



Prescott Alternative Transportation

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Benefits of Bike Lanes

- **Bike lane stripes add safety.** Studies have shown that a simple white line is effective in channelizing both motorists and bicyclists and that both feel more comfortable with the line in place.¹
- **Installing bike lanes reduces all crashes.** In Chicago, where travel lanes are commonly narrowed to 10' to install 5' bike lanes, studies have revealed that average crash rates decreased at intersections by 9.9% and at mid-block by 15.4%.²
- **10' travel lanes with 5' bike lanes are common across the country.**³
- **Adding bike lanes to narrow travel lanes reduces traffic speeds.**⁴
- **Bicycle usage increases after bike lanes are installed.**⁵ One study found a 23% increase in bicycle traffic after bike lanes were installed.⁶ The majority of these new bicyclists did not feel comfortable riding on that road prior to the installation of bike lanes. About one-third of Americans do not drive.⁷
- **Bike lanes ease traffic congestion by giving travelers a better choice.**
- **Bike lanes create a safety buffer for emergency vehicles and in icy conditions.** Bicyclists are required to pull to the side when an emergency vehicle approaches. They also must ride with due caution in line with the conditions.
- **Bike lanes are an important component in bicycle transportation systems.**⁸ High traffic roadways that connect important destinations can accommodate bicyclists safely with bike lanes. These can then connect to bike routes and paths as a part of the whole bicycle transportation system.
- **Bike lanes are a good way to Complete the Streets for safer bicycling and walking.** While 10% of all trips nationwide are by bicycle or foot, more than 13% of all traffic fatalities are bicyclists and pedestrians.⁹

¹ Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center, www.bicyclinginfo.org

² City of Chicago Bike Lane Guide, 2002; Nick Jackson Director of Planning, nick@biketraffic.org

³ City of Santa Cruz, Rochester, NY MPO, City of Chicago, City of Boulder

⁴ City of Portland, OR Traffic Speed Study, 2001 and NCHRP Report 362

⁵ Bicycle Victoria (Aus), 2003; City of Chicago; and City of Portland Oregon, Michael Ronkin

⁶ Macbeth, A.G. (199) Bicycle Lanes in Toronto *ITE Journal* 38-46

⁷ Highway Statistics, 2001

⁸ AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 1999

⁹ 2001 National Household Travel Survey; Fatality Analysis Reporting System;

http://www.americabikes.org/bicycleaccomodation_factsheet_completestreets.asp