Transportation Center Seminar

The Role of the Built Environment in Reducing Driving and Promoting Active Travel

Prof. Susan Handy
Chair, Department of Environmental Science & Policy; Director, Sustainable Transportation Center
University of California, Davis

Nov. 8, 2012
4:00 – 5:00 pm

Location:
Transportation Center, Chambers Hall Lower Level, 600 Foster St., Evanston

Refreshments available at 3:30 pm

ABSTRACT

In response to its landmark 2006 legislation on climate change, California has set ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from passenger vehicles. Metropolitan regions are now required to prepare Sustainable Communities Strategies that demonstrate how the reduction targets will be met through land use policies and transportation investments that reduce vehicle miles of travel (VMT). But given the degree to which Californian’s are dependent on their vehicles, how much impact are such strategies likely to have on VMT? In her presentation, Dr. Susan Handy assesses the evidence on the degree to which changes in the built environment can reduce VMT, as well as the complementary question of their importance in increasing active travel.

Bio: Susan Handy is Chair of the Department of Environmental Science and Policy and the Director of the Sustainable Transportation Center at the University of California, Davis. Her research interests focus on the connections between transportation and land use from the standpoint of both policy and behavior. She is internationally known for her research on the influence of neighborhood design on walking behavior, and her current work focuses on bicycling as a mode of transportation.