

Planning, Policy  
and  
Programmg

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Project Title:  
Bicycling as a Solution to Yosemite  
Traffic

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Task Manager:  
Stuart Mori  
Associate Transportation Planner  
stuart.mori@dot.ca.gov

## Bicycling as a Solution to Yosemite Traffic

Assessing the role of bicycling in the Yosemite Valley transportation system.

### WHAT IS THE NEED?

Yosemite National Park attracts 4.5 million visitors a year, 60% of whom spend at least some time in the Yosemite Valley where many of the park's natural wonders are found. In summer months, visitors jam the valley's roads and parking lots, detracting from the quality of the park experience and contributing to significant environmental impacts.

Bicycles have been a popular alternative to cars within the valley. These bicycles include bicycles visitors bring with them and bicycles rented to visitors by the day by a private concession. Twelve-mile bike paths make bicycling a popular recreational activity, but they also encourage bicycling as a way to get from one site to another. To bolster the use of bicycles, the Yosemite Conservancy implemented a small bike-share system in 2018. This system, free to users, is intended to enable visitors to run errands such as grocery shopping without having to get into their cars.

The Yosemite Conservancy operates the system with 30 bikes from June to October. Previously collected data revealed important aspects of how the system has been used. Further analysis of system data could yield more insights could provide a basis for system improvements in the future. This study is the first step towards a larger project to assess the role of bicycling in the Yosemite Valley transportation system.



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## WHAT ARE WE DOING?

The researchers will analyze existing data, including data from previous surveys of bike-share users and park visitors, as well as Streetlight data on movements within the valley. They will also develop one or more survey instruments designed to gather data on bicycling in the valley, including private, rented, and bike-share bikes and the people who use them.

## WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

The purpose of this project is to explore the potential for bicycling to play a larger role in the effort to manage Yosemite Valley traffic and reduce environmental impacts. The researchers will develop one or more survey instruments designed to gather data about bicycle use in Yosemite Valley.

## WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

The research is of interest to Caltrans and the state because it addresses a challenging transportation issue in one of the preeminent tourist destinations. Lessons learned from this study in Yosemite might be of value in other recreational areas of the state to address congestion issues, reduce vehicle travel and greenhouse gas emissions.

## WHAT IS THE PROGRESS TO DATE?

A kick-off meeting was conducted in October 18, 2021.

Completed initial analysis of Streetlight data for Yosemite Valley.

Completed draft survey and submitted survey for review and approval by the National Park Service.

Completed Streetlight analysis. Met with Project Advisory team

Currently waiting for approval of survey.

Next step is to complete the final report.

## IMAGE



Figure 1: Yosemite Bike-Share