






# Active Transportation



## What is active transportation?

Walking, biking, rolling to get where you need to go. The vision we are exploring for the next Comprehensive Plan update is for active transportation to utilize trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes to allow people of all ages and abilities to reach their destinations and connect to transit. The location, placement, and design of our transportation network should allow all travel modes to navigate safely from place to place, contributing to a healthier population and cleaner environment. Pierce County seeks to prioritize and implement projects that align with other County programs and support existing and planned land uses. Transportation policies, projects, and programs should address health and safety disparities, so that race, income, age, and ability are not predictors of active transportation safety and access in our community.

## Active Transportation Modes:

-  Bicycles/Unicycles/E-Bikes
-  Walking
-  Scooters/E-Scooters
-  Skateboards/Longboards
-  Mobility Assist Devices

## What are we trying to do?

Develop an interconnected county-wide system of active transportation facilities that provide travel options, are safe and comfortable for people of all ages and abilities, connect to local and regional destinations, promote physical activity and well-being, and contribute to a healthier population and cleaner environment.

## How are we going to do this work?

There are five individual goals that are key to our active transportation strategy:

### GOAL #1

Develop an interconnected countywide system of active transportation facilities, including trails, that are comfortable for everyone.

### GOAL #2

Promote social equity in the planning and implementation of active transportation projects, focusing on historically underserved communities.

### GOAL #3

Build active transportation infrastructure that supports existing and planned land uses.

### GOAL #4

Construct pedestrian facilities that provide safe walking routes to schools.

### GOAL #5

Provide active transportation infrastructure that supports transit service.

## Potential Active Transportation projects are being evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Continuous corridors
- Longer distance traveled
- Proximity to schools, transit, parks
- Access to community destinations
- Social equity
- Interconnected systems
- Safety for bikes and pedestrians
- Parallel high-traffic routes

The Plan includes policy and project recommendations for the unincorporated area of the County, and connections to municipal, state, and regional active transportation planning efforts.

The Plan elevates the importance of active transportation modes and creates a strategy to prioritize development of facilities for these modes.

### Federal, State, & Regional Policy Guidance

- Surface Transportation Act
- Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21)
- Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Move Ahead Washington
- Washington State Growth Management Act
- Regional Transportation Plan and Growth Strategy

## Levels of Service (Level of Stress)



Safe and comfortable for all ages and abilities including children



Tolerable in small segments for people of all ages and abilities



Tolerable for confident bicyclists and pedestrians



Difficult and uncomfortable for most bicyclists and pedestrians

### Design features that support Active Transportation:

- Sidewalks
- Painted bicycle lanes
- Buffered bicycle lanes
- Separated bicycle lanes
- Separated trails
- Bollards
- Curb extensions
- Pedestrian refuge islands

## Mode Share

The current percentage of trips made by active transportation modes in the county is very low. United States Census Bureau data shows that only 2% of workers who live in Pierce County, including in cities, walk to work and 3.7% use public transportation in their commute. An even smaller percentage bicycle or use other active transportation modes.

Providing more trails, sidewalks, and bicycle facilities that connect to workplaces, popular destinations, and transit facilities should result in increased percentages of active transportation trips.



**We want to hear from you! Active transportation is for everyone.**

Share your comments and stay connected online at [PierceCountyWa.gov/ActiveTransportation](https://PierceCountyWa.gov/ActiveTransportation)