

A South Carolina PERSPECTIVE

Current levels of bicycling are low compared to other states

In the analysis of US States in bicycling to work rates, South Carolina ranked 44th. An estimated 0.5% of all trips made in SC are by bicycle, and 0.2% of trips to work are by bicycle. From 1990 to 2007, SC saw a 17% drop in bicycle to work levels. There is a significant gap between men and women in terms of bicycling rates in the state: 90% of those trips taken on bicycle are by men, while women comprise only 10% of those trips.

Second most dangerous state for bicycling

According to the Benchmarking Report analysis, South Carolina is the second most dangerous state in the nation for bicycling with 20.2 deaths per 10,000 bicyclists. Bicyclists account for 1.6% of all traffic fatalities in the in the state—making it one of the most riskiest state for bicycling, along with Alabama, Louisiana and North Carolina.

Spending on bicycle and pedestrian projects remains low

Along with West Virginia and Virginia, South Carolina spent the smallest percentage of funds on bicycle and pedestrian projects among states in the US—0.4% of federal transportation dollars, or \$0.44 per capita. Spending of Transportation Enhancement dollars in SC, the best known funding source for bike/ped projects, was the lowest rate of any state in the nation.

Impact of bicycling and walking on public health is substantial

Analyzing data from 1960 to 2000 revealed that as bicycling and walking levels have plummeted in the nation, overweight levels have steadily increased and obesity levels have soared. South Carolina, which has relatively low levels of bicycling, has an overweight population of 65% and obese population of 29%.

2010 BENCHMARKING REPORT

The U.S. Bicycling and Walking Benchmarking Project is an on-going effort spearheaded by the Alliance for Biking and Walking to collect and analyze data on bicycling and walking in all 50 states and at least the 50 most-populated U.S. cities. The Alliance continues to expand the scope of this project while refining its methods. This first biennial report was released August 29, 2007. Through the ongoing Benchmarking Project, the Alliance will publish an updated version every two years. The data offers advocates and government officials benchmarks and recommendations so that they can improve bicycling and walking in the US.



5% OF TRIPS IN SOUTH CAROLINA ARE BY BICYCLE OR FOOT, YET BICYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS MAKE UP OVER 12% OF TRAFFIC FATALITIES AND RECEIVE JUST 0.4% OF FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION DOLLARS