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WalkBikeNC

NORTH CAROLINA STATEWIDE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE PLAN

Five Pillars

March 2013 - DRAFT for public and stakeholder review

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration

NCDENR

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BlueCross BlueShield

DWM Advisors, LLC

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Safety

A Goal for Protecting the Welfare of All

Consistent Enforcement Education

Improve safety for all roadway users through strategic, consistent, and connected pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements, education, and enforcement strategies.

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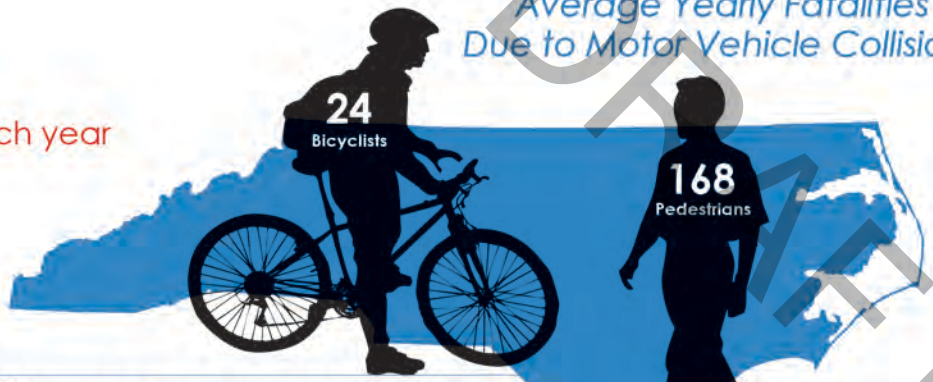
Present Day Challenges

Far too many pedestrians and bicyclists die each year in North Carolina, making our state one of America's most dangerous for these transportation modes. North Carolinians are not offered an equivalent quality choice when it comes to walking and bicycling. We can and must make these modes of travel safer.

Average Yearly Fatalities Due to Motor Vehicle Collisions



2005-2009

12,419 pedestrian crashes

4,824 bicycle crashes

Actions + Opportunities for the Future

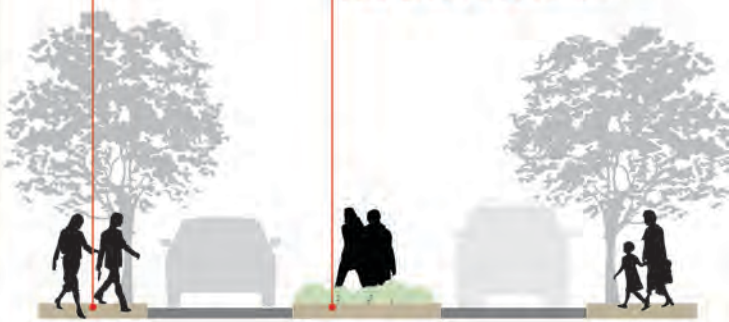
- Continue as a national leader in collection and analysis of pedestrian and bicycle crash data.
- Work with law enforcement to improve crash reporting.
- Increase targeted safety funding.
- Promote more education, encouragement, and enforcement of existing laws and practices.
- Increase Safe Routes to School Program activities.

For detailed information and full action steps, see the WalkBikeNC Plan.

FHWA Crash Reduction Factors

Sidewalk Installations
89% Pedestrian Crash Reduction

Pedestrian Refuge Island
56% Crash Reduction



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Economics

A Goal To Strengthen Local Economies by Enhancing Places

Competitive
Attractive

Return on Investment

Maximize economic competitiveness and return on investment by creating more attractive, walkable, and bikable communities through additional NCDOT, public, and private funding.

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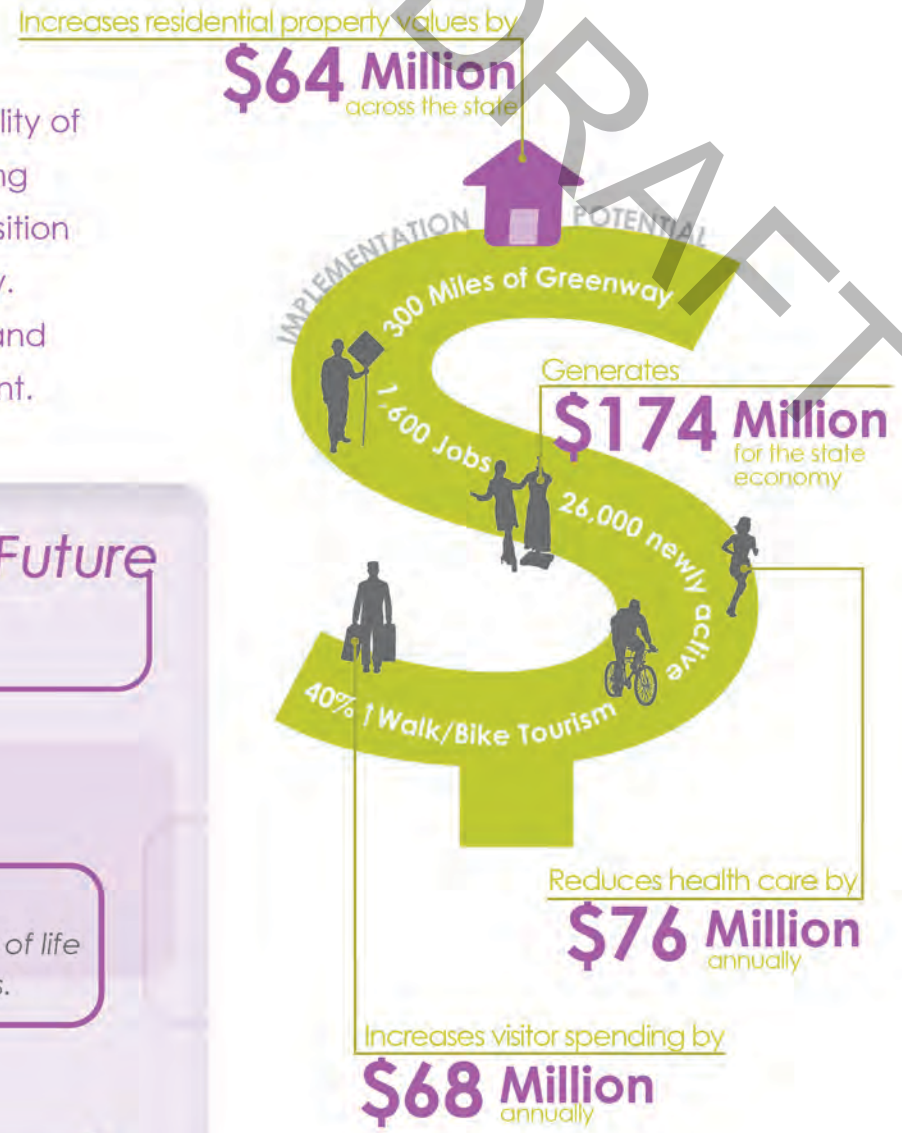
Present Day Challenges

Businesses, residents, and tourists are considering quality of life factors like walkability and bikability when choosing locations to settle. North Carolina needs to better position itself to take advantage of this economic opportunity. Investments in pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and programs will result in a significant return on investment.



Actions + Opportunities for the Future

Expand Main Street Program with Complete Streets elements.

Promote statewide walking and bicycling attractions.

Enhance VisitNC.com and AccessNC.com to include quality of life measures such as greenways.

Track return on investment such as job creation, business development, home prices, retail sales, and tourism related to the walkability and bikability of North Carolina communities.

Educate the public about economic benefits of walkable and bikable communities.

For detailed information and full action steps, see the WalkBikeNC Plan.

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Health

A Goal For Environments that Encourage Walking and Biking

Active Accessible Encourage

Contribute to the public's health by providing active living environments with safe, connected, accessible facilities along with programs that encourage walking, cycling, and wheeling.

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Present Day Challenges

Chronic diseases – such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, and diabetes – are among the most prevalent, costly, and preventable of all health problems[1]. In 2011, chronic diseases were responsible for almost 67 percent of all deaths, over 53,000 deaths in North Carolina[2]. Physical activity is a key behavior that can positively impact and prevent chronic diseases. Unfortunately, fewer than half of North Carolinians (46.8%) get the amount of aerobic activity recommended for significant health benefits[3]. Creating a transportation system with sidewalks, greenways, and bike lanes that connects neighborhoods with destinations such as parks, farmers markets, stores and worksites will help North Carolinians be more physically active and help decrease rates of chronic disease in our state.

Actions + Opportunities for the Future

Promote active living as a "pathway" to improved health.

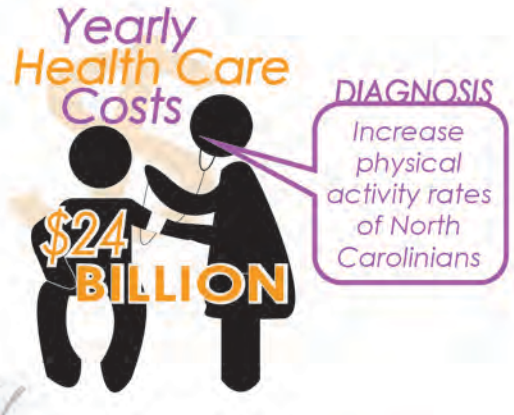
Work with the North Carolina Division of Public Health to support active transportation throughout North Carolina.

Provide more facilities for walking, cycling, and wheeling to enable North Carolinians to incorporate physical activity into their daily lives.

Incorporate public health professionals in transportation planning and project scoping.

Use health data to help prioritize improvements in areas of need.

For detailed information and full action steps, see the WalkBikeNC Plan.



1. CDC 2008: http://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/states/pdf/north_carolina.pdf
2. North Carolina Division of Public Health, State Center for Health Statistics, Detailed Mortality Statistics, North Carolina Residents, 2011, SCHS Online Database 2012. http://www.schs.state.nc.us/schs/data/icd/icd.cfm
3. 2011 NC BRFSS: http://www.schs.state.nc.us/schs/brfss/2011/nc/all/_PAINDEX.html

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Mobility

A Goal For Moving Around North Carolina

Efficiency
Equity

Connectivity

Improve mobility strategically with greater investment in walking and biking infrastructure (through a Complete Streets approach), improved transportation equity and choice, connectivity between transportation modes, and through better coordination between land use and transportation planning.

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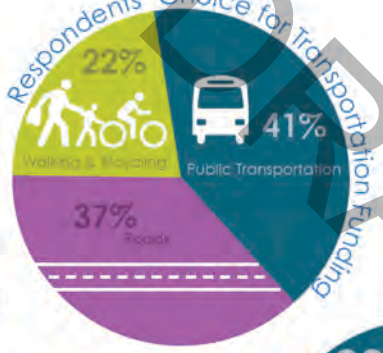
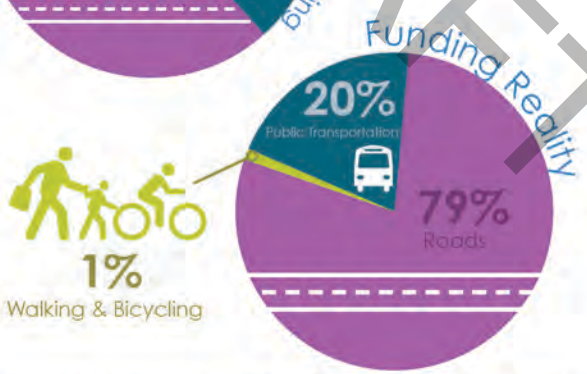
Present Day Challenges

Mobility is about moving people and goods. North Carolina must do a much better job of promoting a more efficient statewide transportation system through its support and investment in walking and bicycling. Historically, North Carolina's investment in walking and bicycling facilities and programs does not match the overwhelming need for such facilities.



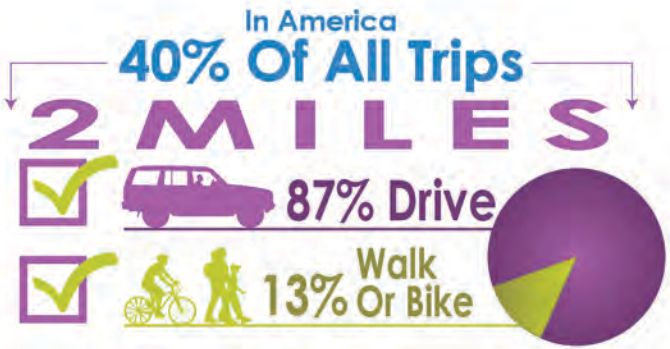


According to a national transportation poll, Americans think differently about transportation funding than the reality of current budget allocation. (Transportation for America, designed by Collective Strength, and fielded by Harris Interactive, 2007)

Actions + Opportunities for the Future

- *Implement Complete Streets and update NCDOT design guidelines.*
- *Streamline pedestrian and bicycle project delivery.*
- *Enhance transit access policies and ADA (PROWAG) implementation.*
- *Update and modernize the state bicycle route system.*
- *Work with local governments to improve transportation-land use integration.*

For detailed information and full action steps, see the WalkBikeNC Plan.



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Environment

A Goal To Link People, Places, and Environments

Connect
Protect

Network

Advance land and water stewardship by reducing automobile dependence, and connect and protect North Carolina's natural resources through a network of greenways and green infrastructure.

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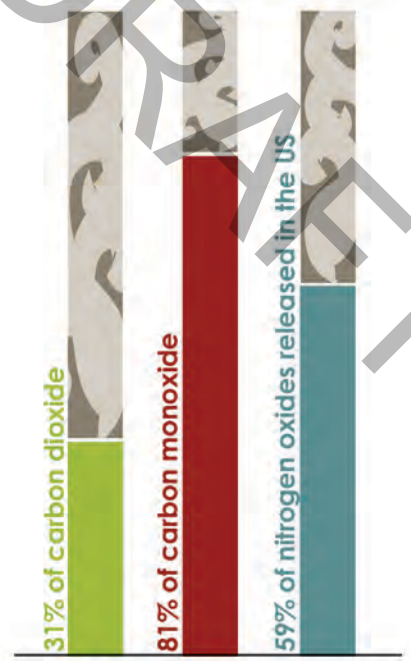
Present Day Challenges

North Carolina's population growth continues to have a significant impact on land, water, air, energy, and ecosystem resources. An expanded transportation system facilitates land use sprawl. The state needs a diversified transportation system that promotes human powered modes of travel. North Carolina also needs public agencies and the private sector to work in partnership to conserve and protect valuable natural resources that make our state a great place to live, work, and raise a family.



Actions + Opportunities for the Future

Develop a Greenprint for North Carolina that coordinates land and water conservation, economic development, and compatible land use.

Incorporate a Conservation Planning Tool in all future bicycle, pedestrian and trail planning work.

Complete a statewide greenway master plan.

Prioritize regional trail system planning and implementation.

Link communities to state parks, trails, heritage sites, and wildlife refuges through local and regional greenways, trails, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities.

For detailed information and full action steps, see the WalkBikeNC Plan.