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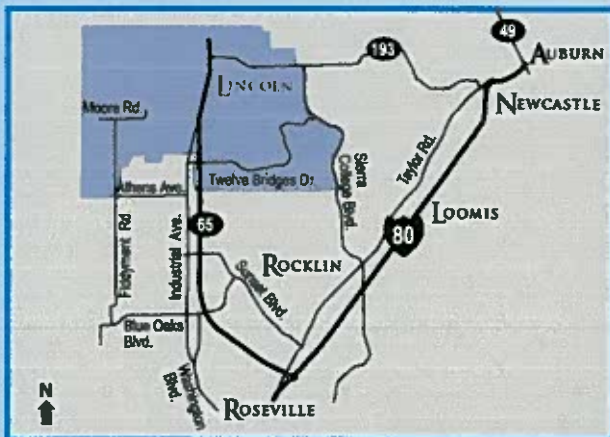
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NEVs in Motion

NEVs continue to circulate within the City and, as a result, residents are enjoying increased mobility, greater use of public transit, reduced travel costs, improved air quality and community cohesion. With over 200 NEVs in the City of Lincoln, NEVs drivers are saving approximately 6,600 gallons of gasoline per year and reducing emissions by 720 pounds of air pollutants annually. Thanks to the support of residents, community and state leaders, the City of Lincoln is paving the way for others to provide safe and environmentally friendly alternatives to traditional automobile travel.



What is a Neighborhood Electric Vehicle?

Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEVs) are small, electric powered personal vehicles that have a limited range and can travel at speeds up to 25 mph. They are an ideal transportation alternative for short local trips, including the grocery store, bus stops, and the doctor's office. While NEVs look similar to golf carts, they are actually motor vehicles that require a driver's license, registration and insurance. The following are some of the benefits and facts about NEV use:

- ❑ Safely used in California since 1991 with no fatalities
- ❑ Ideal for drivers of all ages, from teens to parents to active seniors
- ❑ Improve public safety and reduce automobile fatalities because of lower speeds
- ❑ Provide a cohesive community since travel range is limited
- ❑ Support Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) goals by encouraging local shopping and local businesses
- ❑ Consume 1/5 the energy of an automobile making them environmentally friendly
- ❑ Powered by renewable, natural resources
- ❑ Reduce dependence on petroleum by using electricity (equivalent to 150 miles per gallon of gasoline)
- ❑ Cost an average of \$0.025 per mile of energy (Commission for Environmental Cooperation, 2002)



Evolution of NEVs in the City of Lincoln

The City of Lincoln Department of Public Works is committed to promoting increased energy efficiency, providing a better quality of life for its community, and providing the necessary infrastructure to accommodate the rapid growth and urban village lifestyle of the City.



When residents of the Sun City Lincoln Hills community began using low-speed Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEVs), they were limited by federal regulations that only allowed them to operate their NEVs on streets with posted speeds of 35 mph or less. At that time, the City had several roadways with higher posted speed limits, which limited NEV travel to a few miles.

As a City with over 10,000 senior residents, and an overall population that is expected to increase to 50,000 residents by 2010, the need to expand the mobility of NEVs coincided with the City's commitment for providing a safer and better quality of life for all its residents. For many seniors, an NEV commute is an improved alternative to risking a high-speed accident in a conventional automobile or relying upon a friend or relative to give them a ride to nearby locations in the City.

Under the former California laws, golf cart legislation allowed NEVs to be driven within golf cart communities, a concept the City has always supported. However, expanding the use of NEVs beyond the Sun City Lincoln Hills development was constrained by lack of appropriate state law.



Faced with the challenge of providing both continued mobility for aging drivers and promoting a safe driving environment for all drivers, the City needed to take big steps in finding a way to make NEV use throughout the city possible.

Goals of the NEV Program

- ❑ Provide increased independence and mobility for the aging community
- ❑ Provide a safe alternative for all travelers within City limits
- ❑ Encourage NEV use as a local mode of transportation for all City residents