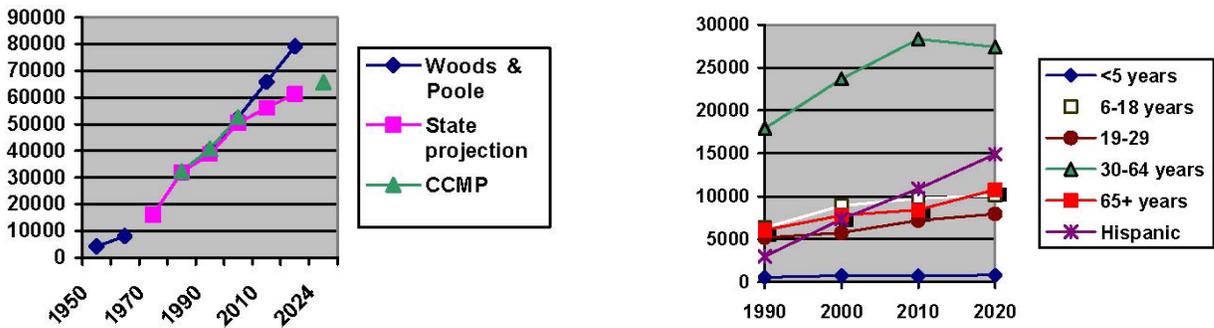


### 3.1 DEMOGRAPHICS

While Carson City grew at an annual rate of 2.6% from 1990 to 2000, the City's growth rate is showing signs of tapering off slightly. In 2004, Carson City was estimated to have a population of 55,625 people.<sup>1</sup> There are a variety of sources for population projections. Figure 4 below compares various projections, including projections by Woods & Poole, a nation demographics firm, projections by the Nevada State demographer, and the synthesis developed for the Carson City Master Plan. The Carson City Master Plan projects a growth rate of only 0.8% per year over the next 20 years, with the population reaching 66,000 by 2024. It has established a build-out maximum population of approximately 80,000 people, based on water capacity and land-use considerations. This suggests that the City will grow by a total of about 40% to its maximum, which will be reached by approximately 2030.



Will all segments of the population grow equally? The Carson City Master Plan observes that Carson City's population is gradually getting older. The median age in 1990 was 36.8 compared to 38.7 in 2000. Fifteen percent of Carson City's residents are over 65 years of age, compared to 11% statewide. The Carson City Master Plan projects that the percentage of residents over 65 years of age in Carson City is expected to grow to 18% by 2024.

Figure 13 above illustrates the population projections of the Nevada State Demographer, by age cohort. According to the State Demographer, the growth trends, by age group, over next 15 years will show:

As discussed previously, demographic characteristics of an area have a significant impact on the pedestrian demand, and accordingly, proposed pathways plans and enhancements.

AGE	POPULATION TREND
Under 5 Years (toddlers)	Very little change
6-18 Years (school-age)	Slight growth then stable
19-29 Years (young adults)	Stable then slight growth
30-64 Years (families)	Continued strong growth then decline
65+ Years (seniors, retirees)	Slow but steady growth
Hispanic	Strong, steady growth
<i>Hispanic population is included in the other age group figures, but shown here as a separate cohort for comparison purposes.</i>	

<sup>1</sup> Carson City Master Plan, "Snapshot Carson City"

- Age** – Local and State projections indicate that Carson City’s overall youth population will increase by only 10% over the next twenty years. This suggests a continued, and slightly growing demand for trail facilities related to both recreation and transportation (especially to schools and parks) for that age group. This increase in youth population will not likely result in additional Elementary or Middle schools being constructed, so the focus of transportation pathways adjacent to schools may focus on existing schools. The area with the highest percentage of youth population is bounded by College Parkway to the north, Lompa Lane to the east, Hot Springs Road to the west and Highway 50 to the south. Additional areas of high youth populations are centered around Highway 50 and Carson Street.



*Growth in the youth population segment will result in a growing demand for trails and sidewalks*

As Carson City’s population gradually begins to age, there may be more demand for pathways as an alternative to automobile transportation as well as for passive recreation. Pathways offer recreational opportunities for people of all ages and all economic backgrounds and may be especially popular for retirees. There is strong support, evidenced in opinion survey responses, for placing a high priority on construction of new sidewalks, bike lanes and trails for both recreation and transportation purposes.

- Vehicle ownership** – The area with the highest percentage of households with no vehicles is located south of Highway 50 and north of Fairview Drive. The area is bounded on the east and west by Ormsby Boulevard/ Terrace Street and Edmonds Drive, respectively.
- Income** – Lower income areas, those with the highest percentages of households earning less than \$20,000 per year, are located primarily in three areas. These are: the triangle created by Carson Street, College Parkway, and Northgate Lane; the area bordered by Highway 50, Carson Street, Winnie Lane, Roop Street, Beverly Drive, and Camille Drive; and the area located west of Curry Street and South of 5th Street.

## 3.2 LAND USE

A number of land use conditions affect the location of various kinds of pathways.

- Commercial locations/destinations** – Primary commercial areas are located along Carson Street and Highway 50/William Street. The government core is located along and adjacent to Carson Street between Highway 50 and 5th Street.
- Employment density** – Employment centers are concentrated along Highway 50 and Carson Street, with emphasis on the area between Roop Street and Minnesota Street, south of William Street.
- Residential density** (urban, suburban, rural, etc.)



*The bike path along US Highway 50 (shown here crossing the entry drive) potentially serves a significant number of businesses.*

Areas with the highest population density include the following:

- the triangle created by Highway 50, Carson Street, and College Parkway;
- the area located between Highway 50 and Butti way and bordered east and west by Gregg Street and Lompa Way, respectively;
- the area bounded by William Street, Saliman Road, Little Lane and Roop Street
- the polygon created by Carson Street, Fairview Drive, Edmonds Drive, and Koontz Lane.

Detailed maps that illustrate these land use considerations are included in Appendix 13.7.

