

MARIN NONMOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION PILOT PROGRAM
FACT SHEET
October 18, 2006

What Is It?

Marin County is one of four communities nationally that has been selected by Congress to participate in the Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program (NTPP) under Section 1807 of the 2005 federal transportation bill, SAFETEA-LU. Section 1807 provides for \$25 million to each of the four communities between 2006 and 2010. The Marin County Department of Public Works is administering the Program locally.

The legislation states that “The Secretary shall establish and carry out nonmotorized transportation pilot program to construct, in the following four communities selected by the Secretary, a network of nonmotorized transportation infrastructure facilities, including sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and pedestrian and bicycle trails, that connect directly with transit stations, schools, residences, businesses, recreation areas, and other community activity centers: (1) Columbia, Missouri, (2) Marin County, California, (3) Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, and (4) Sheboygan County, Wisconsin.

The purpose of the Program shall be to demonstrate the extent to which bicycling and walking can carry a significant part of the transportation load, and represent a major portion of the transportation solution, within selected communities.”

How Will It Affect My Community?

Since the focus of the Program is ‘mode shift’ or the ability to encourage use of bicycles or walking instead of driving, and thus potentially reduce congestion, projects are targeted for the eastern, urbanized corridor of the county and cannot be of a solely recreational nature. Projects or programs for consideration can include primary network and feeder projects, demonstration projects, access to transit, planning, educational programs, promotional programs, and other infrastructure improvements. The Program goal is a community where people are able to walk or bicycle for work, school, shopping, or other trips, improved health, lower traffic congestion, and safety, air quality, and economic benefits.

How Can I get Involved?

A kickoff community workshop was held on November 28 where the Program was be discussed and ideas solicited for potential projects and programs. A second round of workshops will be scheduled in late winter to discuss projects and programs recommended for funding. Through the course of project and program identification and selection the Advisory Committee will be meeting at which the public is invited to attend. There is a Program website which contains information about the NTPP and the latest news. You can also subscribe to the site with your email address and be notified of any Program activities. The website is: www.walkbikemarin.org. Ideas or questions can also be directed to Dan Dawson at 499-6287.

What's Next?

The project team has gathered an extensive list of potential projects and programs gathered from interviews with local officials, adopted plans or proposals for bicycle or pedestrian projects, plus ideas brought forward at the community workshop. This list of projects and programs will be analyzed by the County and consultant team on the status, cost, and potential effectiveness of proposed projects in meeting the NTPP goals of modal shift, along with any available plans, reports, or other materials.

An initial prioritized and ranked list of projects and programs will be developed. Before any project is seriously considered in any jurisdiction, the County will consult with each agency during the ranking and selection process for project proposals within their jurisdiction. From this, a short list of projects and programs proposed for funding will be presented for additional public input and finally, adoption by the Board of Supervisors. The project and program identification and selection process is expected to be completed by March, 2007.