COUNTY OF MARIN
NEWS RELEASE

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Study confirms more bikes and feet on the streets, again

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The County of Marin Department of Public Works recently completed its fourth annual count to find out how many people are walking and biking in Marin County, as part of the Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program. This effort collected data at 23 locations in the cities, towns, and unincorporated areas of the County. A summary report comparing the outcomes of the Fall, 2011 counts with those conducted in 2010, 2009, 2008, and 2007, and a previous count in 1999 is now available on the Walk Bike Marin webpage: http://www.walkbikemarin.org/resource_library_reports.php.

The results of these counts show that weekday bicycling rates increased an average of 57 percent at the 23 locations between 2007 and 2011 and 172 percent between 1999 and 2011. During weekends, bicycling increased an average of 91 percent between 2007 and 2011, and 159 percent between 1999 and 2011. Weekday walking rates increased an average of 33 percent at the 23 locations between 2007 and 2011, while weekend walking rates increased 39 percent between 2007 and 2011.

Supervisor Susan Adams, President of the Marin County Board of Supervisors, commented, "The results of completing the many bicycle and pedestrian improvements undertaken over the last few years shows that if you build it, they will come, while at the same time addressing climate change and a healthier more active obesity-reducing lifestyle."

This data will continue to be useful as the remaining NTPP projects are completed and show the impact of the Pilot Project and other improvements to walking and bicycling facilities. The Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program is a federal transportation program which has provided over $25 million each to Marin County and three other communities in the Midwest to evaluate whether construction of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, along with educational and outreach programs, can encourage bicycling and walking as a means to reduce automobile trips.