



Detroit Bikes! To Work Day - Michigan 05.14.2007  
 Detroit Bikes! To Work Day - Woodward 05.18.2007  
 National Bike to Work Week May 2007

## FACTS ABOUT BICYCLING AS A COMMUTE OPTION<sup>1</sup>

- **More than half of all American's live less than five miles from where they work according to *Bicycling magazine*.**
- Only 1.67% of Americans commute by bicycle.
- In Japan, 15% commute by bicycle
- **About 12 bicycles can be parked in the space required for one automobile.**
- Traffic jams in the 29 major cities cost commuters an estimated \$24.3 billion each year.
- There are approximately 139 million automobiles in the United States.
- The number of bicycles in the U.S. is estimated to be about 103 million.
- One hundred bicycles can be produced for the same energy and resources it takes to build one medium-sized automobile.
- **The average cost of a new car in the U.S. is \$13,532.**
- **The average cost of a new bicycle in the U.S. is \$385.**
- The average number of barrels of oil consumed daily in the United States is 17 million.
- Driving consumes 43% of those barrels of oil.
- **Industrial world cities typically use at least one third of their land for roads and parking lots for motor vehicles.**
- Commuting by bicycle produces zero pollution.
  - **On average, the commute to work accounts for only one out of five auto trips taken by drivers each day.**
    - Trips per day by purpose break down this way:
      - Home to work = 1.27 trips per day
      - Shopping = .98 trips per day
      - Other personal business = 1.17 trips per day
      - Social and recreational = .99 trips per day
    - Average miles per trip by purpose
      - Home to work = 11.0 miles per trip
      - Shopping = 5.1 miles per trip
      - Other personal business = 7.4 miles per trip
      - Social and recreational = 11.8 miles per trip
- For a comparison on true cost savings, consider that you can drive your car to the grocery store and spend 35 cents for a bar of soap, adding 7 cents for the gas, or you can ride your bike to the corner convenience store and pay 41 cents, actually saving a penny and getting some exercise at the same time.
- The number of bicycle commuters doubled between 1983 and 1990, according to the Bicycle Institute of America.
- In China, bicycles outnumber cars 250 to 1.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.transcoalition.org/ia/bikework/sup/BikeCommutingFactSheet.pdf>

