EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Evaluating the ECONOMIC IMPACT of SHARED USE PATHS in North Carolina
MARCH 2018

Shared use paths, also known as GREENWAYS, provide a shared space for bicycle and pedestrian travel outside of the roadway. This project’s objective was to design and test an approach for measuring the economic contributions of greenways in North Carolina.

The four greenways featured in this study, with estimated annual trips and study years:

- AMERICAN TOBACCO TRAIL
  - 481K Annual Trips
  - 2015, 2016, & 2017

- LITTLE SUGAR CREEK GREENWAY
  - 383K Annual Trips
  - 2016

- DUCK TRAIL
  - 146K Annual Trips
  - 2016

- BREVARD GREENWAY
  - 76K Annual Trips
  - 2015, 2016, & 2017

COMBINED STUDY RESULTS
A one-time $26.7M capital investment in the four greenways supports:

- $19.4M
  - Estimated annual sales revenue at local businesses along the four greenways

- $684K
  - Estimated annual local and state sales tax revenue from businesses along the greenways

- $25.7M
  - Estimated annual savings due to more physical activity, less pollution and congestion, and fewer traffic injuries from use of the greenways

- $48.7M
  - Estimated business revenue from greenway construction

- 790 JOBS
  - Are supported annually through greenway construction

RETURN ON INVESTMENT: Every $1.00 of trail construction supports $1.72 annually from local business revenue, sales tax revenue, and benefits related to health and transportation.

By: The Institute for Transportation Research and Education and Alta Planning + Design
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FULL REPORT: go.ncsu.edu/sharedusepaths