

Making the Case for Active Transportation

Fact Sheet #6

Fall 2000

ECONOMIC BENEFITS:

Did you know:

- ⌘ The most energy-efficient and least costly mode of transportation is muscle power;
- ⌘ The annual cost of urban personal motor vehicle accidents, pollution, congestion, parking, roads and land not paid by users is \$26.5 billion; *(Victoria Transport Policy Institute, 1996)*
- ⌘ In Canada, the environmental costs of transportation are estimated at \$14-36 billion per year. *(Transport Canada, 1997)*
- ⌘ A reduction in personal and family transportation costs (capital and operating) for daily travel is a result of a shift to active modes of transportation, whether for commuting to and from work, travel to and from school, daily errands or recreational and leisure activities;



Active Transportation is more cost-efficient than motorized modes of transportation.

- ⌘ At the workplace, active transportation leads to reduced costs associated with on-site parking facilities for employees and visitors, and motor-dependent modes of workplace travel;
- ⌘ A shift to active transportation will assist in reducing public expenditures and related socio-economic costs associated with injuries and deaths from motor vehicle accidents;
- ⌘ Active transportation improves the efficiency of the transportation system. Congestion can be reduced by providing paved shoulders for cyclists at a cost of \$50,000 to \$100,000 per kilometre or paved pathways cost of \$250,000 *(Ministry of Transportation Ontario, 1992)* rather than by widening a two lane urban arterial road to four car lanes which costs

approximately \$1.3 million per kilometre; *(Public Transit Benefits in the Victoria Region, 1996)*

- ⌘ Reducing noise increases property values in residential areas, particularly if the noise of the morning commute is lessened;
- ⌘ Investing and supporting a modal shift to active transportation can stimulate economic development in several ways including downtown revitalization, rural and urban trails, tourism, and job creation in businesses which service active modes like cycling.

For more information please contact us at:



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