

Why cycle tracks in the Centre City?

Currently, there are limited opportunities to expand the existing vehicle capacities entering and leaving the downtown. Enhancing other travel options, such as bicycling is necessary.

In addition to addressing existing and projected travel demands, communities worldwide report benefits related to increases in bicycling after associated infrastructure and support systems have been developed. These benefits include:

- Attracting and retaining employees
- Supporting a dense urban downtown and transit use
- Reducing vehicle-miles travelled
- Saving money on gas and infrastructure
- Attracting businesses and customers
- Improving individuals' finances, health, and social well-being
- Lowering obesity-related health care costs.

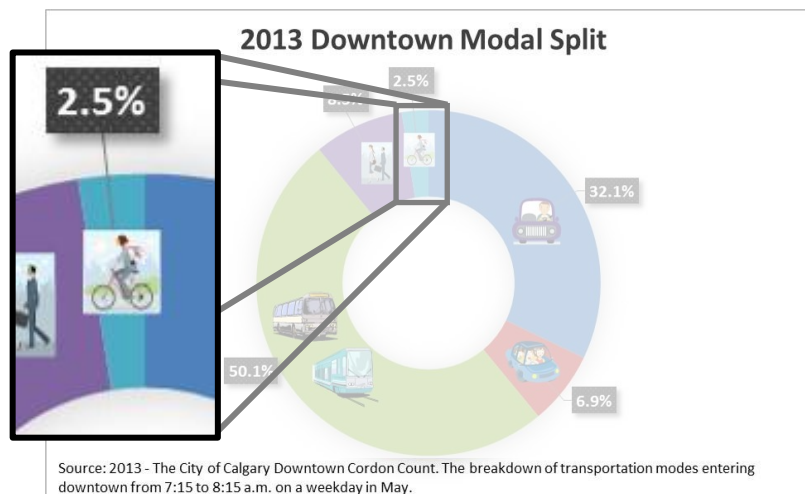


Private corporations are responding to their employees by designing and retrofitting downtown buildings to make bicycling more appealing. To accommodate this demand, employers are constructing secured and sheltered bicycle parking with shower and change facilities within their buildings.

What's the demand for cycling?

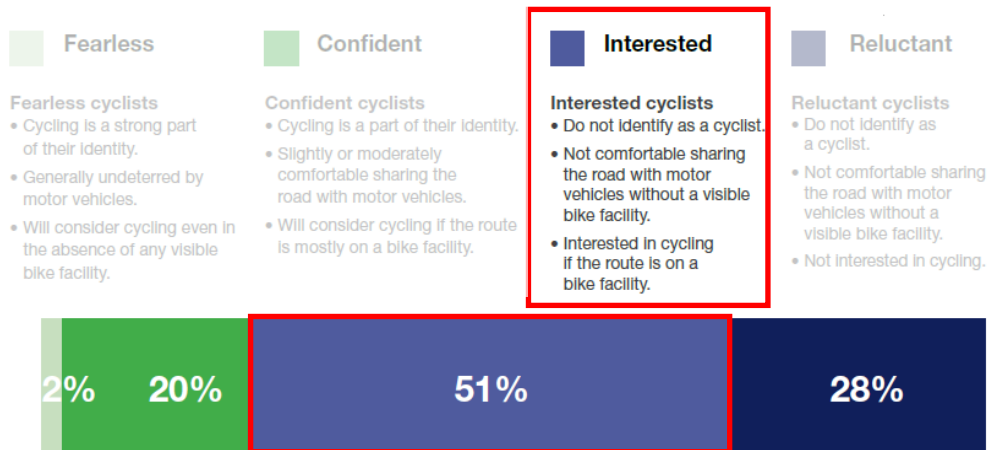
In 2012, 12,000 daily bicycling trips were measured into and out of the Centre City, which is an increase of 35% since 2006.

However, a lack of perceived safety contributes to the fact that only a 2.5% of trips into the downtown are by bike.



Why Cycle Tracks in the Centre City?

As measured in the Cycling Strategy (2011), people riding bicycles have varying levels of comfort when interacting with traffic. As such, facilities for the Centre City must focus on serving the majority of people who are interested in cycling, but uncomfortable interacting with traffic. By providing infrastructure that is accessible to this population of Calgarians, bicycling will be a viable travel choice and an increase in the number of people riding bicycles is expected.



Categories of Calgary cyclists. Source: The City of Calgary Cycling Strategy Research Public Telephone Survey 2011

Why cycle tracks?

The City is responding to the demand for bicycling by identifying an east-west/north-south cycle track network. This network will provide access for people riding bicycles to within one or two blocks of many Centre City destinations. By using 3% of the roadway infrastructure in the Centre City at a relatively small capital cost (approximately half the cost of an interchange), a comprehensive cycle track network could be built. This cycle track network would increase the actual and perceived safety for the majority of people riding bicycles in the Centre City for a variety of trip purposes.

The construction of cycle tracks has benefits for the city and its residents:

- Separated facilities increase cycling more than bike lanes or shared routes
- Cyclists feel safer and more comfortable on cycle tracks
- Cycle tracks can reduce collisions and injuries for both bicyclists and pedestrians
- Cycle tracks provide direct connections to downtown, enhancing urban space and promoting density
- Cycle Tracks allow two-way bike traffic on one-way roads.

87%
of respondents
would bike more if a
cycle track network
were in place

Source: 750 summer 2013 feedback forms