

Assessing the Economic Impact and Health Benefits of Bicycling in Minnesota

Study Objectives

The 2016 20-year Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan described bicycling as an integral part of Minnesota's transportation system. Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) contracted with a research team from the University of Minnesota to complete a study designed to better understand the economic impact and health benefits of bicycling in the state. The project used a four-component design. Together, the components demonstrate the economic impact from employment, transportation, tourism, recreation and that benefits of health. The study included the following elements:

1. A bicycling industry analysis using interviews with key industry informants, survey manufactures, parts suppliers and retail establishments.
2. Conducted visitor profiles of selected bicycling events in Minnesota to identify visitors' characteristics and spending patterns.
3. Estimated the use of bicycling infrastructure in various parts of Minnesota to provide comprehensive estimate for the magnitude of bicycling infrastructure usages in the state.
4. An analysis and estimate the economic value of health benefits of bicycling by performing secondary analysis of existing data collected from the Coronary Artery Risk Development in Youth Study.

Findings from the project facilitated partnerships between transportation and health promotion planners, generated new knowledge about the magnitude of economic strength of the bicycling industry, produced information on market reach and consumer spending, demonstrated the health benefits of bicycling and develop information to support future development of infrastructure statewide. The project was completed from August 2014 through December 2016.

Technical Advisory Panel

- Tim Mitchell, MnDOT
- John Wilson, MnDOT
- Amber Dallman, MnDOT
- Greta Alquist, Toole Design Group
- Joanne Moze, Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Dorian Grilley, Bike Alliance
- Stephan Gildemeister, Depart. of Health
- Brian Fanelli, Explore Minnesota

Project Team: University of Minnesota

- Xinyi Qian, PhD. Principal Investigator, Tourism Specialist
- Greg Lindsey, PhD. Humphry School of Public Affairs
- Neil Linscheid, Extension Educator, Community Economics
- Mark Pereira, PhD. Professor, School of Public Health
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For more information

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Visit the study's webpage at mndot.gov/bike/research/economic-health-impact.html