources of transportation funding?
- How is funding distributed to state and local governments?
- What types of projects can major federal funding programs support?
- What else do you need to know to influence transportation funding and planning?

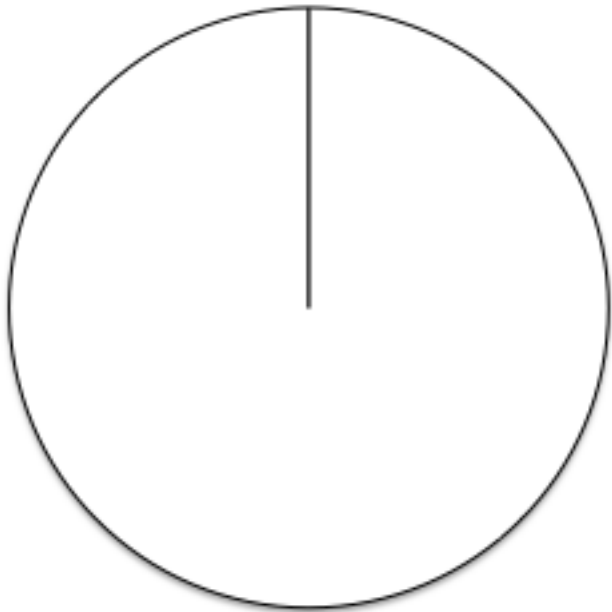


Introduction to transportation funding

# **What are the major sources of transportation funding?**

# Funding sources

*2017 Spending on Highways,  
Mass Transit and Rail*



# Funding sources

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Federal Highway Trust Fund

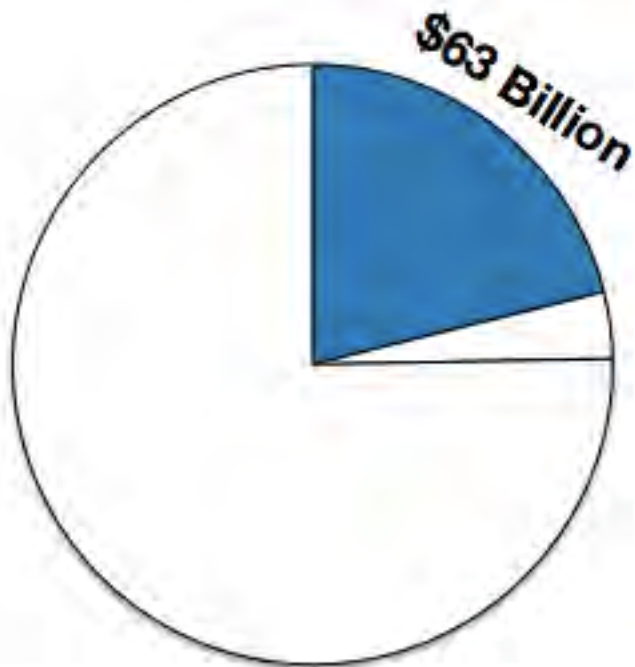


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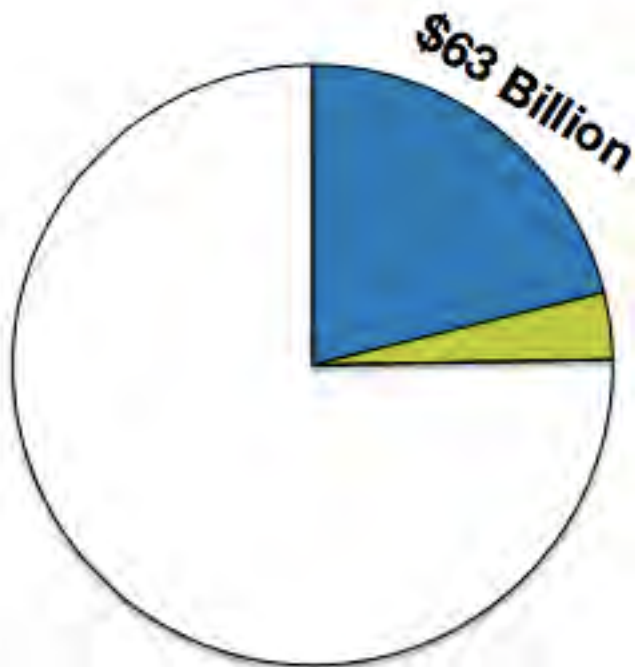
- Gasoline and diesel taxes





# Funding sources

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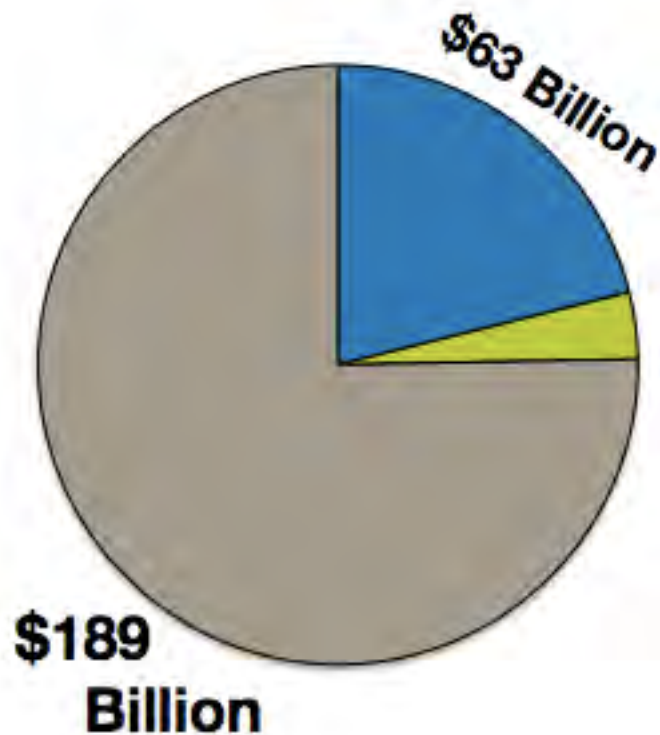


Federal Highway Trust Fund

- Gasoline and diesel taxes
- U.S. Treasury general funds

# Funding sources

*2017 Spending on Highways,  
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## Federal Highway Trust Fund

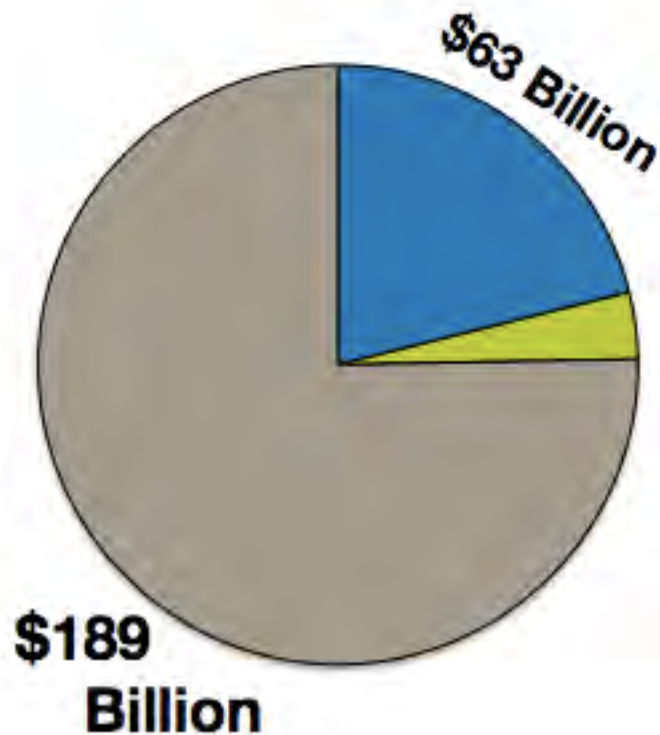
- Gasoline and diesel taxes
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## State and Local Funds

- State and local gas taxes
- Car/driver's licensing fees
- Sales and property taxes
- Real estate transfer fees
- Etc..

# Funding sources

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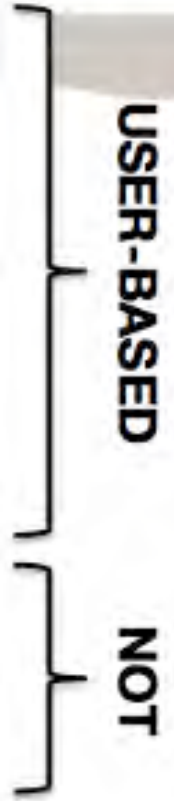


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Introduction to transportation funding

# **How is funding distributed to state and local governments?**

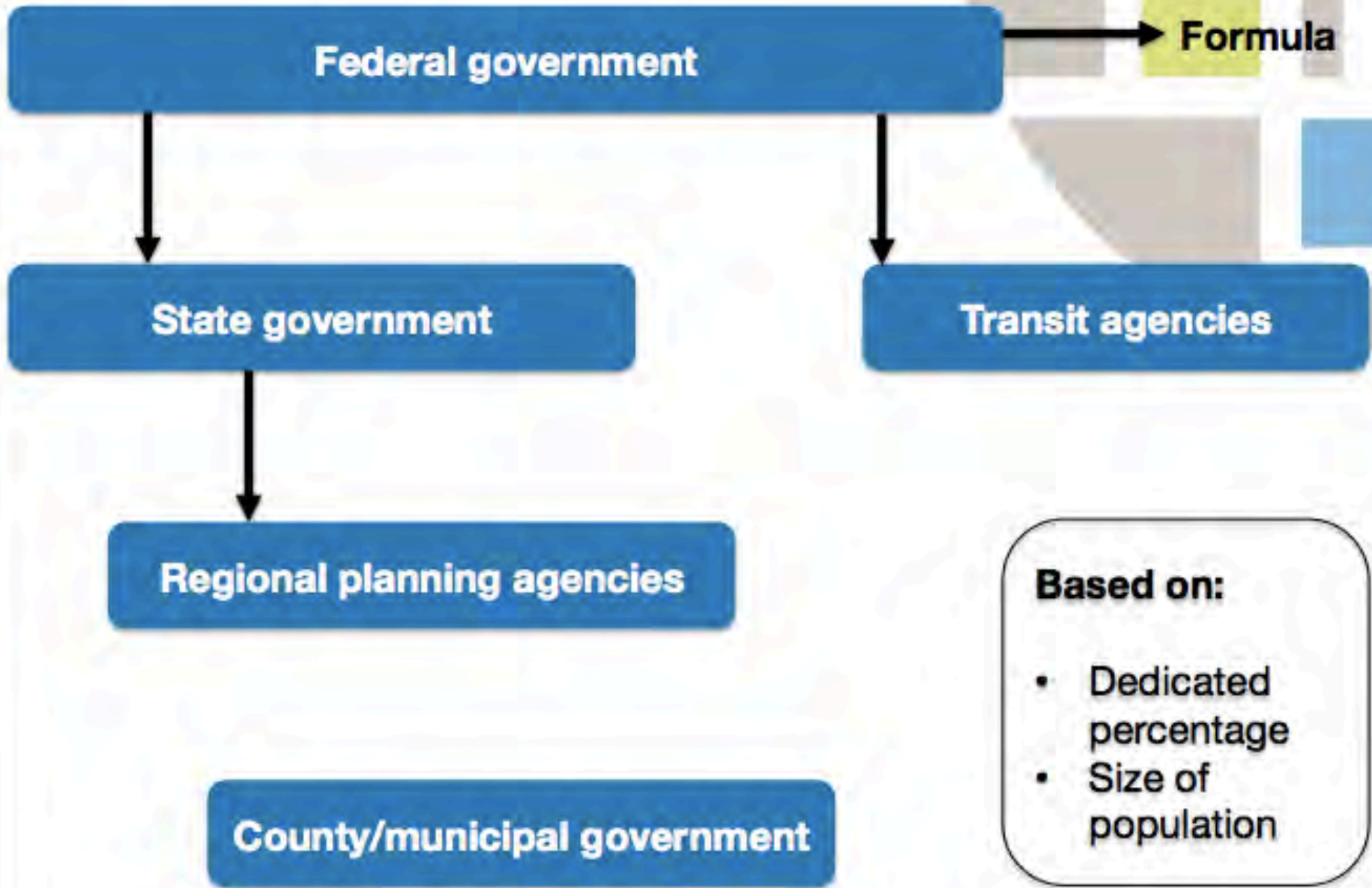
**Federal government**

**State government**

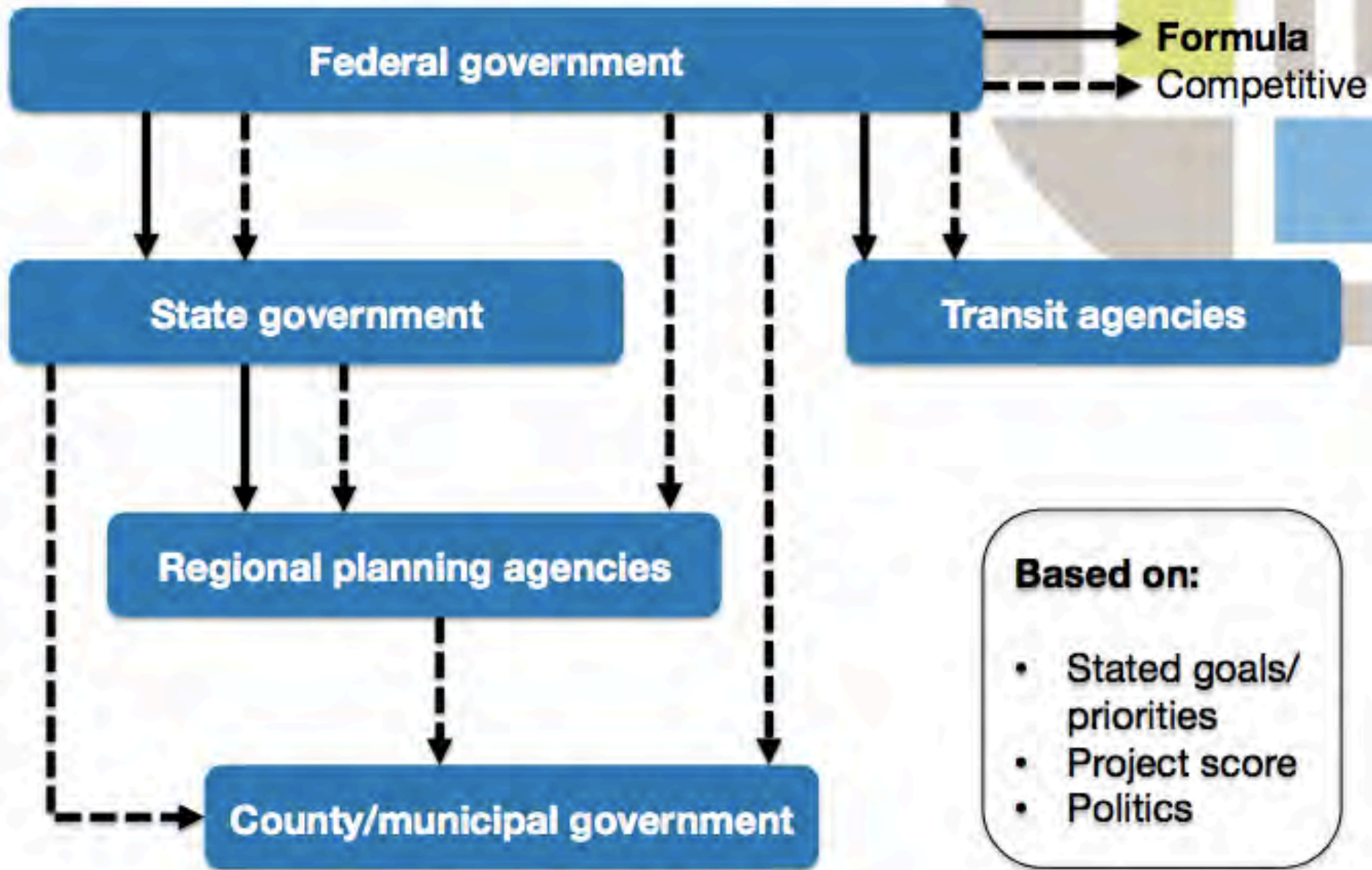
**Transit agencies**

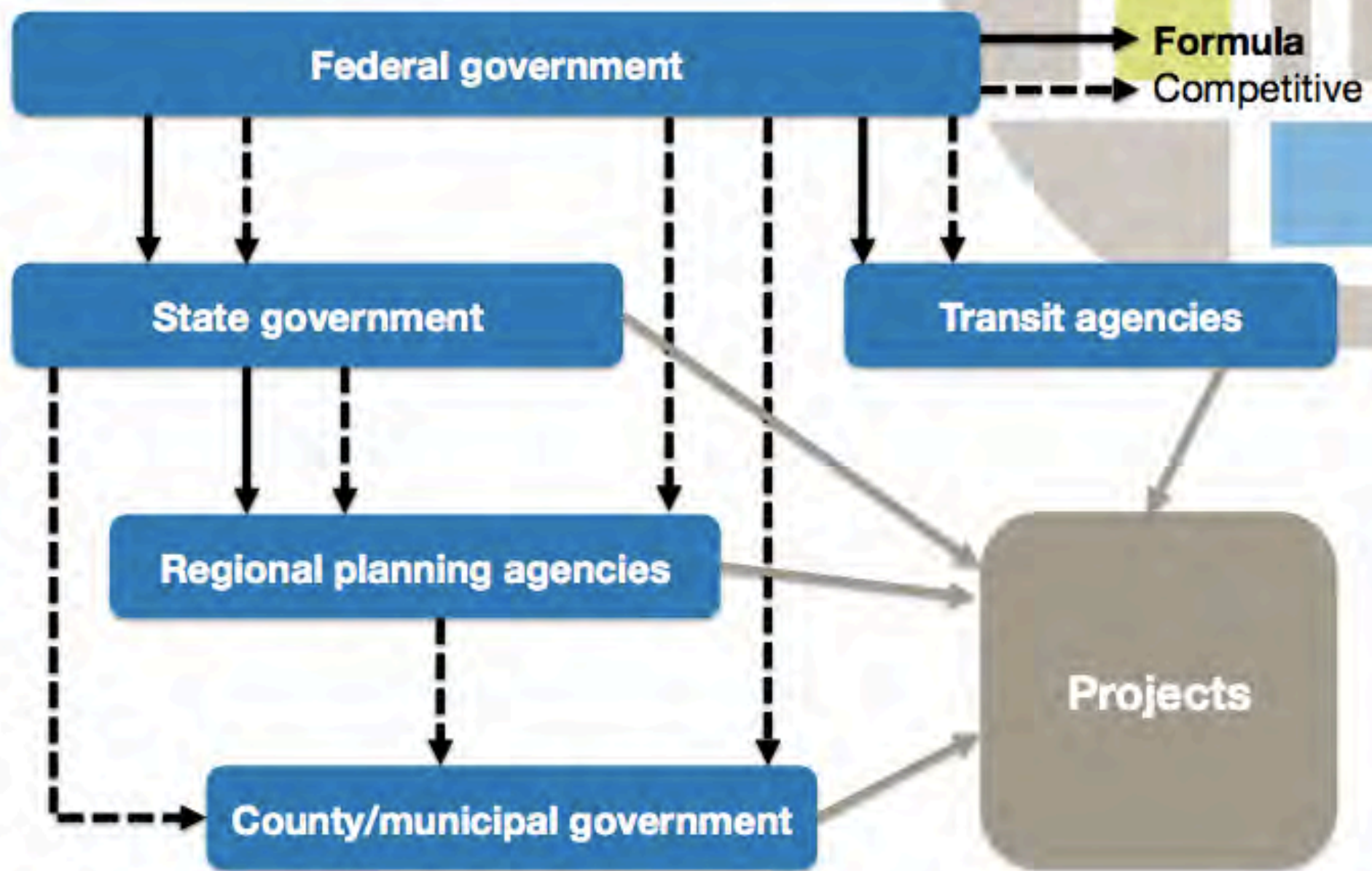
**Regional planning agencies**

**County/municipal government**



- Based on:**
- Dedicated percentage
  - Size of population









Introduction to transportation funding

# **What types of projects can major federal funding programs support?**

# Federal funding programs

50/50 FORMULA  
COMPETITIVE

1. **NHPP** National Highway Performance Program
2. **STBG** Surface Transportation Block Grant
3. **CMAQ** Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality
4. **HSIP** Highway Safety Improvement Program
5. **TAP** Transportation Alternatives Program
6. **BUILD** Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (formerly TIGER)
7. **FASTLANE** Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-Term Achievement of National Efficiencies

# NHPP: National Highway Performance Program

- For projects that manage the **national highway system\*** and interstate
- Can include projects on parallel corridors to ameliorate highway impacts (e.g. **bike/ped**, stormwater)

**\*MAP-21** expanded definition from state-owned roads to include locally-owned major roadways

# CMAQ: Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality

- Can be used for any project that projected to **reduce** transportation emissions or contribute to Clean Air Act attainment
- Can be used for highway operational improvements but not to expand highway capacity

# HSIP: Highway Safety Improvement Program

- Can be used for any project to improve **safety**
- Can be used for behavioral interventions as well as infrastructure improvements

# FASTLANE: Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation...

- Can be used for a **highway** freight project carried out on the National Highway Freight Network
- 10 percent of funds can be used for an intermodal or rail freight project

# STBG: Surface Transportation Block Grant

- Most flexible funding program
- Can include **any** expenditure eligible under any of the other major funding programs

# TAP: Transportation Alternatives Program

- Primarily used for investments in **active transportation** infrastructure
- Scenic turnouts and overlooks
- Outdoor advertising management
- Rehab of historic transportation facilities
- Archeological activities
- Vegetation, storm water, and wildlife management



# **BUILD: Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development**

- Competitive program that funds projects with “significant local or regional impact” in 2-3 of the following:
  - **Safety**
  - State of good repair
  - Economic competitiveness
  - **Environmental sustainability**
  - **Quality of life**



Introduction to transportation funding

# **What else do you need to know to influence transportation funding to planning?**

# Common misconceptions



- Funding programs are inflexible
- Active transportation projects are not eligible under major federal funding programs

# Decision-making power

- The State DOT is ultimately the final decision-maker
- But federal programs set the tone for state priorities and programs

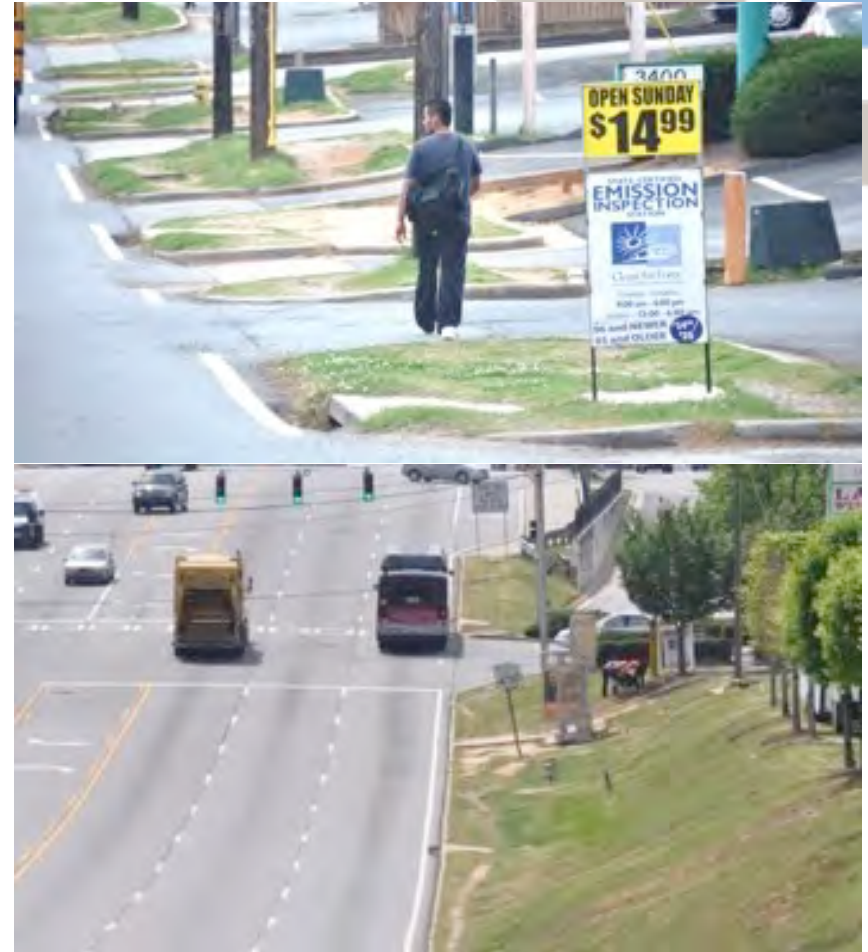
# Transportation priorities

- **Level of service (LOS)** = ability of a roadway to move vehicles as quickly as possible without delay
- State DOTs often prioritize LOS over all other goals, including:
  - Safety
  - Balancing different modes
  - Moving people “to” destinations rather than “through” places

# Transportation priorities

## Who do we design for?

- A) Local residents who walk, bike, or ride transit to access jobs, destinations, etc.
- B) Suburban commuters driving personal vehicles through, not to, this corridor



# “Safety” versus safer streets

## Claim

Highway widening project



More lanes



Less weaving



Fewer conflicts



Fewer crashes

## Reality

Highway widening project



More lanes



Higher speeds



More severe crashes



Higher risk of death/injury

# Moving beyond transportation...

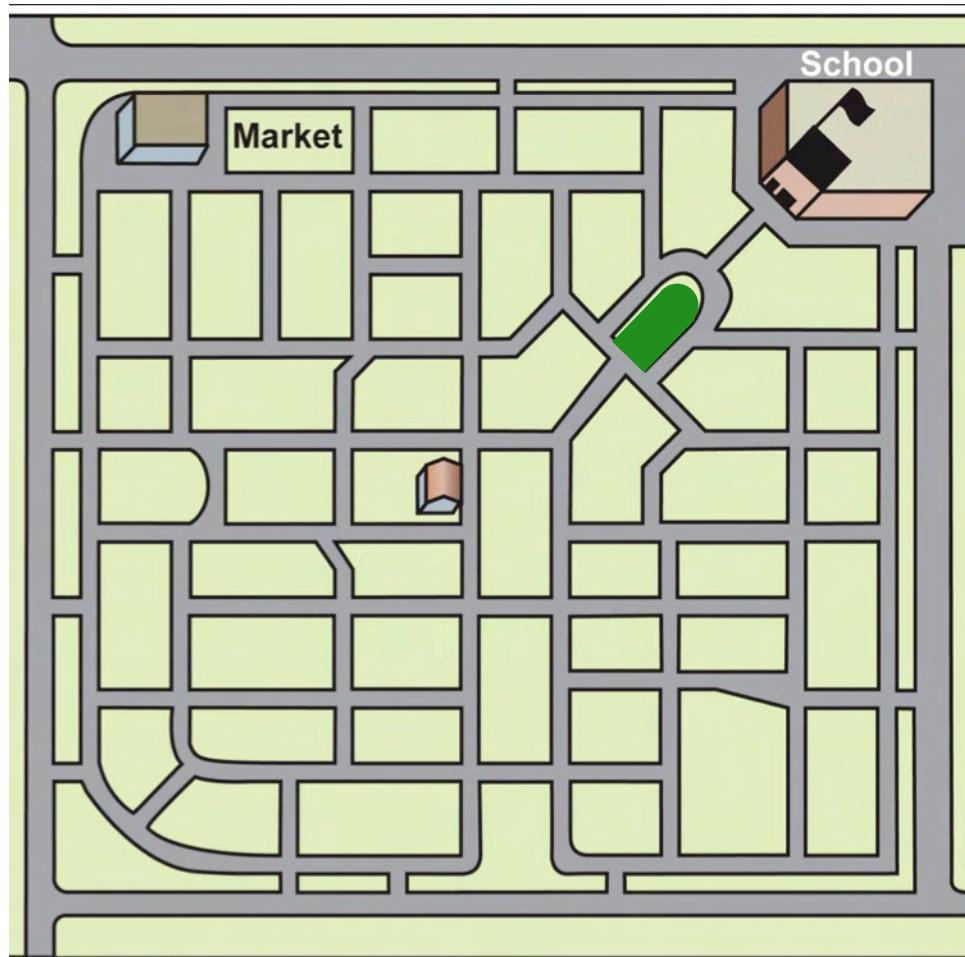
Other areas that impact walkability and health-promoting built environments:

- Roadway connectivity
- Separated v. mixed land use
- Parking minimums and setbacks

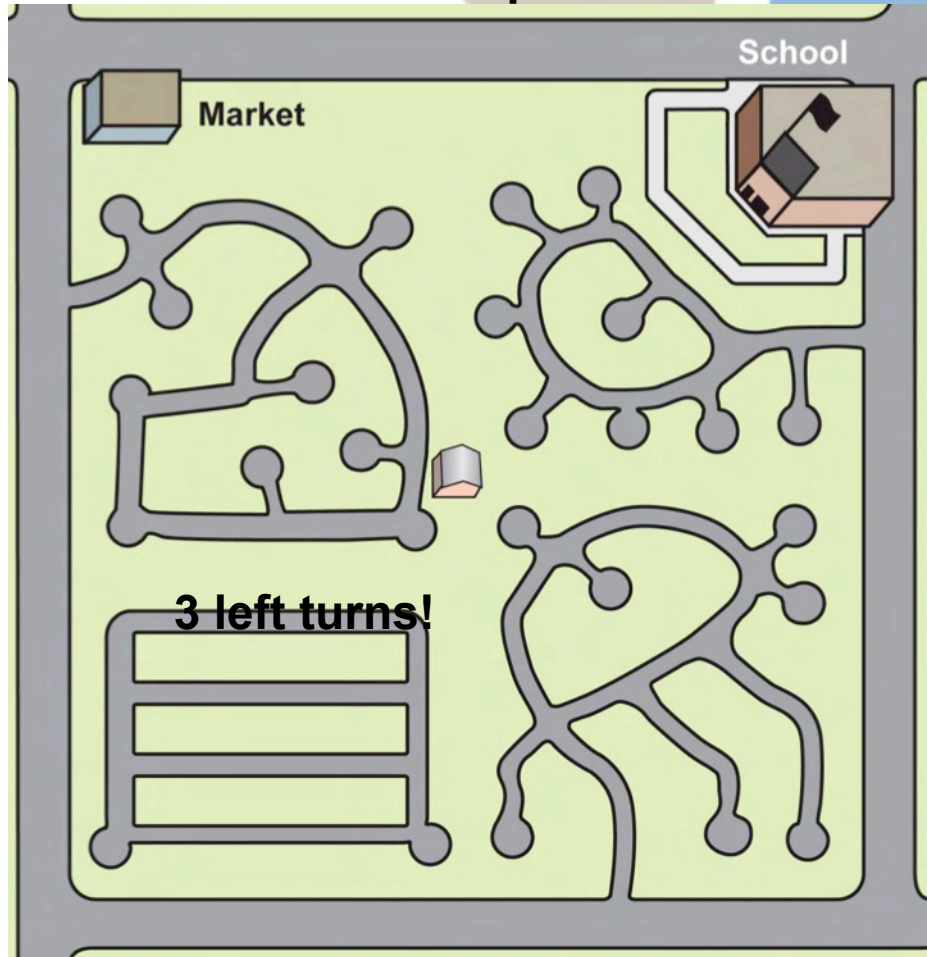


# Roadway connectivity

<- 1 mile square ->



<- 1 mile square ->

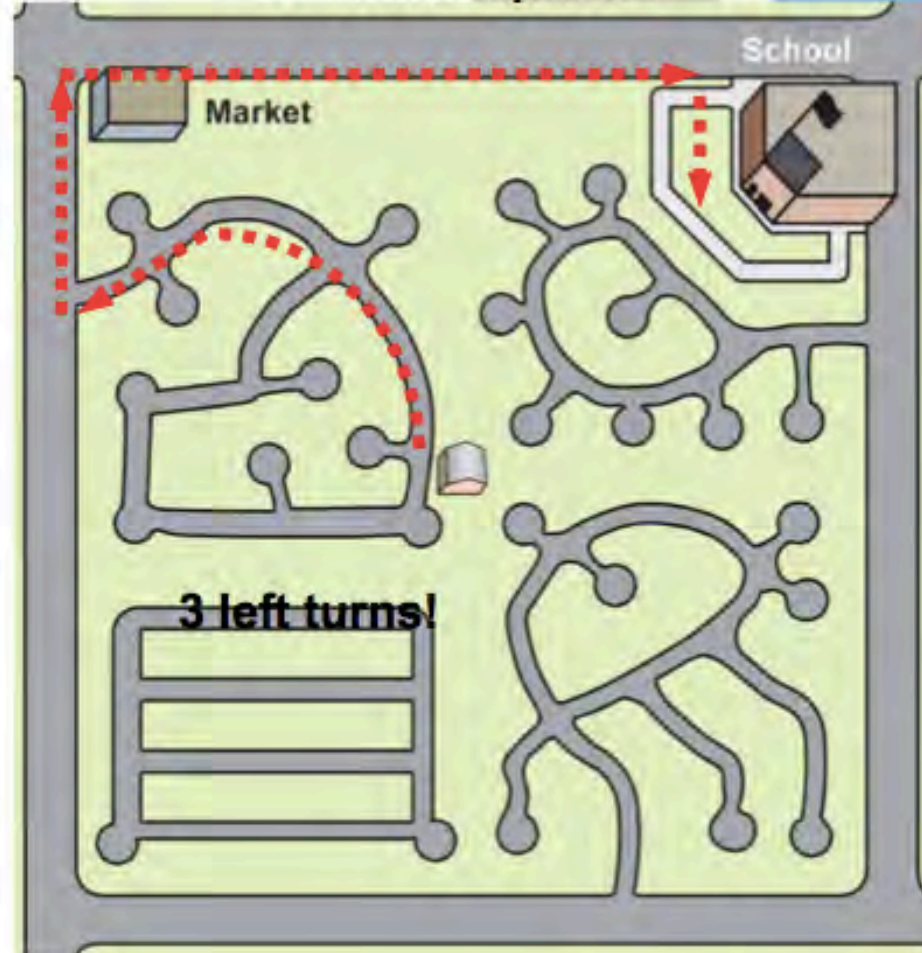


# Roadway connectivity

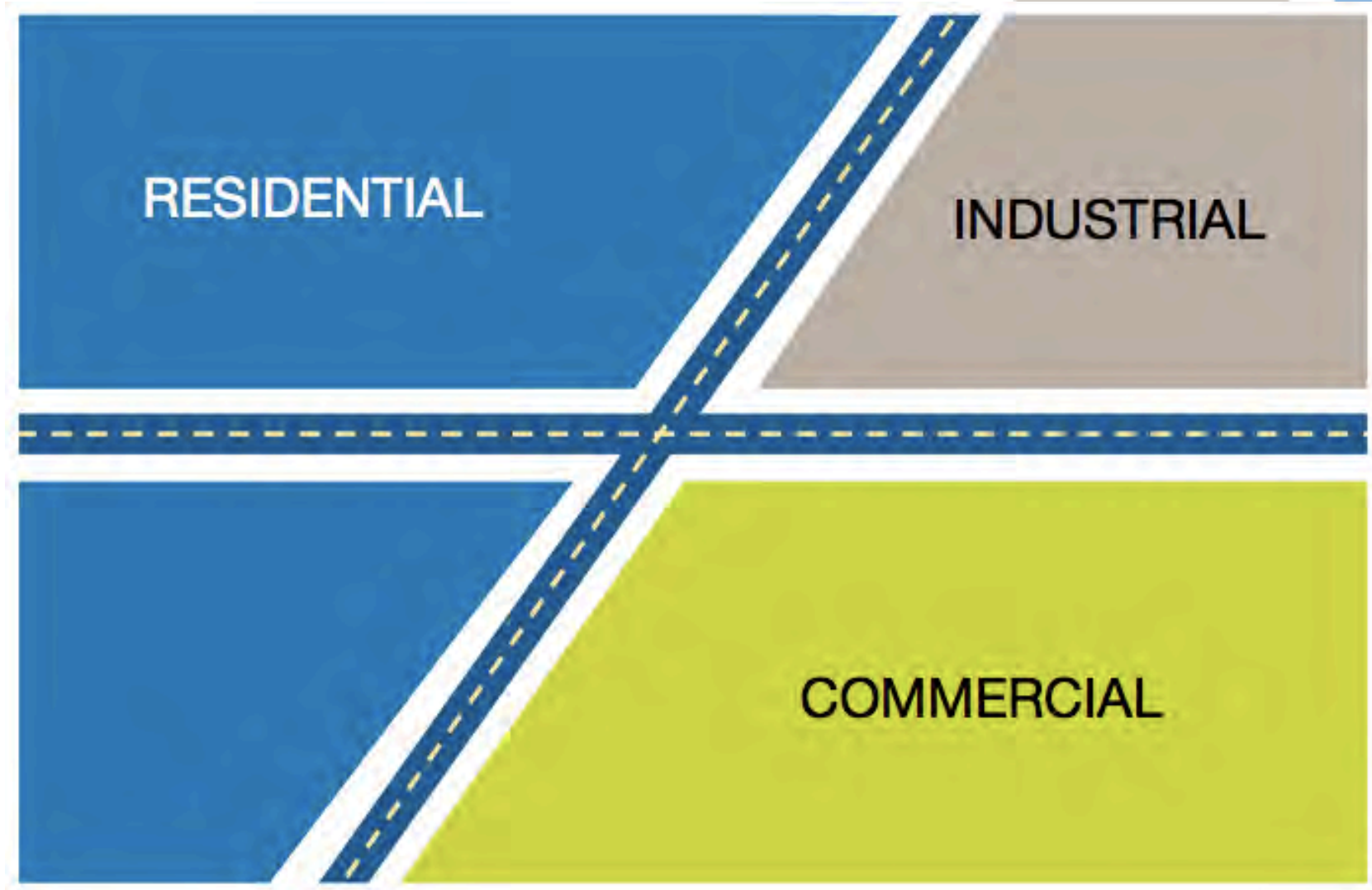
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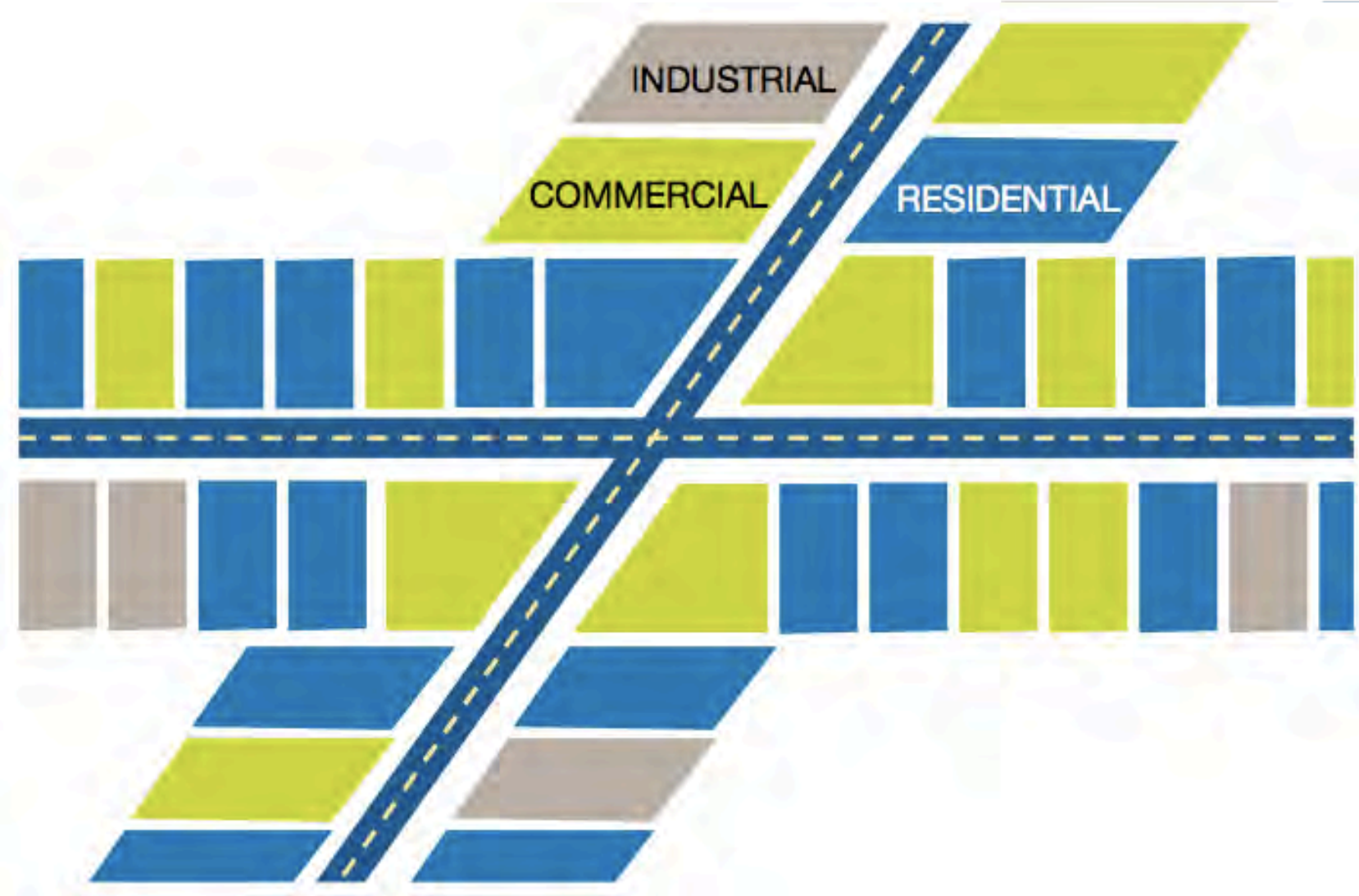
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# Separated v. mixed land use



# Separated v. mixed land use



# Parking minimums and setbacks



# Parking minimums and setbacks



# Opportunities for change

- Design, measure, and select projects based on priorities we care about:
  - Safety and health impacts
  - Mobility and accessibility
  - Reduce disparities / promote equity
    - Car-dependence v. access to safe, affordable, reliable transportation alternatives
- **Stop** spending money on projects that undermine these priorities!

# Opportunities for change

## Who makes decisions?

- State governor
- Head of state DOT  
(appointed by governor)
- State legislature  
(funds state DOT)
- Congress

## What can you do?

- Get involved in state and regional planning processes → long-term priorities + **health**
- Look for opportunities to incorporate **bike/ped** improvements in upcoming routine repavement





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# Questions?

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