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Issue 50



## The Real Value of Walking and Biking

This is the first in a series of issues that will highlight the findings of the ongoing Walk.Bike.Ohio (WBO) Plan. For more information visit our [website](#) and review the economic and health impact reports.



[\*Economic Impact Analysis\*](#)



[\*Estimated Health Impacts\*](#)

Across Ohio, opportunities to walk and bike mean a stronger economy and better quality of life for everyone. Existing walking and bicycle trips in Ohio already help residents **save around \$12.7 billion** in transportation and environmental costs and **prevent 6.8 million tons of emissions** over the next 20 years.

If Ohioans started walking and biking just a little more – a **1.1% increase in combined walk/bike commute share** – we would save another **\$5 billion**. Building Ohio's active transportation infrastructure, programs and policies can help make that happen.



### How Biking and Walking Saves Money

Those are the broad numbers. More specifically, replacing motor vehicle trips with walking and biking trips means less money spent on **household transportation, roadway maintenance, pollution cleanup and health care**. Fewer vehicle trips also reduces **traffic congestion** and makes roads **safer**, further reducing costs in the long term. Overall, a WBO *Economic Impact Analysis* found that for every one vehicle mile reduced from increased walking/biking, Ohio can expect to generate **\$0.81** in transportation benefits.

Chronic diseases cost Ohio an estimated \$50 billion every year in healthcare costs and lost productivity from work. Even very small increases in physical activity can have very large impacts on health and health-related costs. The *WBO Estimated Health Impact Analysis* found that a **5% sustained increase in physical activity from walking and biking** could save the state **\$69 million** in health care expenditures.



### Walking and Biking Generate Revenue, Too!

Walking and biking don't only save money – they also mean new ways to bring it in. Active transportation infrastructure can attract tourists into cities and villages, which boosts local businesses. National research shows that bicycle tourism contributes around *\$83 billion annually* to the US economy. Outdoor recreation generated *\$24.3 billion in consumer spending* in Ohio.

Walking and bicycling infrastructure has also been shown to *increase property values* and make communities *more desirable places to live*. Finally, some studies show that people walking and biking *spend more at local businesses* than people driving. Across Ohio, it's clear that investments in walking and bicycling networks are an investment in communities' economies and residents' quality of life.



### Announcements

- ODOT's *Active Transportation Academy* will be offering a series of three free webinars on the basics of active transportation planning. Sessions will be held at 2PM on September 22, 23 and 24. [\*Sign up here.\*](#)
- The National Highway Institute's Pedestrian Design Training will be offered virtually in a four-part series on September 21, 22, 23 and 24. [\*Register here.\*](#)
- Because of COVID-19 school closures, applications to the 2021 *Safe Routes to Schools funding cycle* will not be required to include in-person travel tallies in their School Travel Plans.
- Interested in starting a *Your Move campaign* in your community? Get a free sample kit of materials while supplies last (tip cards, magnets and more). Submit your request to [\*BikeOhio@dot.ohio.gov\*](mailto:BikeOhio@dot.ohio.gov) by September 30.

- Letters of Interest for ODOT's *Transportation Alternatives Program* will be accepted from October 1–November 2. [Learn more here.](#)
- This year's Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 7, will look a little different than usual. Find a suite of virtual resources at [walkbiketoschool.org](http://walkbiketoschool.org). Register and [check out 20 ideas for 2020.](#)

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## Questions? Feedback?

Drop us a line, [bikeohio@dot.ohio.gov](mailto:bikeohio@dot.ohio.gov)

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