



# Why should the City of Portland invest in bicycling?

The role of the modest bicycle in tackling the great challenges we face, today and tomorrow, and why bicycling is a vital tool in realizing the Portland we envision

In Portland, bicycling is more than just a recreational pastime. It is the City's fastest growing means of transportation. In the last four years annual growth in bicycling has been exponential! In 2008, more than one of every six Portlanders used a bicycle as either their primary or secondary means of transportation to work. Here's how bicycling can help Portland achieve some key goals identified in the Portland Plan:

## **CLIMATE CHANGE & THE ENVIRONMENT** - *a city that is resilient in the face of climate change and has a minimal carbon footprint*

Forty percent of Oregon's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are attributed to transportation, which is also the fastest rising source. Bicycling can efficiently serve the fifty to sixty percent of trips in Portland that are 3 miles long or less. The draft City/County Climate Action Plan calls for a 30% commute mode split for bikes by 2030.

## **AFFORDABILITY & ACCESSIBILITY** - *an affordable city with changing demographics and access for all to services and resources*

Bicycling is the most equitable and affordable form of transportation. Every year the City expands and enhances what is already an extensive 274-mile network of bikeways. Portland bikeways connect important neighborhood, civic and employment destinations while providing seamless links to regional transit.

## **HEALTH & SAFETY** - *a city that enhances human health and safety, promotes active lifestyles and safe routes to schools and neighborhood destinations*

The Center for Disease Control says that "automobile trips that can be safely replaced by walking or bicycling offer the first target for increased physical activity in communities." In Portland, the bicycle crash rate has declined as the number of bicyclists has grown. Studies suggest that getting more people cycling instead of driving helps make *everyone* safer!

## **PROSPERITY** - *a prosperous city, building on our competitive strengths and our core values of equity and sustainability*

Portland's "green dividend," identified by local economist Joe Cortright, annually keeps \$800 million circulating through the region's economy that would leave the region if Portlanders drove as much as the U.S. average. In 2006, bicycle-related economic activity contributed an estimated \$100 million to the city's economy, along with 600 to 800 jobs. Portland's "platinum-level" bicycle-friendly reputation attracts tourists as well as bike-oriented businesses.

## **DISTINCT PLACES** - *a city that preserves the quality of our neighborhoods and creates other unique and livable places as we accommodate growth*

Bicycles are distinctly Portland! Since bike trips are local in nature they enable interaction between neighbors, strengthen the rider's connection to the community, increase the likelihood of shopping locally, place more "eyes on the street", and contribute to the sense of place.

## **NEW WAYS & MEANS** - *a city that develops new ways of achieving public services and investments in a world of changing fiscal conditions*

Investing in bicycle infrastructure is a cost-effective means to provide access and mobility. Despite spending less than 1% of Portland's capital transportation budget over the past decade on bicycle expenditures, the city has seen dramatically increased ridership. Bicycling truly is Portland's best transportation buy.