Economic Benefits
Activity-Friendly Routes to Everyday Destinations

What are activity-friendly routes to everyday destinations?

Activity-friendly routes to everyday destinations are connections that let people safely and easily walk, bike, or move actively using an assistive device to reach key locations, such as homes, workplaces, parks, grocery stores, schools, and other community amenities. Activity-friendly routes look different in every community, but can include sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks, or access to transit stops.

Learn more about activity-friendly routes to everyday destinations at:
https://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/activepeoplehealthyNation/index.html

Not only do projects that support walking, biking, and moving actively using assistive devices cost over 75 percent less to build per mile compared to typical, car-focused transportation projects, they also can bring a broad range of economic benefits for local economies, local governments, and communities.

Economic benefits to local governments

- Increased property and sales tax revenue by up to 10 times.\(^1,3\)
- Reduced cost of utility infrastructure including sewer and water lines by approximately 38 percent.\(^3\)
- Reduced cost of delivering services, such as 20-40 percent savings on school busing and ten percent savings on emergency response.\(^3,4\)

Economic benefits to communities

- Increased new job opportunities.\(^1,4\)
- Averted healthcare costs resulting from safer streets, cleaner air, and more opportunities for physical activity.\(^1,2,4\)
- More affordable transportation choices.\(^2\)

Every $1 invested in activity-friendly routes saves $24 in averted medical costs.\(^2\)

Economic benefits to local economies

- Increased retail and food sales due to increased foot traffic, even with motor vehicle lane or parking reductions.\(^1,4,5\)
- Increased new jobs.\(^1,2,5\)
- Increased new businesses.\(^1\)
- Increased private investment.\(^1\)
- Averted costs from property damage as a result of safer streets.\(^1\)
- Increased tourism revenue by eight to nine times the amount invested in activity-friendly routes to everyday destinations.\(^2\)
Activity-friendly routes projects create more jobs per dollar spent

Every $1 million spent on transportation projects create the following number of jobs, on average, including jobs in construction, engineering, manufacturing, transportation, and food/retail services. Note that investments in activity-friendly routes to everyday destinations create more jobs per dollar spent compared to exclusively car-focused transportation projects.

11.41 jobs
9.91 jobs
9.57 jobs
8.53 jobs
8.42 jobs
8.42 jobs
7.75 jobs

CALL TO ACTION

Prioritize funding projects that create activity-friendly destinations in government budgets, capital improvements plans, and transportation master plans. Also look for opportunities in all transportation projects to incorporate active transportation infrastructure incrementally into your community, such as by adding a bike lane during a repaving or striping project.

Icons courtesy of mikicon and OliM of the Noun project.