

## **I. Introduction**

Transportation is essential to achieving a desirable quality of life. The ability of San Antonio and Bexar County citizens to get to work, schools, medical facilities, stores or recreational facilities safely, efficiently and conveniently is crucial to our community's economic, social and environmental health. A viable transportation system provides a number of travel choices, including the ability to travel by bicycle. Whether for business, education, commerce or pleasure, a safe and comprehensive bicycle network is an essential element of every world-class transportation system.

Throughout the development of the San Antonio – Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) update to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), as well as in other activities undertaken over the past ten years, the citizenry continued to express the desire to have a comprehensive bicycle network.

The City of San Antonio's Master Plan policies, which were approved in 1997, clearly communicate this desire of many citizens that a comprehensive bicycle network of on-road bicycle facilities and off-road hike and bike trails be added to existing infrastructure as well as to new developments.

This Regional Bicycle Master Plan is scheduled to be adopted as part of the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan and is designed to serve as a guide as to where bicycle facilities should be implemented. This Plan fulfills a portion of the City of San Antonio's Master Plan and will assist local agencies in identifying what projects should include bicycle facilities when those projects are funded. In addition, this Plan should be overlaid with roadway maintenance programs to help create the bicycle network.

Therefore, the Regional Bicycle Master Plan is designed to be a guideline for the implementation of bicycle facilities throughout the City of San Antonio and Bexar County. As projects are designed and funding becomes available, bicycle facilities need to be considered and implemented. However, the intent of the Plan is not to demolish existing infrastructure in order to provide bicycle facilities but to retrofit as opportunities present themselves and through new development, expand the bicycle network through creating connectivity to and between new destinations of interest. The construction of a countywide bicycle network will result from careful planning and project integration.

This Regional Bicycle Master Plan, as part of the City's Master Plan, and in combination with the City of San Antonio's Unified Development Code (UDC) provides the structure, policy, programs and development guidance necessary to make the bicycle goals outlined in the City of San Antonio Master Plan a reality.