

Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure



What is active transportation, and why does infrastructure matter?

Why active transportation infrastructure? Active transportation infrastructure includes on-road and off-road infrastructure, such as bike lanes and separate bike paths, that supports human powered transportation such as walking, biking, and running.

Climate benefits. When residents opt for active transportation instead of a vehicle they reduce Sonoma County's carbon emissions. The 2020 Greenhouse Gas Inventory published by the Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA) noted that Sonoma County's transportation sector accounts for 57.8 percent of 2020 emissions, and is the largest source of emissions in Sonoma County. The RCPA acknowledges that the two primary methods for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transportation are by fuel efficiency gains or switching to electric vehicles, and by drivers selecting active transportation modes.

Improved safety for all road users. Sonoma County Transportation Authority's Vision Zero Action Plan notes that rural areas have a higher percentage of severe crashes, and that pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists are disproportionately at risk of fatal and severe crashes relative to their commute mode share. The Action Plan identifies that high-speed roads are a risk factor throughout the County. Using engineering tactics to slow drivers makes roads safer for all road users.