Pedestrian and Bicycle Projects in Minnesota

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Without question, Minnesotans are walking and biking more, and cities and towns throughout the state are responding by planning for and designing the infrastructure to make those activities safer and more convenient. But just where is this increase taking place? Which communities have implemented pedestrian infrastructure projects? And, what funding barriers exist to the completion and implementation of those projects?

Those questions have been unanswerable because information for pedestrian and bicycle projects in Minnesota is scattered and has never been compiled into any sort of a manageable database. That is until now. This research was completed to develop a comprehensive (though not exhaustive) statewide map for tracking funded and unfunded pedestrian and bicycle projects in Minnesota.

As the map illustrates, there is significant, statewide interest and demand for pedestrian infrastructure projects in Minnesota. However, lacking any substantial, dedicated state resources for these projects, the enormous funding gap continues to grow and communities throughout the state are left with the desire and interest in improving the safety and convenience of walking and bicycling but not the resources to make these projects a reality.

The pedestrian and bicycle project funding data was compiled into legislative districts to illustrate the statewide variability in funding awards and infrastructure needs. By illustrating both funded and unfunded pedestrian and bicycle projects in Minnesota, this map is a useful, ongoing tool to help track statewide and community-based trends related to pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and for understanding the ongoing funding challenges that many communities and districts in the state face in their efforts to meet growing public demand for safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.