



Improving Conditions for Bicycling and Walking

A Best Practices Report

January 1998

Prepared for the Federal Highway Administration

by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
and the Association of Pedestrian
and Bicycle Professionals

contents

1. Foreword

COMMUNITY FOCUS

- 2. Portland, OR—Total Commitment to Bicycling
- 4. Davis, CA—A Bicycle-friendly City
- 5. Bicycling and Walking in a Cold Climate, AK



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLANS

- 6. Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
- 8. Birmingham, AL Area Bicycle, Pedestrian and Greenway Plan,
- 9. Planning to Make Chicago Bicycle-friendly, IL

OFF-ROAD FACILITIES

- 10. King County Regional Trails System, WA
- 12. Capital Crescent Trail, MD
- 14. Glenwood Canyon I-70 Trail, CO
- 15. Cowboy Trail Master Plan, NE
- 16. The Katy Trail, MO
- 18. The Schuylkill River Trail, PA
- 19. Universal Trail Assessment Process

ON-ROAD FACILITIES

- 20. Seattle's Bike Spot Safety Program, WA
- 21. Illinois Accommodates Buggies and Bicycles
- 22. Pedestrian Safety Devices
- 24. Bike Lanes
- 26. Streetscape: A Comprehensive Approach, FL
- 27. Palo Alto's Bicycle Boulevard, CA
- 28. Neighborhood Traffic Calming in Seattle, WA
- 29. Downtown Corridor Improvement in Indianapolis, IN
- 30. Pedestrian Priority Measures
- 31. Lewiston—Auburn Railroad Bridge, ME
- 32. Silver City, NM Main Street

EDUCATION, ENCOURAGEMENT, ENFORCMENT

- 33. Safe Moves, CA
- 34. Community Cycling Programs for Kids
- 35. California Bike Commute Day
- 36. Twin Cities Bicycle Map and Commuter Guide, MN
- 38. Safe Bicycling in Chicago, IL
- 39. Cops on Bikes
- 40. Bicycle Commuter Program at Fleetwood Enterprises, CA

TRANSIT-RELATED

- 41. Transit and Pedestrian Development in Arlington, VA
- 42. Caltrain's "Bikes on Board" Program
- 43. Phoenix Bikes on Buses Program, AZ
- 44. "Build Greater Austin," TX

ANCILLARY FACILITIES

- 45. Chicago's Bicycle Parking Program, IL
- 46. Long Beach Bikestation, CA
- 47. Resources
- 48. Acronyms and Photo Credits

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By John C. Fegan



foreword

ENCOURAGING MORE PEOPLE TO WALK AND BICYCLE, AND TO DO SO SAFELY, INVOLVES ACTIONS AT FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LEVELS. THE INTERMODAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY ACT OF 1991 (ISTEA) PROVIDED BROAD ELIGIBILITY TO USE FEDERAL FUNDS FOR THESE PROJECTS.

However, ISTEA did not guarantee Federal funding. Instead, pedestrian and bicycle projects have had to compete with all other transportation projects for limited amounts of available funding. Decisions on which projects are funded are made at State and metropolitan levels of government. In addition, State and local funding sources are also used to provide projects for walking and bicycling. Therefore, providing funding for these projects is a concrete illustration of the value of walking and bicycling to these communities.

This “best practices” report provides information on some outstanding pedestrian and bicycle projects that have been recognized for increasing walking and bicycling and improving user safety in communities across the United States. We have certainly overlooked other “best practices” in other places. Our intent was to highlight exemplary projects and to show what has been done that can be replicated in other places. We hope that by seeing what others have done, you will be inspired to create your own programs to encourage more and safer walking and bicycling in your own community.

JOHN C. FEGAN

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PROGRAM MANAGER
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



additional resources

(Not including references included in Best Practices reports themselves)

General

National Bicycling and Walking Study Final Report, FHWA, 1993

National Bicycling and Walking Study Case Studies (24), FHWA, 1993

Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety and Accommodations, a three-day training course available through the National Highway Institute, FHWA, 1996

A Synthesis of Bicycle Safety-related Research, FHWA, 1994

Pedestrian Crash Types: A 1990s Informational Guide, FHWA, 1997

Bicycle Crash Types: A 1990s Informational Guide, FHWA, 1997

Planning

Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Under ISTEA: A Synthesis of the State of the Practice, FHWA, 1997

Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Under ISTEA: A Training Manual, FHWA, 1994

Selecting Roadway Design Treatments to Accommodate Bicyclists, FHWA, 1992

Bicycle Facility Planning: APA Planning Advisory Service Report 459, APA, 1995

Making the Connection: Integrating Land-use and Transportation Planning for Livable Communities, 1000 Friends of Oregon, 1997

A Bicycle-friendly City (video), Bicycle Federation of America, 1995. (\$20)

Off-road Facilities

Guide to the Development of Bicycle Facilities, AASHTO, 1991

Trails for the 21st Century: A Planning, Design and Management Manual for Multi-use Trails, Rails to Trails Conservancy, 1993

Greenways, Flink and Searns, Conservation Foundation, 1993

Trail Intersection Design Guidelines (Draft) prepared for Florida DOT by the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center in 1996.

Rails with Trails: Sharing Corridors for Transportation and Recreation. Rails to Trails Conservancy, 1998.

On-road Facilities

Guide to the Development of Bicycle Facilities, AASHTO, 1991

A Policy on Geometric Design of Streets and Highways, AASHTO, 1995

Making Streets that Work, City of Seattle, 1996 (video and workbook)

Design of Pedestrian Facilities, Report of Recommended Practice. Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE).

Residential Street Design and Traffic Control, ITE

Traffic Calming. APA Planning Advisory Service Report Number 456, 1995.

The Pedestrian Environment, 1000 Friends of Oregon, 1993.

Education, Encouragement and Enforcement

Mean Streets: Pedestrian Safety and Reform of the Nation's Transportation Law. Environmental Working Group, 1997

Share the Road: Let's Make America Bicycle-friendly. Environmental Working Group, 1997

The Complete Guide to Police Cycling (\$20), IPMBA.

Where to Obtain these Resources

FHWA PUBLICATIONS

NATIONAL BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN CLEARINGHOUSE
1506 21ST STREET NW, SUITE 210
WASHINGTON, DC 20036
(800) 760-6272

RAILS-TO-TRAILS CONSERVANCY

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BICYCLE FEDERATION OF AMERICA

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LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS

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acronyms and credits

Acronyms

AASHTO.....American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials

APBP.....Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals

CIP.....Capital Improvement Program

CMAQ.....Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program

DNR.....Department of Natural Resources

DOT.....Department of Transportation

FHWA.....Federal Highway Administration

FRA.....Federal Railroad Administration

FTA.....Federal Transit Administration

ISTEA.....Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991

MUTCD.....Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices

MPO.....Metropolitan Planning Organization

NHTSA.....National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

NRTF.....National Recreational Trail Fund

RTC.....Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TE(P).....Transportation Enhancement (Program)

TIP.....Transportation Improvement Program

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p. 8-9	Andy Clarke
p. 11	Andy Clarke
p. 12-13	Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
p. 14	Colorado DOT, Andy Clarke
p. 15-18	Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
p. 21	Illinois DOT
p. 23	Jeff Olson (NYSDOT), Andy Clarke
p. 24-25	Andy Clarke
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Founded in 1995, the APBP promotes excellence in the emerging professional discipline of pedestrian and bicycle transportation.

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FHWA's mission is to continually improve the quality of our nation's highway system and its intermodal connections.

**RAILS-TO-TRAILS
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1100 17th Street, 10th Floor
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RTC's mission is to enrich America's communities and countrysides by creating a nationwide network of public trails from former rail lines and connecting corridors.