Draft SFMTA Bicycle Strategy

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SFMTA
Municipal Transportation Agency

Bicycling in Context

Bicycling is the most cost and time effective catalyst for mode shifts when combined with complementary investments in sustainable modes. It is the most convenient, affordable, quickest, and healthiest way to make the average trip within the city (2 to 3 miles).

1. Bicycling is an affordable and convenient transportation option for those who rely on sustainable modes.

- With low initial cost and negligible operating costs, bicycling is substantially cheaper than driving.
- Bicycles improves the personal mobility of those without cars, particularly children, teenagers, seniors, and people with disabilities.

2. More connected neighborhoods, safer street intersections and quieter neighborhood circulation.

- Bicycle traffic is quiet, results in less wear and tear on roads, and uses little road and parking space.
- People on bicycles establish a personal presence, creating safer neighborhoods by adding eyes on the street.

3. Transit and bicycling create multiple synergies that increase public transit's performance

- Bicycling extends the reach of transit by replacing a long walk trip with a short bicycle trip.
- Transit operates better when short peak trips are diverted to the bicycle.
- Transit complements bicycling for long trips outside the bicycle's comfortable range.
- Bicycling allows for more spontaneous shopping in commercial neighborhood areas and the city center.

4. Improved air quality and public health.

- Bicycling does not produce greenhouse gases or other pollutants. A recent life cycle cost analysis of average CO2 per passenger mile by mode shows that bicycling is the most energy efficient mode of transport available
- Replacing automobile traffic with bicycling traffic improves neighborhood quality of life by reducing air pollution and ambient noise.
- Even short periods of bicycling can improve personal fitness, resulting in better short and long-term health. As a fun way to travel, bicycling can reduce personal stress and improve mood.