



*encouraging vibrant communities through sensible growth*

# Quality Infill Can help the Environment

[www.idahosmartgrowth.org](http://www.idahosmartgrowth.org)

# Growth Creates Potential Role for Infill to Improve the Environment

## **US Population**

- 200 million in 1968
- 300 million in 2006
- 400 million in 2032
- 500 million in 2050

America adds 100 million people faster than any other nation except India and Pakistan –  
But *faster* than China.

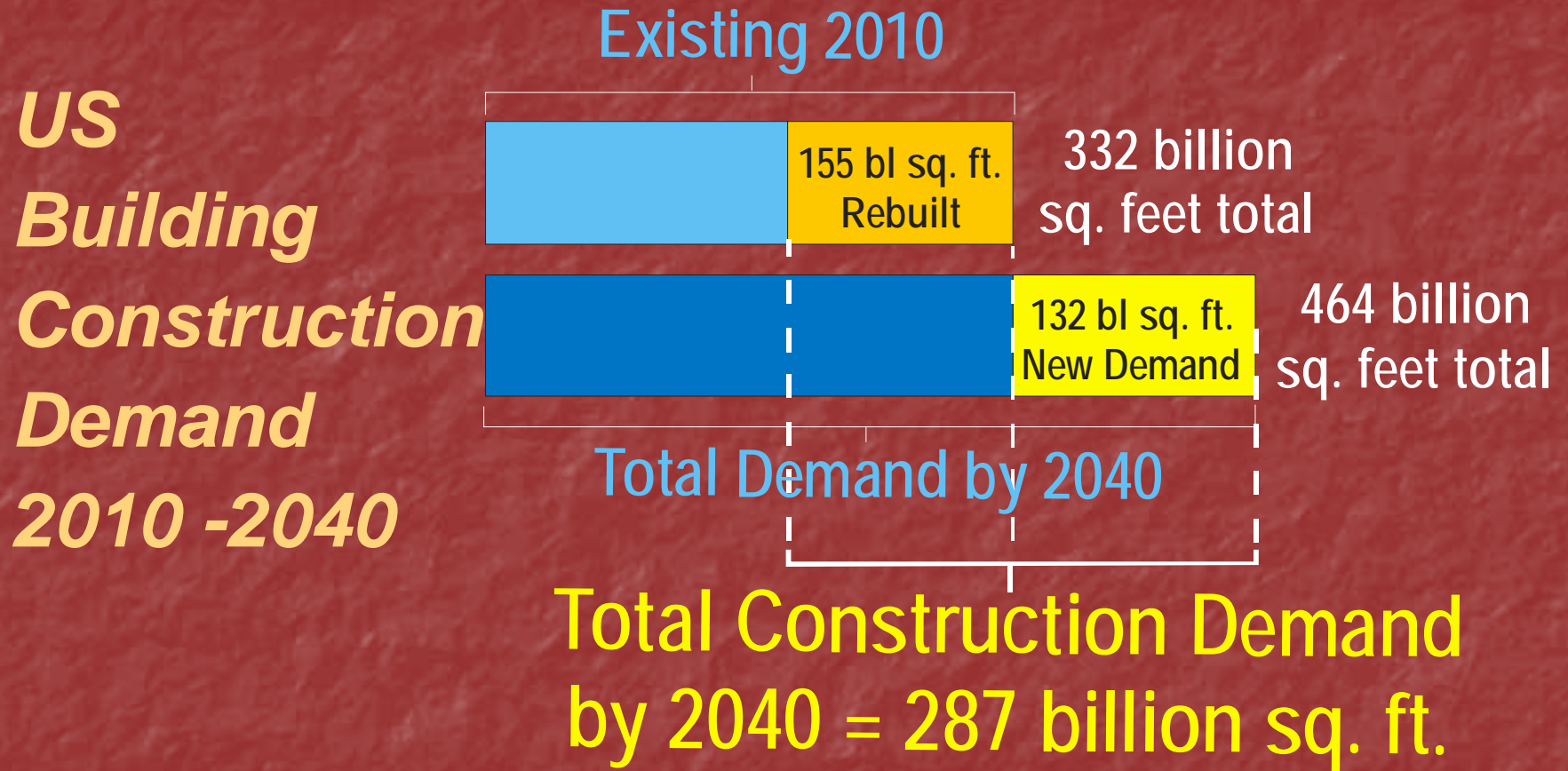
## **Idaho Population Growth 2000-2050**

Area	2000	2050	% of yr 2000
Idaho	1.3M	2.8M	115%
Snake River Corridor	0.9M	2.0M	125%

Source: Arthur C. Nelson, Presidential Professor & Director, Metropolitan Research Center, University of Utah, Mega Trends of the Snake River Corridor, Planning in the West Conference, Boise June 2009.



# Growth Drives Future Building Need



Source: Arthur C. Nelson, Presidential Professor & Director, Metropolitan Research Center, University of Utah, Mega Trends of the Snake River Corridor, Planning in the West Conference, Boise June 2009.



# Demands Created in Idaho

## *Housing Growth 2000-2050*

Area	Growth units	Rebuild units	Total units	% of '00
Idaho	610k	185k	800k	150%
Snake River	445k	125k	570k	160%

## *Nonresidential Space Need 2000-2050*

State	Growth S.F.	Rebuild S.F.	Total S.F.	% of '00
Idaho	520M	920M	1.4B	380%
Snake River	370M	600M	1.0B	400%

Source: Arthur C. Nelson, Presidential Professor & Director, Metropolitan Research Center, University of Utah, Mega Trends of the Snake River Corridor, Planning in the West Conference, Boise June 2009.



# Households are Changing

## US

Household Type	1960	2000	2040
HH with Children	48%	33%	26%
HH without Children	52%	67%	74%
<i>Single/Other HH</i>	<i>13%</i>	<i>31%</i>	<i>34%</i>

## IDAHO

Household Type	2000	2040
HH with Children	44%	33%
HH without Children	56%	67%
<i>Single/Other HH</i>	<i>20%</i>	<i>28%</i>

Source: Arthur C. Nelson, Presidential Professor & Director, Metropolitan Research Center, University of Utah, Mega Trends of the Snake River Corridor, Planning in the West Conference, Boise June 2009.



# Share of Growth 2000-2040

## US

HH Type	Share
With children	14%
Without children	86%
<i>Single/Other</i>	<i>30%</i>

## Idaho

HH Type	Share
With children	17%
Without children	83%
<i>Single/Other</i>	<i>38%</i>

Source: Arthur C. Nelson, Presidential Professor & Director, Metropolitan Research Center, University of Utah, Mega Trends of the Snake River Corridor, Planning in the West Conference, Boise June 2009.



# Future Housing Needs

## *Looming Large-Lot Oversupply, 2005-2030*

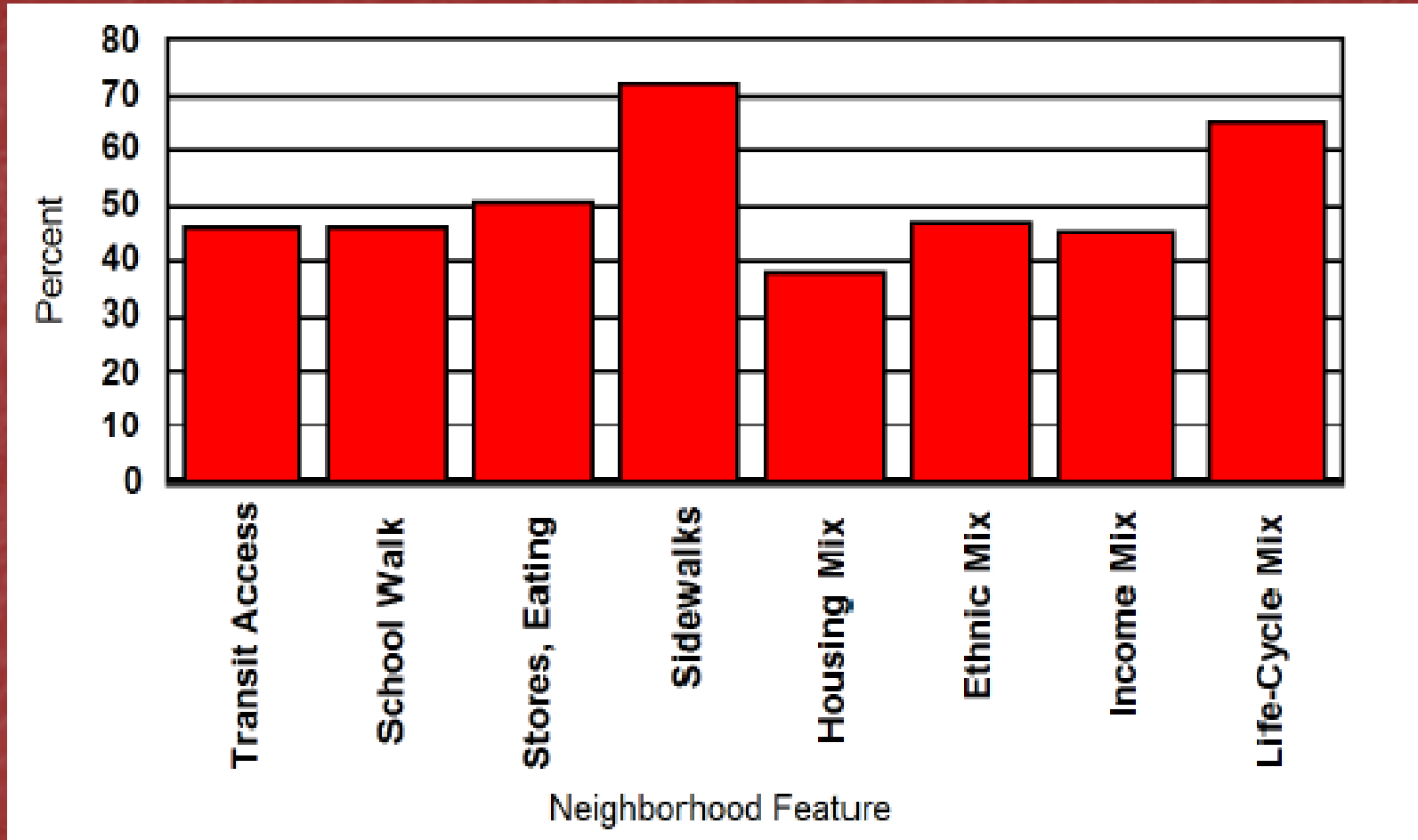
Unit	Type	Supply in 2005	Change in Demand Preference 2030
	Attached	39M	+15M
	Small Lot	12M	+40M
	Large Lot	58M	-23M

- Figures in millions of units.
- Change in preference based on low-range of preference survey averages.
- Figures for nation; figures for regions will vary.



Source: Arthur C. Nelson, Presentation at New Partners for Smart Growth 2005

# Emerging Urbanity Preferences



Source: National Association of Realtors, American Preference Survey 2004.





# US Homes lost \$2 trillion value in 2008

## New Housing Market Realities

- Sub-prime mortgages are history
- Alt-A mortgages no more
- Conventional mortgages king
- "Jumbo" loans expensive and difficult
- Demand for \$1million+ homes in 30 largest markets has tanked! It has gone *from 10%+ to <5%*

## *Meaning*

- *Smaller homes, Smaller lots, More renters*

*Home value loss Source:* Les Christie, CNNMoney.com staff writer. Dec. 15, 2008:  
11:02 AM ET

*Market Realities/Meaning Source:* Arthur C. Nelson, Presidential Professor & Director,  
Metropolitan Research Center, University of Utah , Mega Trends of the Snake River  
Corridor, Planning in the West Conference, Boise June 2009.



# Translating Demand in 2050 -

## Idaho

**1%+**

Living type

Downtown Boise:

Number of people demanding  
*20,000 people (minimum)*

**2%+**

Secondary centers:  
(other downtowns etc.)

*40,000 people*

**5%+**

Center-accessible:  
(walking, transit)

*100,000 people*

**25%+**

Mixed-use, mixed-housing,  
walkable suburban:

*500,000 people*

**= 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of population in 2050 but ....**

**= 2/3<sup>rds</sup> of all new development by 2050 in  
infill, smart growth and compact centers**



Source: Arthur C. Nelson, Presidential Professor & Director, Metropolitan Research Center, University of Utah, Mega Trends of the Snake River Corridor, Planning in the West Conference, Boise June 2009.

# How can this be used to Help the Environment

- **White Paper on Infill, Literature Review**



Source: Idaho Smart Growth/ULI Idaho, January 2010,  
[http://www.idahosmartgrowth.org/images/uploads/files/quality\\_infill\\_final.pdf](http://www.idahosmartgrowth.org/images/uploads/files/quality_infill_final.pdf)



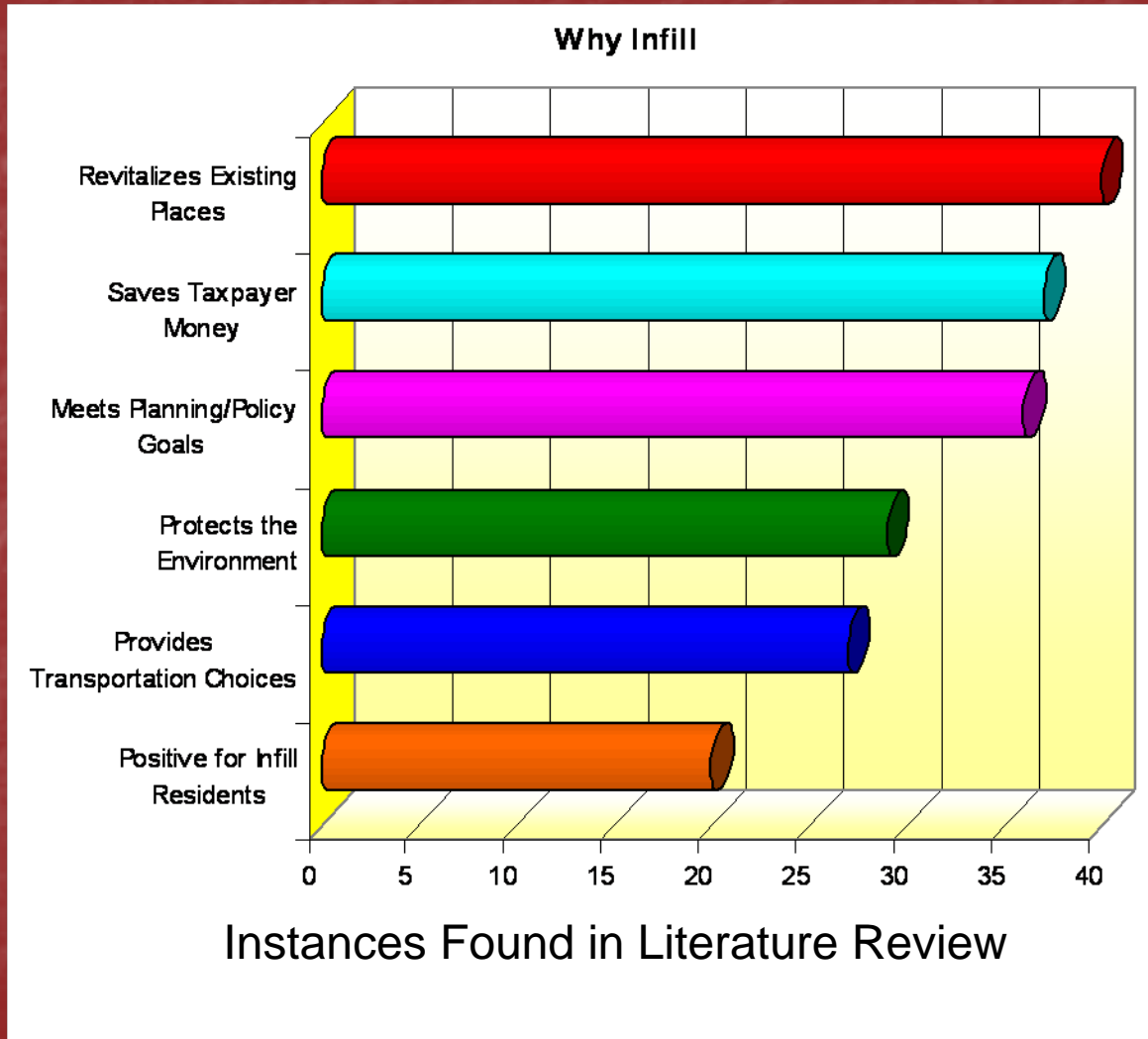
# Introduction

- Found **three factors** that affect infill
  - Reasons to support infill – **Why?**
  - Benefits and Impacts of Infill – **Consequences**
  - Harder to build Infill – **Barriers**
- Developed **Ten Recommendations** to reap maximum benefit from infill
  - First: Develop Guiding Principles to provide Policy Basis for infill incentives and regulations – **environmental benefits** can provide the foundational policy basis



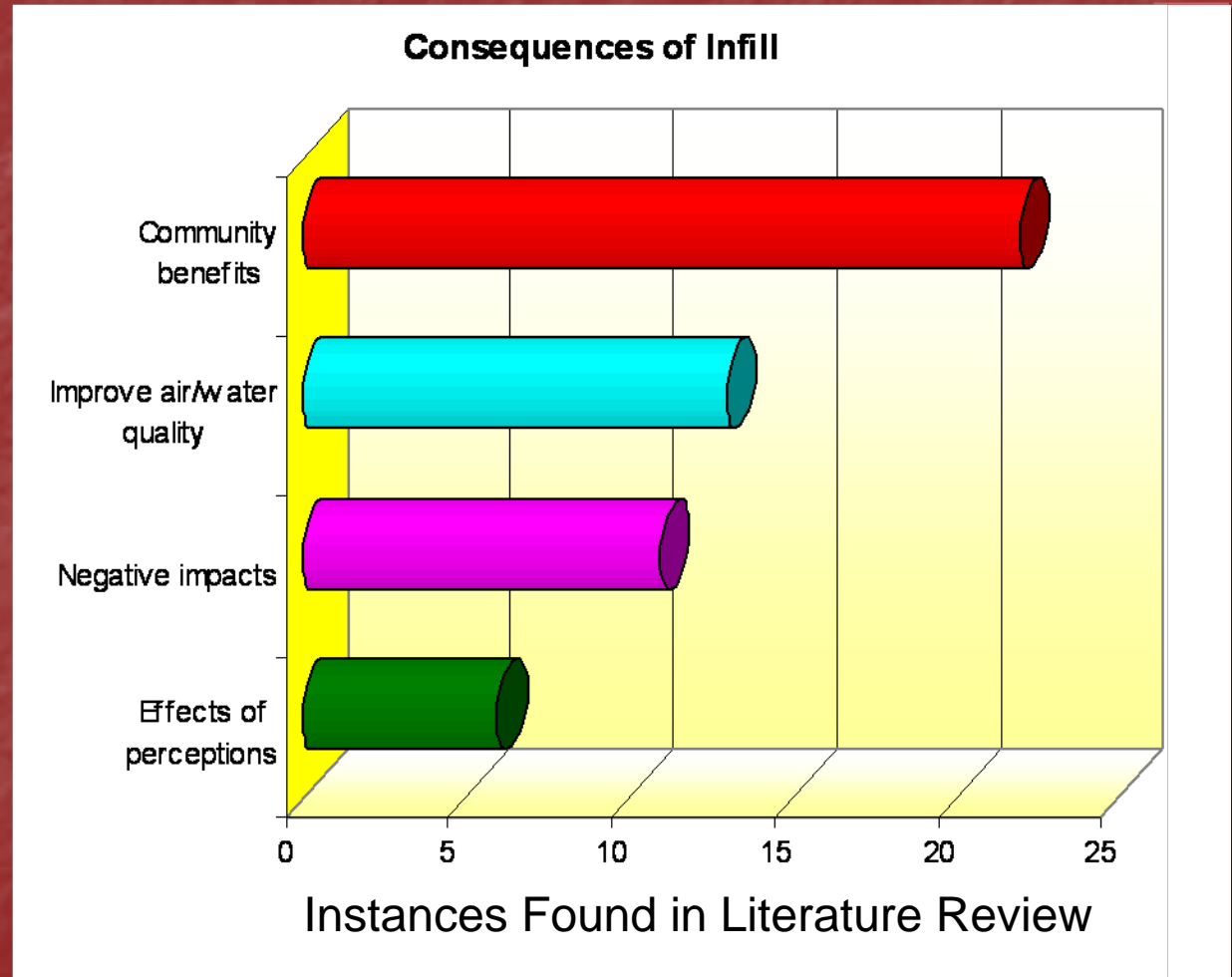
# Why Infill

- Revitalization
- Saves Money
- Planning Goals
- Protects the Environment
- Transportation Choices
- Infill Consumer



# Consequences of Infill

- Community benefits
- Improves Environment
- Impacts Existing Neighbors
- Effect of Perceptions



# Infill Provides

## Environmental Benefits

- Recycle used land, save fringe land
- Avoid Extending New Infrastructure
- Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled
- Improve Air Quality
- Improve Water Quality
- Use Less Energy
- Clean-up Contaminated Properties



# Recycle used land, save fringe land

- Reduce demand to develop greenfields,  
Reclaim existing developed land



Skipped over  
land in Boise's  
first tier suburban  
development,  
ripe for infill and  
redevelopment

Environmental Benefits of Infill

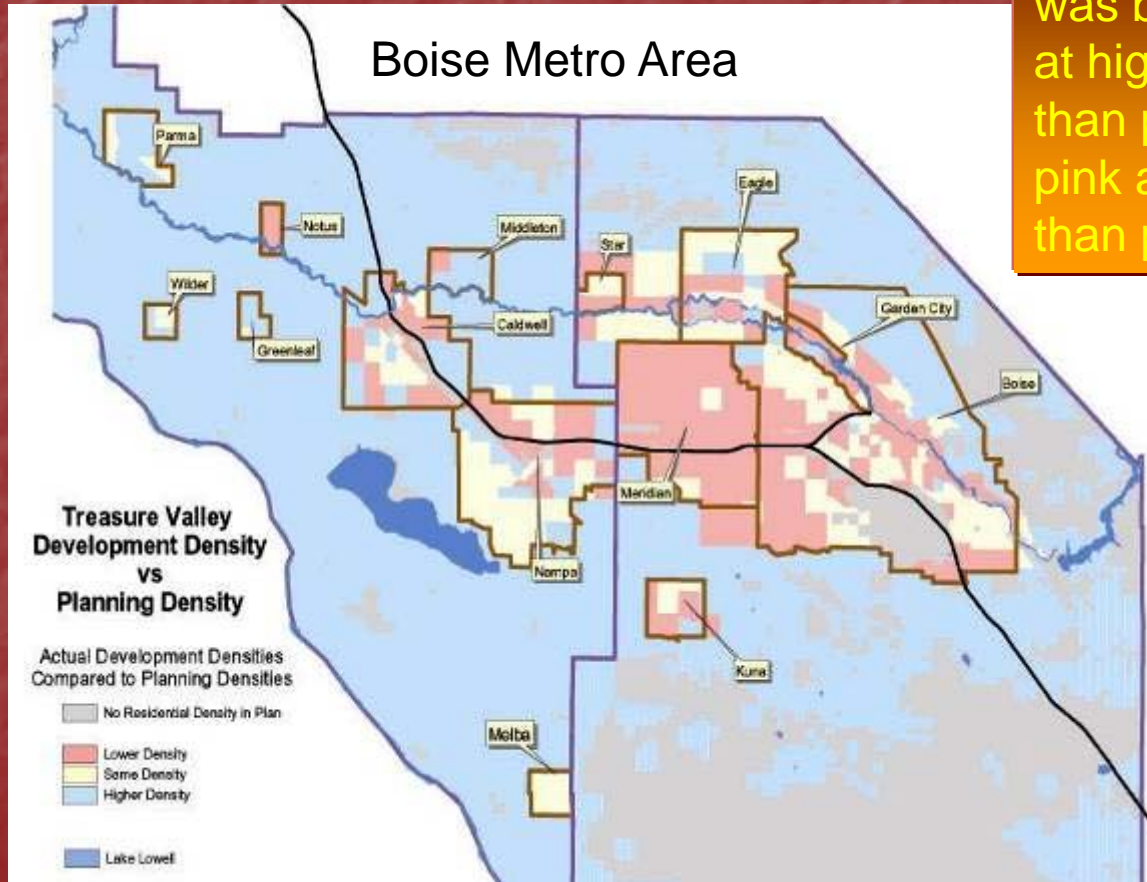




# Avoid Extending New Infrastructure

- Building and Maintaining new infrastructure uses GHGs

Everything in Blue was being developed at higher densities than planned for, in pink at lower densities than planned for.



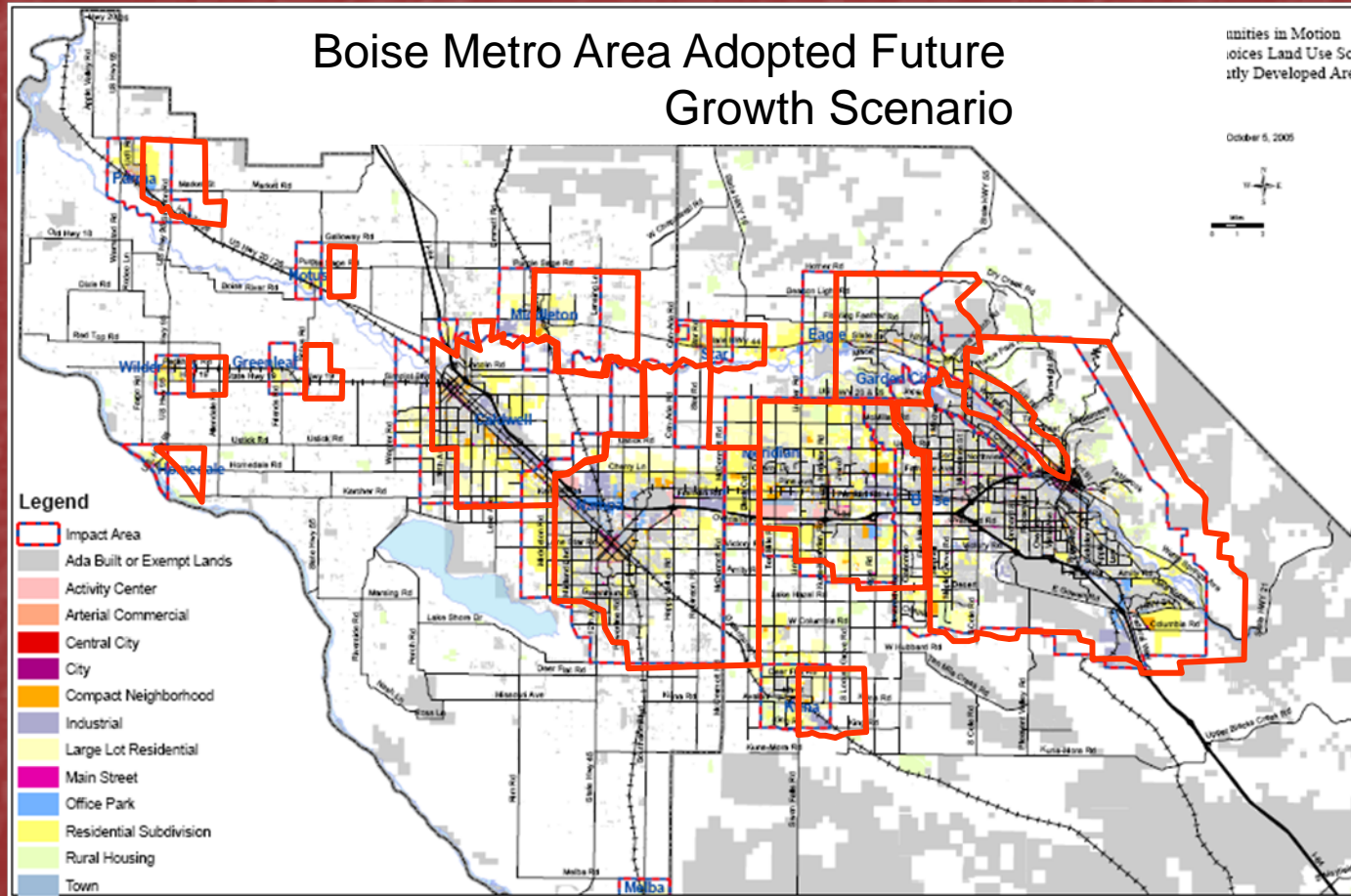
Source: Treasure Valley Futures Study, 2000

Environmental Benefits of Infill



# Avoid Extending New Infrastructure

- Decide where growth should occur



Mixed use and higher densities within areas identified for growth = 75,000 new residents within existing city boundaries in Boise

## Implications

- Saves 83,200 acres from development
- 1.1 Million fewer vehicle miles traveled daily

Source: Communities in Motion Long Range Transportation Plan, Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) 2004



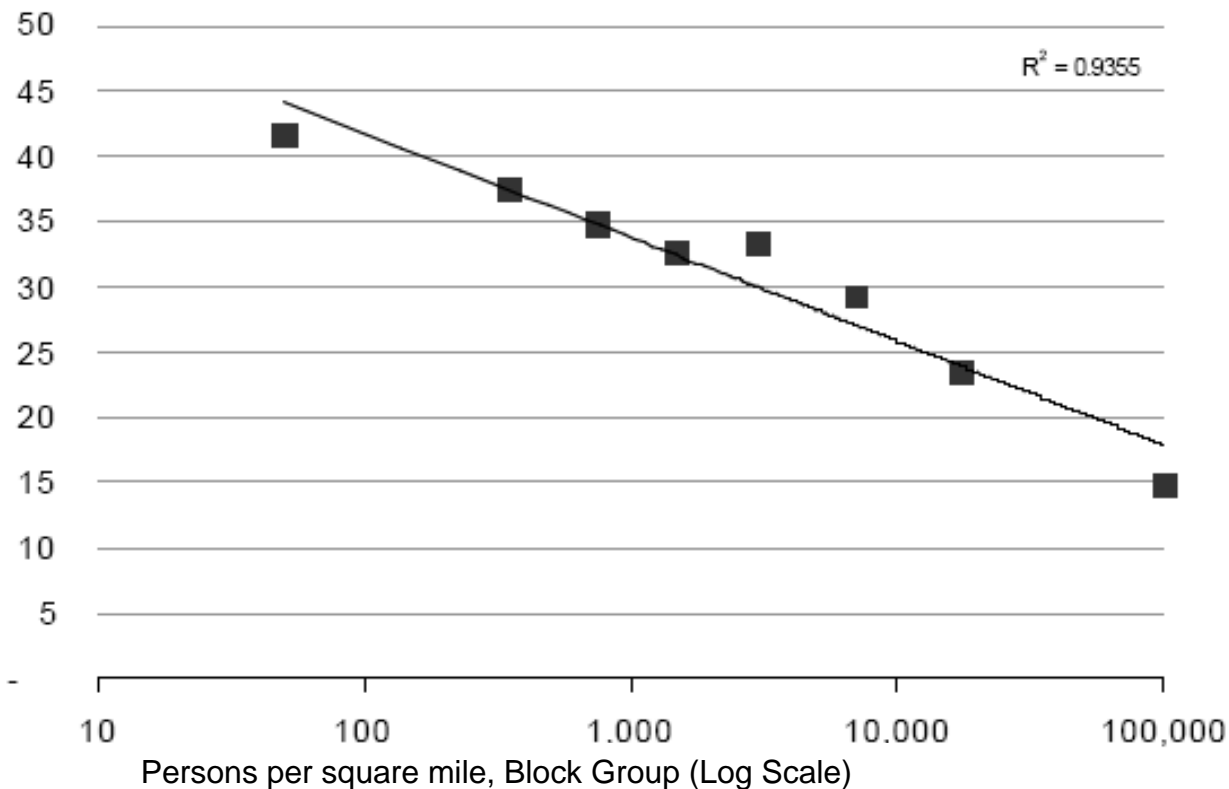
Environmental Benefits of Infill

# Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled

- Improves Transportation Choices by increasing density and mix of uses

## Density Reduces Vehicle Miles Traveled

Vehicle Miles Traveled



Source: National Household Travel Survey, 2002

Environmental Benefits of Infill



# Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled

- Improves Transportation Choices by increasing density and mix of uses



Higher density infill housing within Boise's urban core, added in last 5 years.



Environmental Benefits of Infill

# Improve Air Quality

- Fewer miles driven reduces transport related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions



Active transportation opportunities near infill in Boise

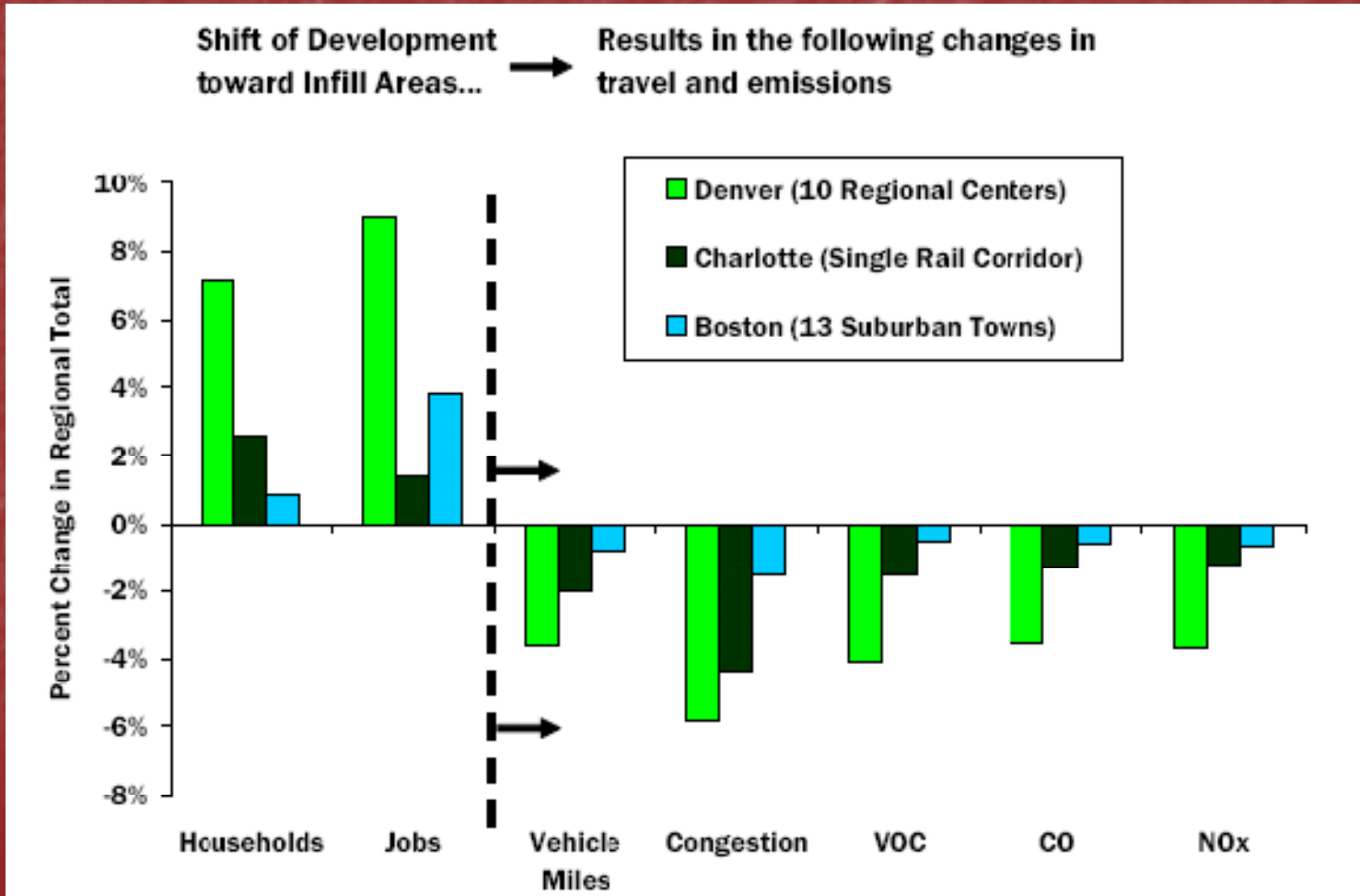


Environmental Benefits of Infill



# Improve Air Quality

- Fewer miles driven reduces transport related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions



# Improve Water Quality

- Reuse and filter run-off and other water on site

## Banner Bank Building - Boise Platinum LEED

- 65% less electricity use
- 80% less water use
- Recycles storm drain run-off from 5 block area
- Uses second run geothermal for heating



Environmental Benefits of Infill



# Uses Less Energy

- Smaller units, attached units use less energy than single family detached



“Increasing residential density in urban form may comprise a significant component of broader energy conservation and GHG reduction policies.”

**Source:** Journal Of Urban Planning and Development © ASCE / March 2006  
Comparing High and Low Residential Density: Life-Cycle Analysis of Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions





# Clean-up contaminated properties

- Vacant contaminated properties are cleaned-up when recycled with Infill

## Front Five Building - Boise Silver LEED

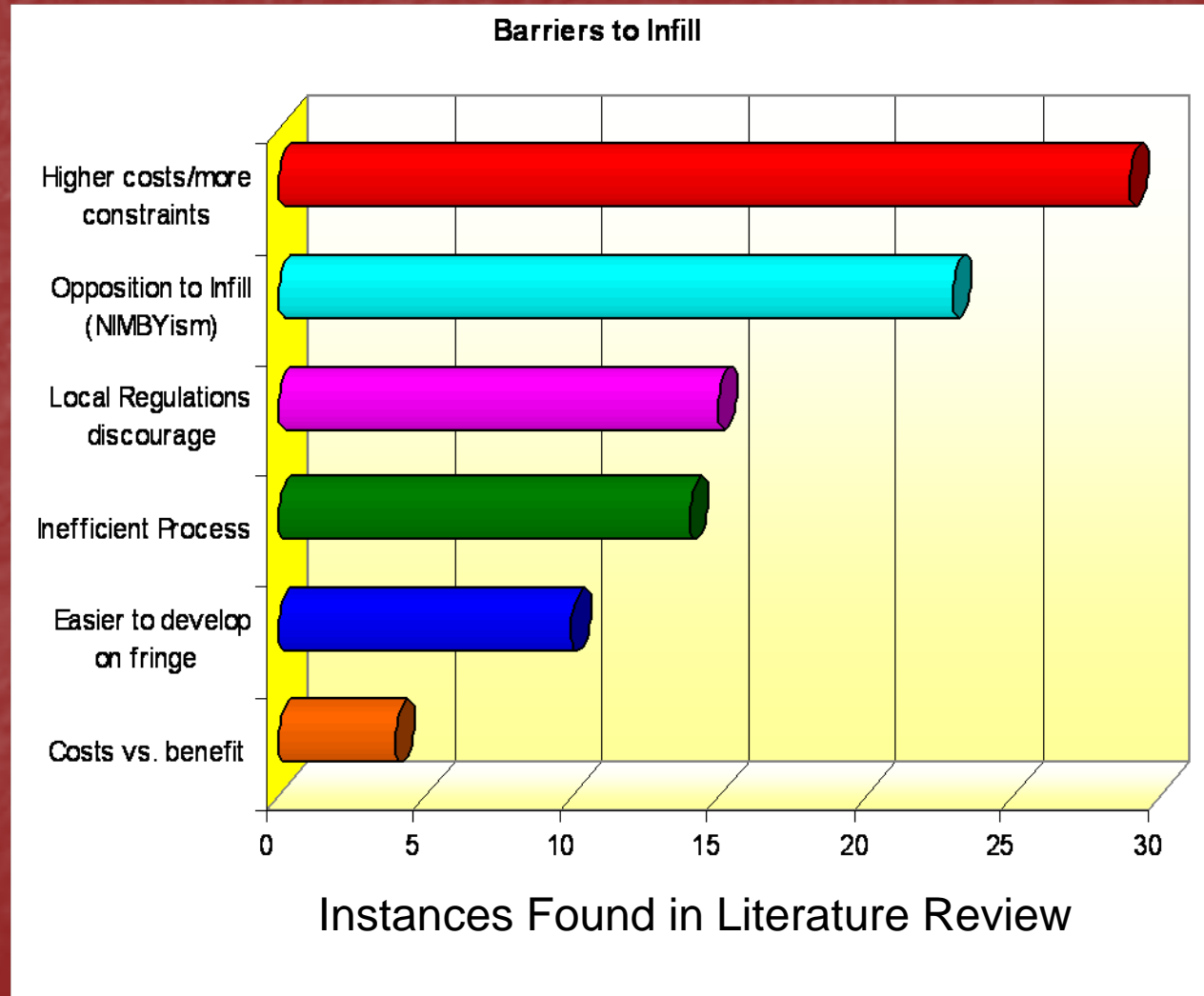
- Adaptive Reuse with addition
- Innovative Storm water management



Environmental Benefits of Infill

# Barriers to Infill

- High Costs
- NIMBY Opposition
- Local Regulations
- Approval Process
- Easier to develop on Fringe
- Cost/Benefit



# Recommendations to Encourage Quality Infill

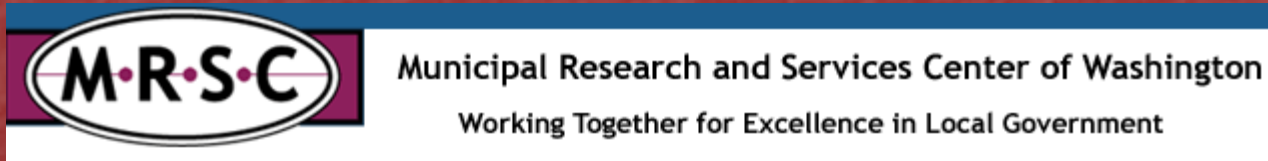
Develop Guiding Principles in  
support of Infill to provide  
policy basis for infill strategies

Environmental Goals can provide  
foundational basis

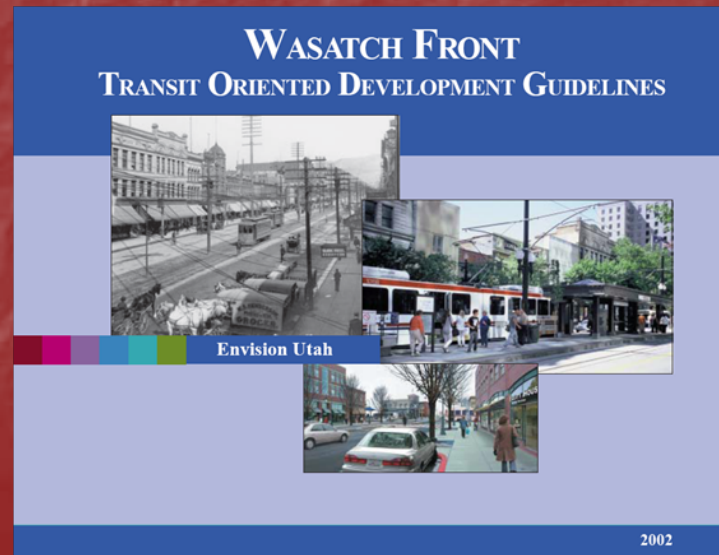


# Develop Guiding Principles

**Washington:** Infill Development  
Completing the community fabric



**Utah:** Envision Utah  
Toolboxes

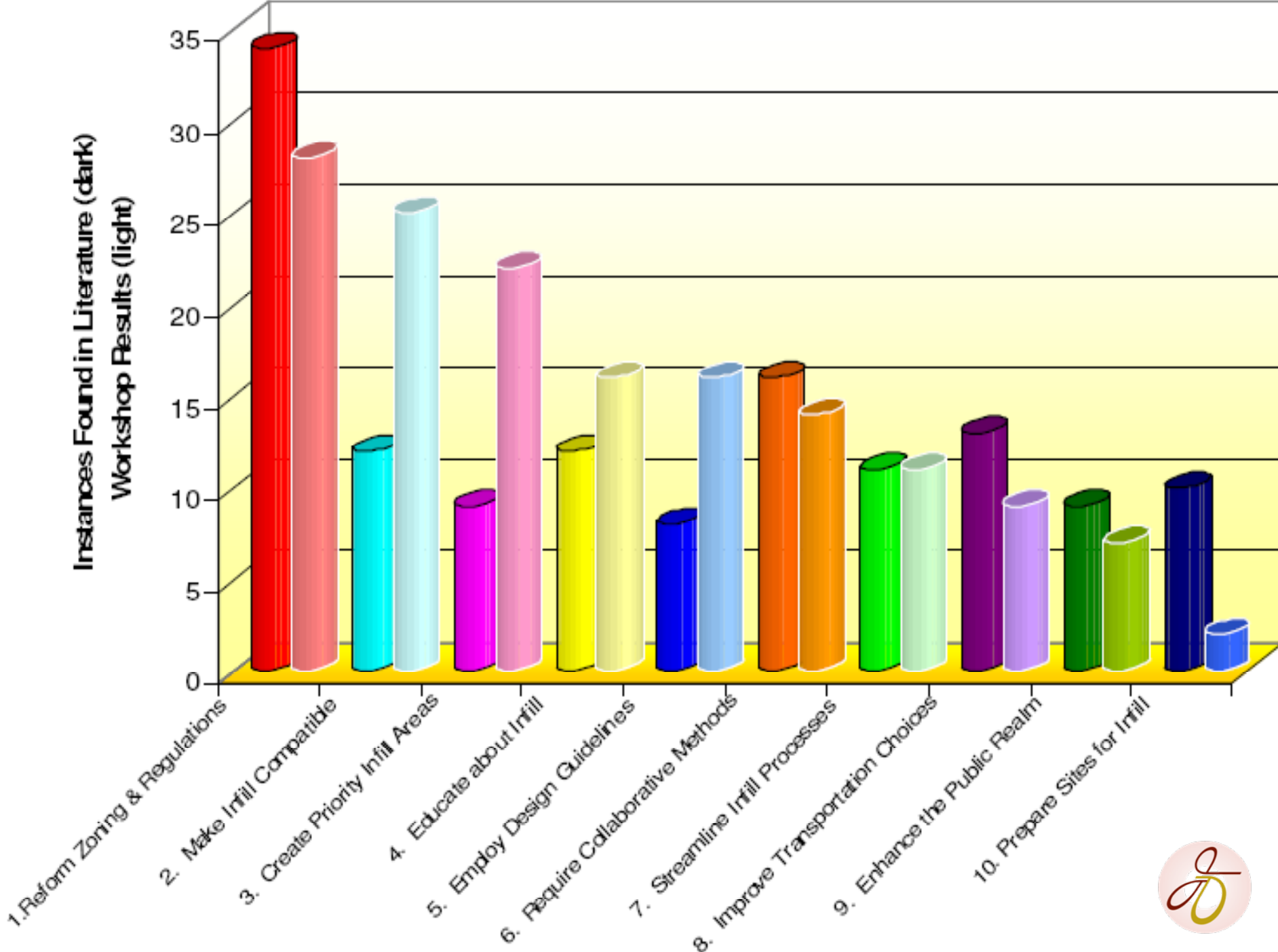


# Recommendations for Quality Infill

What concrete steps can you take now to ensure that **infill improves the environment** in your community?

- 1.Reform Zoning and Regulations
- 2.Make Infill Compatible
- 3.Create Priority Infill Areas
- 4.Educate about Infill
- 5.Employ Design Guidelines
- 6.Require Collaborative Methods
- 7.Streamline Infill Processes
- 8.Improve Transportation Choices
- 9.Enhance the Public Realm
- 10.Prepare Sites for Infill





# Questions?

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*Find Quality Infill study at:*

[http://www.idahosmartgrowth.org/index.php/resources/resource/recommended\\_reading/](http://www.idahosmartgrowth.org/index.php/resources/resource/recommended_reading/)

