



# About the Brookings Bicycle Master Plan

## What is a bicycle master plan?

A bicycle master plan is a document that assesses the current state of bicycling in a community and serves as a guide for its future. The foundation of an effective plan is input from the community. The planning process is a way to engage community members, develop support, and set priorities for making bicycling a safe and comfortable option for transportation, health, and recreation.

Transportation planners organize the community input into clear action steps to achieve the vision and goals people have for their community. The draft plan includes recommendations for policies, programs, infrastructure improvements, and funding strategies.

Transportation engineers also contribute to the content of the plan by recommending design guidelines for city streets and trails to encourage a safe, comfortable, and convenient bicycle network to serve the whole community.



## Why do communities invest in bicycling?

### To address other community priorities

Oftentimes, communities set goals and policies that can be achieved through investing in bicycling, even if the relationship isn't obvious. For example, improving school performance is influenced by student bicycling rates because exercise stimulates brain activity conducive to learning. In addition, many communities attract tourism dollars through promoting recreational bicycling in and around their downtowns, neighborhoods, and parks.

### To provide transportation options

Bicycles transport children to school, college students to class, adults to work, and seniors to social engagements and recreational outings. Some people enjoy the choice to bicycle; some people without access to a vehicle bicycle because it's one of their only choices for getting around. But getting from one place to another is only part of the reason to focus on bicycling.

### To improve the health of adults and children

The health of people who ride bicycles improves by leaps and bounds, because exercise is built into daily routines. Improved bicycle infrastructure in communities leads to increased bicycling and more people meeting their recommended exercise. Research shows that exercise, including walking and bicycling, helps kids with brain development and long-term health. When kids walk and bicycle to school, they arrive focused and ready to learn.

### To benefit local businesses and the economy

Bicycle riders have been found to spend more money at local businesses, since their trips are close to home. Communities which are friendly to bicycling attract people, whether they are new residents or visitors, who want transportation options when they travel around a new city.

### Brookings has already made bicycling a priority.

- The Allyn Frerichs trail system connects parks, schools, and recreation centers with 22 miles of off-street and on-street bicycle facilities.
- All 4th and 5th grade students receive hands-on training in physical education class on bicycle riding skills.
- Despite the winter climate, year round surveys show three percent of Brookings commuters regularly use a bicycle to get to work, five times the national average.
- Previous community plans have prioritized bicycling as a goal, and have contained high level goals for expanding the city's trail network.