

### PLANNING FOR BICYCLES

Bicycles have been around for a long time and are a major form of transportation in many places in the world. Today, bicycle riding is becoming more popular with adults as well as with children. Why do you think there has been a rise in the popularity of bike riding?

Many planners are looking for ways to provide safe routes for bicycles. Bikes can travel on either a bikeway that is a part of the street or on a separate path. A bikeway for people riding to work or school (commuting) needs to provide a direct route to the business or school. A bikeway designed primarily for fun (recreation) can follow a more scenic route.

There are other things to consider when planning for bicyclists.

#### **Watch Out for Cars!**

Even special bike lanes can be dangerous if there is a lot of auto traffic.

#### **Watch Out for People!**

Bikes and pedestrians can share recreation paths if they are wide enough. In most cases, it is not a good idea for bikes and pedestrians to share the same sidewalk, but it is allowed if the road is busy and too dangerous for the biker. The bicyclist must watch out for the safety of others.

#### **Plans for Safe Bicycle Transportation**

Providing safe bikeways can be done in either of two ways:

##### ***Separate Bikeways***

Where space allows, separate bikeways can be constructed. This can be a good solution when the commuters are primarily children cycling to school.

##### ***Bikeways on Roadways***

When allowing bicyclists to use the roadways, the following steps should be taken to ensure safe bicycle travel:

- slower traffic speeds for cars (posted limits, traffic-calming devices)
- paved shoulders
- elimination of potholes
- smooth curb cuts (also necessary for wheelchair access)
- regular street/shoulder cleaning to remove debris (trash)
- thoughtful design and placement of sewer grates
- signs
- striping or other marking of bike lanes
- providing on-street parking that protects cyclists and bike lanes

When bicycling is included in regular traffic areas, both cyclists and motorists need to remember to be polite and safe.

**In your presentation, explain the two plans for bicycle safety. Present the “Bikeways on Roadways” ideas. Give your suggestions on how riding bikes has changed over time and how it can be made safer for the community.**