



July 11, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: SRTS Grant Application for **New York Creek Multi-Use Bike/Ped Facility** submitted by County of El Dorado Department of Transportation

On behalf of the El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce, I am writing this letter of support of the federal Safe Routes To School (SRTS) grant application that the County of El Dorado Department of Transportation is submitting for the **New York Creek Multi-Use Bike/Ped Facility**.

The El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization (501C6) which represents the business community of El Dorado Hills and provides benefits and services to the membership. The proposed SRTS project is centrally located within four major single-family subdivisions and is within walking and biking distance of two elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Many of the Chamber's members are residents of El Dorado Hills who have children who attend the schools located within walking distance of the New York Creek Trail. The El Dorado Hills community is also growing rapidly, and is attracting many new residents of young families with school age children.

The proposed project will provide students with a safe bike route to school that is separated from roadway traffic on El Dorado Hills Boulevard and on Silva Valley Parkway. Both of these roads have high traffic volumes, high vehicular speed and are primary commute routes for motorists. The existing unpaved New York Creek Trail gets muddy during the rainy season and also has rock outcroppings and low-water crossings, which is a deterrent for use younger school children. The project will also improve non-motorized access to the El Dorado Hills CSD Park which is a major activity center for students who participate in before/after school day care programs as well as organized sports and other recreation.

The New York Creek Multi-Use Bike/Ped Facility is destined to be a main non-motorized route in a community projected to grow from a population of 35,000 to 58,000 by the year 2015. The expected increase in population raises the need for safe routes for students' and community members' access to schools, recreation and community facilities. We also understand that the grant funding will include a component to educate our youth on the health benefits of walking and biking to school.

The El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce strongly supports this proposed Safe Routes to School project and hope that it is selected for a SRTS grant award.

Sincerely,

Debbie Manning, President & CEO
El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce