

ESTIMATING THE BICYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE/FACILITY USE IN MINNESOTA

Systematically estimating the use of trails and other bicycling infrastructure provided evidence of demand for bicycling in the state. This component of the study measured the number of trips and miles biked.



Goals of the study were to estimate the:

- ☑ economic impact of bicycling industry
- ☑ volume of bicycling infrastructure/facilities use
- ☑ economic impact of bicycling events
- ☑ health benefits of bicycle commuting

Why is this study needed?

Inability to know how many people bicycle in Minnesota, how often they ride and how far they ride limits the ability to establish policies, set meaningful targets, plan and invest efficiently in bicycling infrastructure.

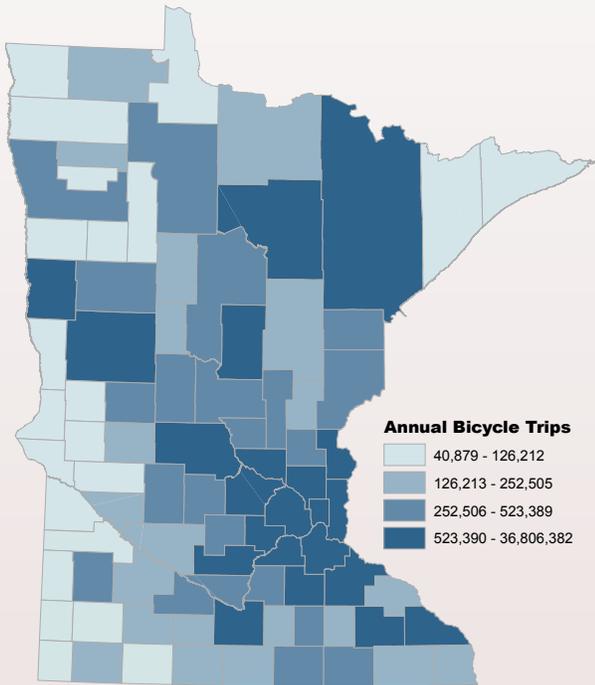
How we measured infrastructure use, number of bicycle trips and bicycle miles traveled

Two primary sources of data were used:

- Metropolitan Council's Travel Behavior Inventory – a 16-county inventory in the Twin Cities Metro Area that collects travel diary information on origin, destination, mode and purpose of each trip – 14,055 households
- MnDOT Omnibus 2013 Public Opinion Survey – a statewide sampling of people, which asks about frequency of bicycling, perceptions of safety and other factors that affect their decision to bicycle – 1,127 residents

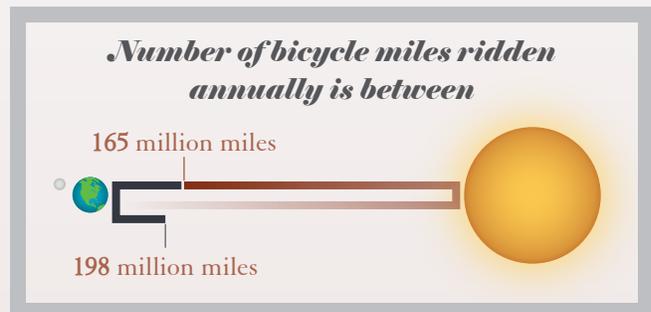
Results

These results present the first-ever estimates of the annual number of bicycle trips and miles traveled by bicycle in the state. Although two different methods were used to calculate these numbers, results are comparable, indicating the estimates are reasonable.



Met Council Travel Behavior Inventory:

- Number of bicycle trips annually is between **87 million and 96 million**
- Trips are higher in counties and regions in the state with larger urban populations
- The Twin Cities account for between **69 percent** and **72 percent** of the total number of trips and miles traveled in the state. Counties in other parts of the state have similar numbers of bicycle trips.
- **24 percent** of cyclists in the Metro Area bicycle at least once weekly



MnDOT Omnibus survey:

- **75.2 million** trips in the bicycling season
- **139 million** miles traveled for trips statewide
- Most adults are infrequent cyclists – about once a month during the cycling season
- **26 percent** of cyclists in Greater Minnesota bicycle at least once a week



How can this information be used?

These estimates will help state and local policy makers and transportation planners and engineers:

- Understand the current levels of bicycle infrastructure use
- Build a safe, sustainable transportation system that meets the needs of Minnesota residents in the 21st century

Contacts

Sara Dunlap

Planner, Office of Transit
Minnesota Department of Transportation
Sara.Dunlap@state.mn.us

Greg Lindsey, Ph.D.

Professor
Humphrey School of Public Affairs
University of Minnesota
linds301@umn.edu