



NEWS RELEASE

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BICYCLISTS & PEDESTRIANS ARE PART OF THE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTION

Federal Pilot Communities Report Shows More Bicycling and Walking, Less Driving, and Increased Climate Benefits in Marin Transportation

San Rafael, CA – It is confirmed: Investment in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and outreach programming can positively affect transportation choices and opportunities, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation, in its final report to Congress on the Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program (NTPP). The nonmotorized trips covered in the report are viewed as critical components of the nation's surface transportation system and associated impacts on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The federal report reveals that in Marin, since 2007:

- Bicycling and walking trips have increased 64.4% and 21.0%, respectively
- Driving trips decreased 4.7%
- 9,688,800 additional annual nonmotorized trips with a commensurate reduction in driving trips = 47.6 annual trips per person over age 16
- WalkBikeMarin, Marin's implementation of the pilot program, directed funding to 36 infrastructure projects
- WalkBikeMarin added 24 miles of new facilities for walking and bicycling since 2006, closing gaps and connecting neighborhoods and communities to make walking and bicycling easier for all.

Marin County Supervisor Steve Kinsey explains, "*The huge numbers of people that have moved from their use of the automobile to walking and bicycling for everyday transportation is validation that investment in bicycling and walking infrastructure is sound and also a benefit to congestion issues, public health issues, community character and connectivity to transit.*"

Of critical importance is the fact that these levels of non-motorized transportation has reduced total vehicle-miles traveled (VMT) in Marin by an estimated 18.9 million miles over the course of a year, or nearly 51,900 miles each day. Such a VMT reduction is an essential ingredient, along with improved automobiles and fuels, in meeting the nation's goals of fighting global warming and achieving greater energy independence.

This report fulfills the intent of Congress when they established the NTPP in 2005. Between the original funding allocation and subsequent extensions of the 2005 federal transportation bill, Marin County and the other three pilot communities have benefitted with over \$28 million each over six years to implement a comprehensive set of projects and programs to encourage biking and walking. In addition to reduced greenhouse gas emissions, additional benefits found in the report include congestion relief, low-cost travel alternatives and improved public health.

Marin projects funded through the NTPP include the Cal Park Hill Tunnel, Enfrente, Novato Commuter Connection, and Los Ranchitos Connector in San Rafael, among many others. These projects serve people of all ages and abilities, and provide safe, convenient places to walk or ride.

The report chronicles program mobilization and launch, including active public involvement; project and program delivery, "*Implementation Challenges*" encountered, and results from data collected over the course of the program. Also discussed are "*Plans for Implementation*"—projects that will build out the seamless network of biking and walking facilities and the education and promotion programs that will encourage travelers to shift to walking and biking for their everyday transportation needs.

The report includes lessons learned and best practices that can be used by other communities, and will provide benefits for years to come nationwide on transportation policy.

A copy of the final report to congress can be found at http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/npp/2012_report/. As the program has benefitted from funding through continuation of the federal transportation bill, it has enabled additional projects and outreach to be undertaken. Data will be collected again this fall and a report generated in 2013 to further demonstrate the outcomes and benefits of the NTPP. In the meantime, progress can be monitored and additional information on the local program can be obtained on Marin's program website: www.walkbikemarin.org

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