

PORTLAND BICYCLE BOULEVARD PROJECT

The City of Portland is requesting **\$25,000,000** to expand its system of bicycle boulevards, which are bikeways that appeal to the most timid and safety-conscious of riders. This expansion is a critical element in Portland's strategy of increasing bicycling beyond the 8% of Portlanders who currently identify the bicycle as their primary means of transportation to work.

Portland's 30 miles of existing bicycle boulevards are among the City's most popular bikeways and contribute significantly to the city's nationally recognized achievements in bicycle transportation. As Portland plans to dramatically increase its bicycle network, and thus its ridership, bicycle boulevards will figure prominently in attracting the majority of Portlanders who express both interest in bicycling but concern about their safety in doing so.

The requested funding will create 100 new miles of bicycle boulevards. By creating safe, comfortable and attractive conditions for bicycling throughout the city, the development of these 100 miles will continue the dramatic growth trend in bicycle transportation seen in Portland beginning in the early 1990s. Portland's experience in bicycling transportation has been "build it and they will come." This city-wide project will double bicycle use in Portland from our already high numbers. This will benefit the overall transportation system through reduced congestion and competition for parking. It will also benefit the health of the many individuals whose lives will be more active, their employers who will see fewer sick days and health insurance claims, and local businesses that will benefit from money that would otherwise be spent on gasoline instead being retained and spent locally.

The benefits that accrue to the individuals who bicycle and to the city as a whole in terms of jobs created, transportation, personal and public health, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and retention of money in the local economy represents a high return on investment for the \$25 million spent.

Project Benefits

- Bicycle commute mode split climbs from 8% to 16%
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions annually by 164,000 tons.
- Reduces obesity-related health care costs annually by \$25 million
- Reduces 33 million commute miles traveled annually
- Reduces gasoline consumption on commute trips by 1.6 million gallons per year
- Creates 350 new jobs.



Funding Request

This request:	\$25,000,000
Local Match:	\$6,250,000
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Total Project Cost:	\$31,250,000