

## **Built Environment Workgroup: transportation, land use planning, community design**

There is growing recognition that the built environment -- the man-made physical structures and infrastructure of communities -- has an impact on our health. Chronic diseases such as diabetes, obesity and asthma are leading health concerns which are influenced by environmental conditions. Policy decisions about zoning, transportation, land use and community design influence the distances people travel to work, the convenience of purchasing healthy foods, and the safety and attractiveness of neighborhoods for walking.

The mission of the built environment workgroup is to develop realistic and measurable objectives to improve policies and environments related to transportation, land use planning and community design. These objectives will be included in the 2011-2020 Montana Nutrition and Physical Activity State Plan to Prevent Obesity and Other Chronic Diseases. In addition, the workgroup will identify a variety of public and private stakeholders to carry out the objectives over the next 10 years.