T-20. Expand Bikeway Network

GHG Mitigation Potential

0.5%

Up to 0.5% of GHG emissions from vehicle travel in the plan/community

Co-Benefits (icon key on pg. 34)

Climate Resilience

Expanding bikeway networks can incentivize more bicycle use and decrease vehicle use, which have health benefits and can thus improve community resilience. This can also improve connectivity between residents and resources that may be needed in an extreme weather event.

Health and Equity Considerations

Prioritize low-income and underserved areas and communities with lower rates of vehicle ownership or fewer transit options. Make sure that destinations visited by low-income or underserved communities are served by the network.

Measure Description

This measure will increase the length of a city or community bikeway network. A bicycle network is an interconnected system of bike lanes, bike paths, bike routes, and cycle tracks. Providing bicycle infrastructure with markings and signage on appropriately sized roads with vehicle traffic traveling at safe speeds helps to improve biking conditions (e.g., safety and convenience). In addition, expanded bikeway networks can increase access to and from transit hubs, thereby expanding the "catchment area" of the transit stop or station and increasing ridership. This encourages a mode shift from vehicles to bicycles, displacing VMT and thus reducing GHG emissions. When expanding a bicycle network, a best practice is to consider bike lane width standards from local agencies, state agencies, or the National Association of City Transportation Officials' *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*.

Subsector

Neighborhood Design

Locational Context

Urban, suburban

Scale of Application

Plan/Community

Implementation Requirements

The bikeway network must consist of either Class I, II, or IV infrastructure.

Cost Considerations

Capital and infrastructure costs for expanding the bikeway network may be high. Construction of these facilities may also increase vehicle traffic, leading to more congestion and temporarily longer trip times for motorist. However, the local municipality may achieve cost savings through a reduction of cars on the road leading to lower infrastructure and roadway maintenance costs.

Expanded Mitigation Options

As networks expand, ensure safe, secure, and weather-protected bicycle parking facilities at origins and destinations. Also, implement alongside T-22-A, T-22-B, and/or T-22-C to ensure that micromobility options can ride safely along bicycle lane facilities and not have to ride along pedestrian infrastructure, which is a risk to pedestrian safety.

GHG Reduction Formula

$$A = -1 \times \frac{\left(\frac{C - B}{B}\right) \times D \times F \times H}{E \times G}$$

GHG Calculation Variables

ID	Variable	Value	Unit	Source
Output				
A	Percent reduction in GHG emissions from employee commute vehicle travel in plan/community	0–0.5	%	calculated
User Inputs				
B	Existing bikeway miles in plan/community	[ ]	miles	user input
C	Bikeway miles in plan/community with measure	[ ]	miles	user input
Constants, Assumptions, and Available Defaults				
D	Bicycle mode share in plan/community	Table T-20.1	%	FHWA 2017
E	Vehicle mode share in plan/community	Table T-3.1	%	FHWA 2017
F	Average one-way bicycle trip length in plan/community	Table T-10.1	miles per trip	FHWA 2017
G	Average one-way vehicle trip length in plan/community	Table T-10.1	miles per trip	FHWA 2017
H	Elasticity of bike commuters with respect to bikeway miles per 10,000 population	0.25	unitless	Pucher & Buehler 2011

Further explanation of key variables:

- (B) – The existing bikeway miles in a plan/community should be calculated by measuring the distance of all Class I, II, III, and IV bikeways within the plan/community. This information can sometimes be found in a city's bicycle master plan, if a plan has been prepared and is up to date.
- (D, E, F, and G) – Ideally, the user will calculate bicycle and auto mode share and trip length for a plan/community at the city scale. Potential data sources include the California Household Travel Survey (preferred) or local survey efforts. If the user is not able to provide a project-specific value using one of these data sources, they have the option to input the mode shares and trip lengths for bicycles and vehicles for one of the six most populated CBSAs in California, as presented in Table T-3.1, T-10.2, and T-20.1 in Appendix C. Trip lengths are likely to be longer for areas not covered by the listed CBSAs, which represent the denser areas of the state. Similarly, it is likely for areas outside of the area covered by the listed CBSAs to have vehicle mode shares higher and bicycle mode shares lower than the values provided in the tables.
- (H) – A multivariate analysis of the impacts of bike lanes on cycling levels in the 100 largest U.S. cities found that a 0.25 percent increase in commute cycling occurs for every 1 percent increase in bike lane distance (Pucher & Buehler 2011).

GHG Calculation Caps or Maximums

Measure Maximum

(A_{max}) For projects that use CBSA data from Tables T-3.1, T-10.2, and T-20.1 in Appendix C, the maximum percent reduction in GHG emissions (A) is 0.5 percent. This is based on a project within the CBSA of San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara that has no existing bike lane infrastructure. This maximum scenario is presented in the below example quantification.

($\frac{C-B}{B}_{max}$) The maximum percent increase in bike lane miles in the plan/community is conservatively capped at 1000 percent. If there is no existing bike lane infrastructure in the plan/community, (B) should be set to (1/11×C), resulting in a percentage change of 1000 percent.

Subsector Maximum

($\sum A_{max_{T\text{-}18\text{ through }T\text{-}22\text{-}C}} \leq 10\%$) This measure is in the Neighborhood Design subsector. This subcategory includes Measures T-18 through T-22-C. The VMT reduction from the combined implementation of all measures within this subsector is capped at 10 percent.

Example GHG Reduction Quantification

The user reduces employee commute VMT by increasing the length of a bicycle network within a plan/community, which displaces commute vehicle trips with bicycle trips. In this example, the existing bikeway length in the plan/community (B) is 0 miles and the length with the measure (C) is 11 miles. The project is within the San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara CBSA, yielding the following inputs from Tables T-3.1, T-10.2, and T-20.1 in Appendix C.

- Bicycle mode share (D) = 0.79 percent.
- Vehicle mode share (E) = 91.32 percent.
- Average one-way bicycle trip length (F) = 2.8 miles.
- Average one-way vehicle trip length (G) = 11.5 miles.

The user would displace GHG emissions from project study area employee commute VMT by 0.5 percent.

$$A = -1 \times \left(\frac{(1000\%) \times 0.79\% \times 2.8 \text{ miles} \times 0.25}{91.32\% \times 11.5 \text{ miles}}\right) = -0.5\%$$

Quantified Co-Benefits

Improved Local Air Quality

The percent reduction in GHG emissions (A) would be the same as the percent reduction in NO_X, CO, NO_2, SO_2, and PM. Reductions in ROG emissions can be calculated by multiplying the percent reduction in GHG emissions (A) by an adjustment factor of 87 percent. See *Adjusting VMT Reductions to Emission Reductions* above for further discussion.

Energy and Fuel Savings

The percent reduction in vehicle fuel consumption would be the same as the percent reduction in GHG emissions (A).

VMT Reductions

The percent reduction in employee commute VMT would be the same as the percent reduction in GHG emissions (A).

Improved Public Health

Users are directed to the ITHIM (CARB et al. 2020). The ITHIM can quantify the annual change in health outcomes associated with active transportation, including deaths, years of life lost, years of living with disability, and incidence of community and individual disease.

Sources

- California Air Resources Board (CARB), California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and Nicholas Linesch Legacy Fund. 2020. Integrated Transport and Health Impact Model. Available: https://skylab.cdph.ca.gov/HealthyMobilityOptionTool-ITHIM/#Home. Accessed: September 17, 2021.
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). 2017. *National Household Travel Survey – 2017 Table Designer*. Travel Day PMT by TRPTRANS by HH_CBSA. Available: https://nhts.ornl.gov/. Accessed: January 2021.
- Pucher, J., and Buehler, R. 2011. *Analysis of Bicycling Trends and Policies in Large North American Cities: Lessons for New York*. March. Available: http://www.utrc2.org/sites/default/files/pubs/analysis-bike-final_0.pdf. Accessed: January 2021.