## Active Transportation and Bike Sharing for Communities Large and Small

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Voipe The National Transportation Systems Center Advancing transportation innovation for the public good



U.S. Department of Transportation

Research and Innovative Technology Administration

John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center

# \$100 m. US experiment in active transportation

- Overview of Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program: federal transportation law (SAFETEA-LU)
- Evaluation results and challenges
  - Ambitious national and local goals
  - Mode shift -- from driving to walking and biking
  - From national to local focus
- What have we learned?
  - Results to date
  - Insights for communities: large and small

## Purpose of the Pilot

□ 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



## **GOALS**

- 1) Decrease congestion
- 2) Reduce energy usage
- 3) Promote better health &
- 4) A cleaner environment.



## The Four Pilots: Unique Communities with Varying Populations, Climate and Topography

#### Columbia, Missouri

Population: 108,500

Grant area: 53 square miles

#### Marin County, California

Population: 250,750

■ Grant area: 520 square miles

#### 3) Minneapolis/Twin Cities, Minnesota

Population: 956,783

Grant area: 202 square miles

#### 4) Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

Population: 114,560

Grant area: 500 square miles

Different starting points for developing a robust walking and biking network

\*



## **Funding Breakdown**

- Each community received over \$25 million
- Different local investment decisions
- Program totals
  - Infrastructure = 89 percent
  - Promotion & Education = 8 percent
  - Bicycle Parking = 2 percent
  - Planning = 1 percent

## **Evaluation for Congress and beyond**

- NTPP Working Group: collaboration on program evaluation
  - FHWA, Pilots, Volpe Center, CDC, Rails to Trails Conservancy
  - Long-term commitment (2005-2014)
  - Community counts and NTPP model
  - Program, community, and project-level ealuation
- □ Interim Report to Congress (2008): baseline
- Report to Congress (2012)
- Evaluation themes thru 2013:
  - Economic benefits
  - Public health
  - Access: focus on transit connectivity and equity
  - Build-out
- □ January 2014 report

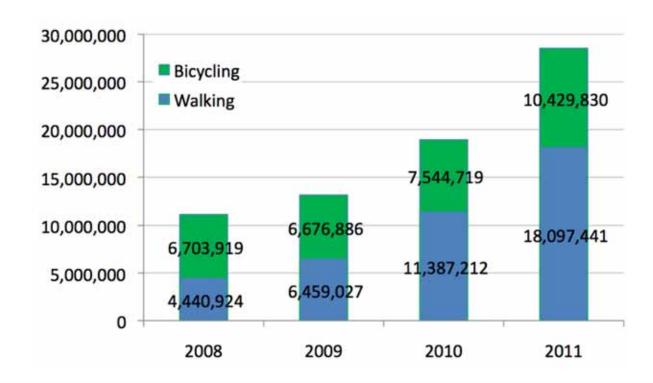
http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle\_pedestrian/ntpp/

#### Performance Measures to Tell the Story

Goals	Performance Measures
Use of sustainable modes	•Mode share % of trips or Vehicle Miles Travelled (Vehicle Miles Travelled)
	•VMT per capita; Passenger Miles (PM)
Air Quality	•Reduced hydrocarbons, PM, or CO (VMT)
	•Per PM
Climate Change	•Reduced tons of CO <sub>2</sub> (avoided VMT)
	•Per PM
	•Access to transit for evacuation
Access to Work,	•Walk/bike access to destinations or transit (minutes, distance)
School, Medical Care, Healthy Food	<ul> <li>Affordability of transportation (e.g., nonmotorized and/or transit), including combined with housing for low income groups</li> </ul>
	•Equity: focus on low income groups, seniors, children
Health	•Physical activity (minutes per capita or trip); all trip purposes
	•Economic benefits of health improvement (HEAT model)
	•Civic indicators
Energy	•Energy Savings (avoided VMT)
	•Energy cost/VMT, PM
	•Energy use per VMT or PM

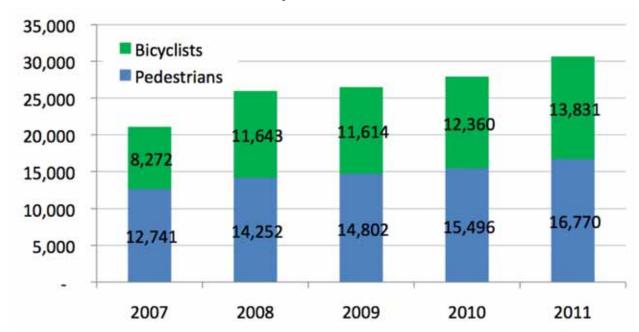
## **Model Results**

- Between 2007 and 2011:
  - 71.7 million averted Vehicle Miles Travelled



## Results – Annual Counts

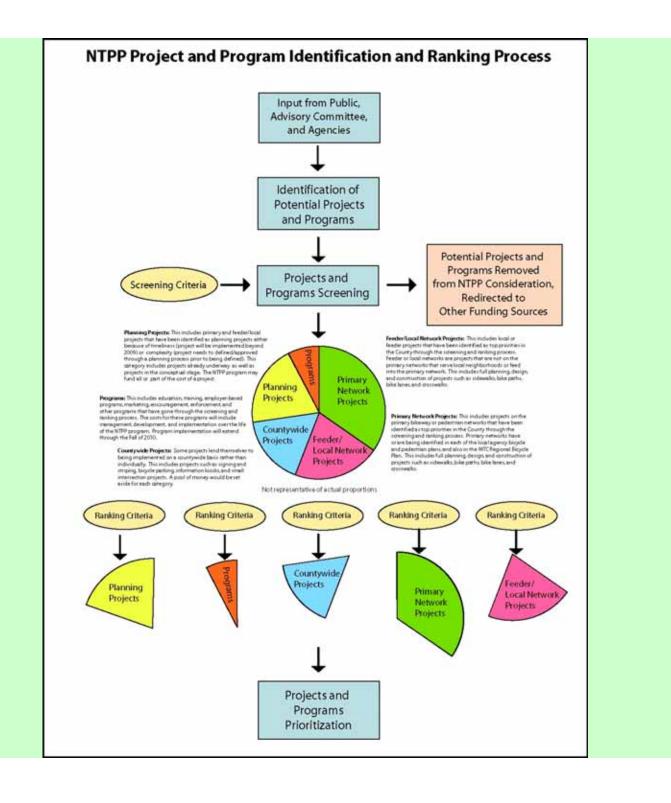
- Between 2007 and 2011:
  - 67% increase in bicyclists
  - 31% increase in pedestrians

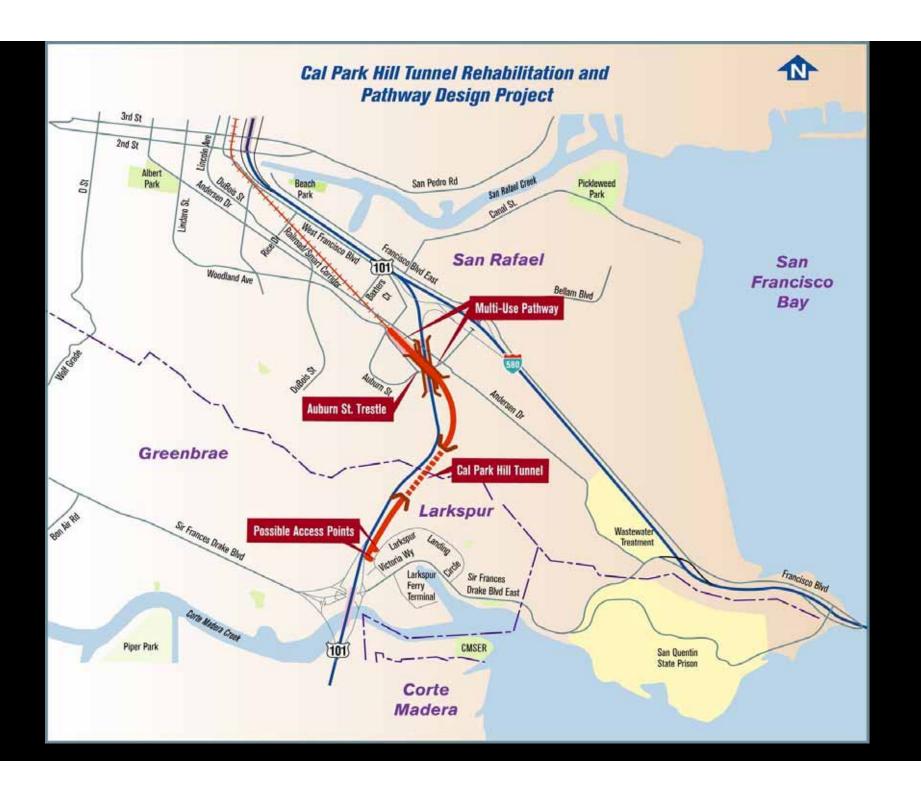


## **Conversion Results**

#### ■ Estimated air quality and energy savings

	2011	Unit	2008-2011	Unit
Hydrocarbons	85,533	Pounds	215,097	pounds
Particulate Matter 10 (PM <sub>10</sub> )	327	Pounds	822	pounds
Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM <sub>2.5</sub> )	308	Pounds	775	pounds
Nitrogen Oxide (NO <sub>X</sub> )	59,747	Pounds	150,252	pounds
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	779,859	Pounds	1,961,178	pounds
Carbon Dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> )	23.2	million pounds	58.4	million pounds
$CO_2$	32.8	pounds/person	82.5	pounds/person
Gasoline	1,198,625	gallons	3,014,284	gallons
Gasoline	1.69	gallons/person	4.26	gallons/person
BTUs	136.0	Billion	342.1	billion







## Sheboygan County Highlights

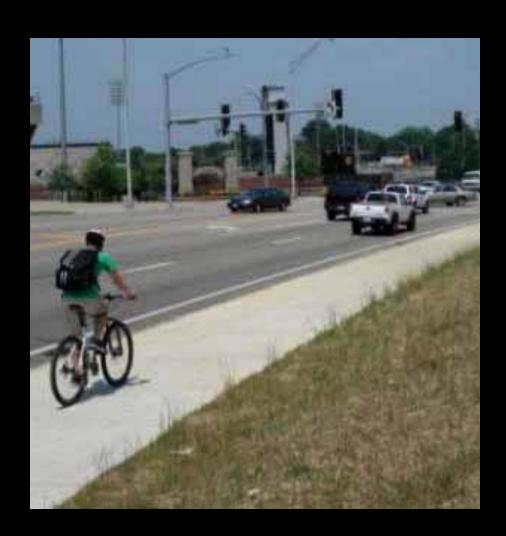
- ✓ First non-motorized comp plan: from recreation to transportation
- Educating planners & engineers
- ✓ Focus on access to schools
- Strong connections with businesses and employers
- Build support through community events
- ✓ Bike corridors and gap

closures



## Columbia City Highlights

- ✓ Emphasis on promotion and education;
- ✓ Maximizing opportunities of university town setting to influence travel behavior;
- ✓ Partnerships with law enforcement to increase awareness of bicycle rights and responsibilities;
- ✓ Partnerships with local businesses;
- ✓ Leveraging additional funds and local support.



## Institutionalizing Data Collection

#### **Pilot Evaluation**

- Updated products; one pagers, etc.
- Congressional Report
  - Community wide modeling
  - Project specific Impacts
- Longitudinal tracking of outcomes

#### **Local Measurement**

- Annual Benchmarking
- Location based trends
- Project Outcomes
- Daily/annual volume estimations

#### Other Uses

- Support of local/national research efforts
- Educate local officials & Public
- Inform Planning Studies
- Provide data via web portal
- Prepare special reports for local analysis
- Institutionalize nonmotorized travel data

#### **Weekday Counts Lake Street Bridge**







#### A few lessons learned

- From positive...to how positive?
  - Quantify to compete for funds
  - Performance measures to demonstrate results
- Role of a plan
- Set ambitious goals
  - Energy, environment, health, affordability, livability
- From claiming to demonstrating
  - Count, measure, evaluate, present
- □ Time horizon go long
- Regional and project scale
  - Walk & bike as part of multimodal system
- Importance of institutional side
  - Role of new partners
  - Sustaining new service
  - Mainstreaming in the planning process



## Telling More of the Story

- Continue to improve model
  - Update analysis with 2012 and 2013 data
- Collaborate with CDC: estimate health benefits
  - Add walking to biking
  - Adding morbidity to mortality?
- Broader economic benefits
- Measure improved access (GIS from baseline)
  - To transit
  - For targeted communities
  - Specific projects e.g., Twin Cities bike share
- □ Forecast build-out
- Case studies: developing an expanded role for active transportation
  - 4 models of success
- 2014 Report

#### **Contact Information**

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- □ FHWA's Nonmotorized Website and NTPP:
  - www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle\_pedestrian/ntpp