Goals of the study were to estimate the:

- economic impact of bicycling industry
- volume of bicycling infrastructure/facilities use
- economic impact of bicycling events
- health benefits of bicycle commuting

Why is this study needed?
Inability to know how many people bicycle in Minnesota, how often they ride and how far they ride limits the ability to establish policies, set meaningful targets, plan and invest efficiently in bicycling infrastructure.

How we measured infrastructure use, number of bicycle trips and bicycle miles traveled
Two primary sources of data were used:

- Metropolitan Council’s Travel Behavior Inventory – a 16-county inventory in the Twin Cities Metro Area that collects travel diary information on origin, destination, mode and purpose of each trip – 14,055 households
- MnDOT Omnibus 2013 Public Opinion Survey – a statewide sampling of people, which asks about frequency of bicycling, perceptions of safety and other factors that affect their decision to bicycle – 1,127 residents
Results

These results present the first-ever estimates of the annual number of bicycle trips and miles traveled by bicycle in the state. Although two different methods were used to calculate these numbers, results are comparable, indicating the estimates are reasonable.

Met Council Travel Behavior Inventory:

- Number of bicycle trips annually is between 87 million and 96 million
- Trips are higher in counties and regions in the state with larger urban populations
- The Twin Cities account for between 69 percent and 72 percent of the total number of trips and miles traveled in the state. Counties in other parts of the state have similar numbers of bicycle trips.
- 24 percent of cyclists in the Metro Area bicycle at least once weekly

MnDOT Omnibus survey:

- 75.2 million trips in the bicycling season
- 139 million miles traveled for trips statewide
- Most adults are infrequent cyclists – about once a month during the cycling season
- 26 percent of cyclists in Greater Minnesota bicycle at least once a week

How can this information be used?

These estimates will help state and local policy makers and transportation planners and engineers:

- Understand the current levels of bicycle infrastructure use
- Build a safe, sustainable transportation system that meets the needs of Minnesota residents in the 21st century

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