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LOS ANGELES COUNTY BICYCLE COALITION RELEASES RESULTS OF 2013 LOS ANGELES BICYCLE COUNT

LOS ANGELES, Calif. –

The Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition (LACBC) kicked off Bike Week by releasing the results of its biennial Los Angeles Bicycle and Pedestrian Count, conducted in September 2013 in partnership with Los Angeles Walks. The report found that bicycle ridership has increased citywide by 7.5 percent since 2011. This growth was driven primarily by the addition of over 200 miles of new bikeways in those two years as a result of the City's 2010 Bicycle Plan. On streets that added bike facilities between counts, ridership more than doubled.

The report also found that:

- The busiest time for bicycling is the evening commute period, suggesting that most people are riding for transportation.
- People strongly prefer riding on dedicated facilities like bike paths and bike lanes over streets with no bicycle facilities.
- Fewer than 1 in 5 bicyclists is female, and female ridership is highest on bike paths and bike lanes, suggesting that the lack of safe and comfortable facilities is causing a gender disparity among bicyclists.
- Bike lanes improve bicyclist behavior, cutting sidewalk riding in half compared to streets without and reducing wrong-way riding as well.

This report shows that as ridership continues to grow in Los Angeles, not everyone feels safe riding without better bicycle facilities. Based on these findings, LACBC calls on the City of Los Angeles to invest in protected bikeways that appeal to people who otherwise don't feel comfortable riding in traffic, particularly women, children and the elderly.

"If we are a city that values safety, health and mobility for all Angelenos, then we must design our streets for students and seniors and all ages in between," said Jennifer Klausner, Executive Director of LACBC. "Children growing up in Los Angeles should be able to experience the joy and freedom of riding a bike around their neighborhood, no matter if they live in Pico Union or Pacoima." Building a network of protected bikeways and traffic-calmed neighborhood streets will enable people of all ages and abilities to benefit from safe, healthy and affordable transportation.



The report comes at a time when the City is focusing on setting performance metrics to determine budget priorities. "My "Back to Basics" agenda relies on using robust data to improve performance," said Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who also sits on the Metro Board of Directors. "LACBC's bike and pedestrian count provides critical information to help prioritize projects and allocate resources. Robust and safe infrastructure for bicycling and walking contributes to my vision of a more livable, sustainable, and safe city filled with Great Streets and transportation options for all Angelenos."

The city's first protected bikeway on Figueroa Street connecting South Los Angeles to Downtown through the Ninth District will break ground early next year. Councilmember Curren Price, who represents the area, said, "I'd like to thank the LA County Bicycle Coalition for putting together an informative and useful tool that helps us better understand the community's needs as we continue to work on making all parts of our city more bike and pedestrian friendly. We know that reducing our reliance on vehicles will help us with climate change as well as with traffic concerns and I look forward to LACBC's input on this important topic."

Councilmember José Huizar, representing Northeast and Downtown Los Angeles has been a long-time advocate for improving the quality of bicycle facilities in his district, including the city's first green lanes on Spring Street downtown and on 1st Street in Boyle Heights. "I want to thank the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition and Los Angeles Walks for their significant effort in amassing this report," said Councilmember Huizar. "As a huge supporter of the complete streets model to urban planning, I'm particularly pleased to see the increase in bicycle use along York Boulevard, where we are helping transform that street into a vibrant boulevard with increased pedestrian and bicycle use by adding a bicycle lane, the City's first parklet and bike corral and soon a new pocket park through our York Vision Plan. As we get ready for Bike Week LA, this report reminds us that increased bicycle use is good for all of us – it encourages a healthier lifestyle and improves the environment, while supporting local businesses and community building."

Creating complete streets that serve pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users, as well as drivers, will require greater investments in walking and biking. Even though walking and biking comprise 19% of all trips in Los Angeles County, the county's transportation agency currently spends less than one percent of its funding on walking and biking combined. "Los Angeles County has an opportunity to change its transportation investments to match how Angelenos already get around and prepare the region for a more multimodal future," said Jessica Meaney, Southern California Policy Director for the Safe Routes to School National Partnership. "This report adds to the long list of studies showing that walking, bicycling and safe routes to school are cost-effective investments that improve mobility for all county residents. Now that we know that these investments work here in LA, it's time to move the needle on funding to match the enthusiasm for events like Bike Week."

"LA is entering the era of big data, where numbers and results will determine how we plan for the future of our neighborhoods," said Councilmember and Metro Director Mike Bonin. "We are poised to turn a corner and ensure that our mission is mobility for all - not just motorists. The findings of the 2013 Bike and Ped Count has given us the data we need to continue advocating for the infrastructure that will allow people to safely navigate LA on bike and foot."



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Founded in 1998, The Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition is a membership-based, volunteer-driven nonprofit organization that works to make all communities in Los Angeles County into healthy, safe and fun places to ride a bike. Through advocacy, education and outreach, LACBC brings together the diverse bicycling community in a united mission to improve the bicycling environment and quality of life for the entire region. Since 2009, LACBC has been the primary organization conducting regular bicycle and pedestrian counts throughout the City and County of Los Angeles.

For more information and to download a copy of the report, go to www.la-bike.org/bikecountreport.

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