

ACTIVE ALLEGHENY

ActiveAllegheny is the County's first comprehensive active transportation plan with sustainable travel choices for destinations. The plan is a blueprint for improved access and choices to connect people to communities, work sites, transit, schools, attractions and residences. The plan integrates non-vehicular modes of transportation, specifically walking and biking, into our transportation system to increase "livability". Benefits and rewards of active transportation range from: cost savings; low-cost exercise opportunities with healthier lifestyles; a more vibrant, safe community with neighbors-out-on-the-street and potential for revitalized local business districts; reductions in congestion, air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions and increases in neighborhood desirability and value.

The plan identifies major arterial bicycle corridors/routes, to facilitate actions by diverse groups to connect from individual neighborhoods to a main network system. Many areas where pedestrian accommodation is desired are identified. The plan is a design resource manual for active transportation initiatives.

ActiveAllegheny focuses on connectivity, access and mobility through five specialized plan components. Each element discusses potential opportunities, details recommended system improvements, and proposes policies, models and programs for governments other agencies and interest groups. Policy and programmatic recommendations, funding sources and strategies and public education and marketing efforts are included in the Plan.

- **Bike Allegheny** - Dedicated commuter bikeway connections to activity centers and other transport modes;
- **Walk & Roll Allegheny** - Improved walking routes for connectivity and mobility; including ADA access;
- **Other Active Transportation** - Improves access for alternative modes, such as kayaks and skateboards;
- **Complete the Street** - Three "Complete Streets" prototypes demonstrating accommodation for all modes;
- **Action for Active Transportation** - The action plan with costs for implementation by various entities.

It will require actions by many agencies and stakeholders to achieve a more walkable and bikeable transportation system in Allegheny County. The basic biking and walking facilities usage can be enhanced by the addition of related amenities, and those are detailed in the plan. Our topography is famously challenging; so creativity will be key to implementation.

ActiveAllegheny:

- Outlines investments toward sustainable improvements for short/long-term community benefits;
- Identifies projects, potential funding sources and strategies to promote active transportation.
- Is distributed to Allegheny County's 130 municipalities and other key agencies and stakeholders.
- Serves as a planning and design resource manual for active transportation efforts through the Bicycle Facilities Toolbox, Pedestrian Facilities Toolbox, the guide for development of a comprehensive circulation plan for local municipalities, to advance Complete Streets. A "Complete Streets" model ordinance for use by local municipalities.

ActiveAllegheny plan development:

The planning project team:

- Prepared a facilities inventory to establish baseline conditions for active transportation in the County
- Conducted site visits to confirm the presence and condition of bicycle and pedestrian facilities in identified focus areas and major commuter corridors.

- Gathered information and input from the public and stakeholders: Including Plan Core and Advisory Committees, an **ActiveAllegheny** website and facebook page, an online survey, several open houses and attendance at events and specialty meetings.
- Following data collection and analysis; focus areas and existing facilities were mapped to assist with identification of connectivity to the larger transportation network. This included bicycle-compatible roadways and desired pedestrian facilities connections with residences, employment, shopping and education facilities.
- Connectivity to recreation facilities such as parks, greenways and trails are included in the “beltway bicycle route”. Additionally, many trails in the County do serve as bicycle and pedestrian connections to desired destinations; those connections are included in the plan.
- The plan has specialized “Kids” recommendations throughout.
- A key plan product is the identification of major arterial bicycle corridors/routes, for the North, East, South and West sections of the County. These delineated routes facilitate the ability of diverse groups to plan for and make connections, or partial connections, from individual neighborhoods to a main network system.
- The County’s abundant “public steps” network is highlighted as part of our connectivity.

Plan results and recommendations are based on guidelines from PennDOT and the American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials (ASHTO).

Allegheny County developed this plan in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT). Funding was provided through a competitive PA Communities Transportation Initiative (PCTI) grant of \$300,000. The plan was completed in December 2010.

ActiveAllegheny is an implementation activity of **AlleghenyPlaces**; it facilitates and increases “place-making” activities.

County Executive Dan Onorato on Active Allegheny: “This Plan shows how we can integrate walking, biking, and other active, healthy travel modes into our existing transportation system. Planning and prioritizing investments in commuter bike routes and walking facilities will enhance our transportation network and provide sustainable travel choices to move people to-and-from their destinations. **The ActiveAllegheny plan is a blueprint for improved access and choices to connect people to communities, work sites, transit, schools, attractions and residences.**” Dan, “hopes you read and enjoy the plan and become inspired by the possibilities. By working together we can provide active transportation infrastructure to increase connectivity, sustainability and an enhanced quality of life for County residents.”

The plan is available online: www.activeallegheny.com

Or, by a link on the Allegheny County website homepage.

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At the Airport Corridor Transportation Association (ACTA) Annual Meeting, on Wednesday, February 9, 2011, the *Exemplary Achievement in Planning Award* was presented to Allegheny County Economic Development for **ActiveAllegheny**.

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02.15.11