

BikeWalk Virginia News

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BikeWalk Virginia Survey Online

Williamsburg, VA, February 5, 2008 – BikeWalk Virginia has posted information to its website at www.bikewalkvirginia.org/programs/BikePedBenchmarkStudy.asp with the results of a 2007 survey of the Commonwealth of Virginia's 39 cities, 95 counties, and 169 incorporated towns where municipalities were asked a number of questions about planning for non-motorized transportation. All were asked if they had (1) a bike plan, (2) a pedestrian plan, (3) a bicycle advisory committee, and (4) a pedestrian advisory committee.

Results show that of Virginia's cities, 36% have a bike plan, 10% have a pedestrian plan, 15% have a bicycle advisory committee, and 8% have a pedestrian advisory committee. In Virginia's counties, 27% have a bike plan, 9% have a pedestrian plan, 9% have a bicycle advisory committee, and 5% have a pedestrian advisory committee. Of the 169 incorporated towns, 8% have a bike plan, 8% have a pedestrian plan, 3% have a bicycle advisory committee, and 2% have a pedestrian advisory committee.

“Our goal is to influence municipalities to develop plans and advisory committees so that the number with plans will be 100% by 2015,” said Allen Turnbull, BikeWalk Virginia Executive Director. “While many of us bicycle, hike, and use trails for fun, we are becoming more aware of the need to use non-motorized transportation for economic, health, and environmental reasons. We believe that biking and walking provides a solution for some of the world's biggest problems. Municipalities should provide a safe means for citizens to walk or bike for transportation, especially when the distance is less than two miles.”

View the complete BikeWalk Virginia Bike/Ped Survey and benchmark results at www.bikewalkvirginia.org/programs/BikePedBenchmarkStudy.asp. Municipalities that did not respond or have adopted plans since the benchmark study was tabulated can download a survey and submit new information to BikeWalk Virginia. The information will be added to the website as it is received from local government agencies.

To follow national, state, and local issues affecting non-motorized transportation and to work with BikeWalk Virginia to improve recreation and transportation options for Virginians and visitors to Virginia, visit www.bikewalkvirginia.org to become an individual or business member or sponsor.

BikeWalk Virginia was founded as a 501 (c)(3) organization in 2000. Originating in 1988 as a bicycling event, BikeWalk Virginia continues to organize nationally recognized Bike Virginia rides to fund education and advocacy for non-motorized transportation safety and access. BikeWalk Virginia holds an annual conference as a forum for legislators, planners, educators and advocates on key issues critical to pedestrians and cyclists. In 2004, the Virginia Trails Association joined BikeWalk. The group's mission was broadened to include on and off road riders, hikers, kayakers, canoeists, and equestrians. BikeWalk Virginia has local chapters in Alexandria, the Northern Neck, Roanoke Valley, the Fredericksburg area, the New River Valley region, and Williamsburg. New chapters are forming on the Middle Peninsula and in Norfolk. For more information, call BikeWalk Virginia at 757-229-0507.

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