

**May 18, 2012**

**TO: Judie Zimomra, City Manager**

**FROM: Kimberly Greenplate, City Administrative Intern**

**RE: Shared Use Path Survey Results**

---

### **Background**

The City of Sanibel created the 2009 Shared Use Path Master Plan to continue to provide residents and visitors with a variety of human-powered transportation/recreation options. The Master Plan prioritizes the safety of the Shared Use Path and its users. In both 2006 and 2012, a survey was conducted to assess the bicycle and pedestrian traffic at notable intersections along the Shared Use Path. For consistency both surveys were conducted on a Thursday afternoon (12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.) and a Saturday morning (8 a.m. to 12 p.m.) in late April. The times and dates of the surveys were selected to represent typical rather than peak or low volume. However, the 2006 survey contained a questionnaire for those utilizing the Shared Use Path to fill out. This questionnaire resulted in information such as conveyance origin, purpose of trip and permanent residence.

Below are the comparisons between the 2006 and the 2012 Shared Use Path Surveys, including percentage differences. Only the comparable categories are included. A margin of error must be taken into account, as the human eye was responsible for conducting the surveys. The 2012 Survey contained one additional intersection at Dunlop/Library. This intersection was added to reflect the 2010 Path extension. The addition of this path had marginal impact on total volume of path users. Also, small differences were noted on the 2006 Survey between the total number and addition of the numbers for individual intersections.

## **I. Bicycle Totals at Individual Intersections**

<b>Intersections:</b>	<b>San-Cap/ Rabbit Road</b>	<b>San-Cap/ Tarpon Bay</b>	<b>West Gulf/ Tarpon Bay</b>	<b>Periwinkle/ Casa Ybel</b>	<b>Middle Gulf/ Donax</b>	<b>Periwinkle/ East Gulf</b>
<b>2006 Survey</b>	357	400	594	719	390	519
<b>2012 Survey</b>	616	509	886	806	754	935
<b>Difference</b>	+259	+109	+292	+87	+364	+416
<b>Percentage Increase or Decrease</b>	 72.5%	 27.25%	 49.2%	 12.1%	 93.3%	 80.2%

## **II. Bicycles Totals Overall**

	<b>Overall</b>
<b>2006 Survey</b>	2,979
<b>2012 Survey</b>	4,650
<b>Difference</b>	+1,671
<b>Percentage Increase or Decrease</b>	 56.1%

### III. Pedestrian Totals at Individual Intersections

<b>Intersections:</b>	<b>San-Cap/ Rabbit Road</b>	<b>San-Cap/ Tarpon Bay</b>	<b>West Gulf/ Tarpon Bay</b>	<b>Periwinkle/ Casa Ybel</b>	<b>Middle Gulf/ Donax</b>	<b>Periwinkle/ East Gulf</b>
<b>2006 Survey</b>	8	14	485	33	107	8
<b>2012 Survey</b>	28	10	818	115	175	195
<b>Difference</b>	+20	-4	+333	+82	+68	+187
<b>Percentage Increase or Decrease</b>	 250%	 28.6%	 68.7%	 248.5%	 63.6%	 2337.5%

Note: Pedestrians include both walkers and runners/joggers for both surveys.

### IV. Pedestrian Totals Overall

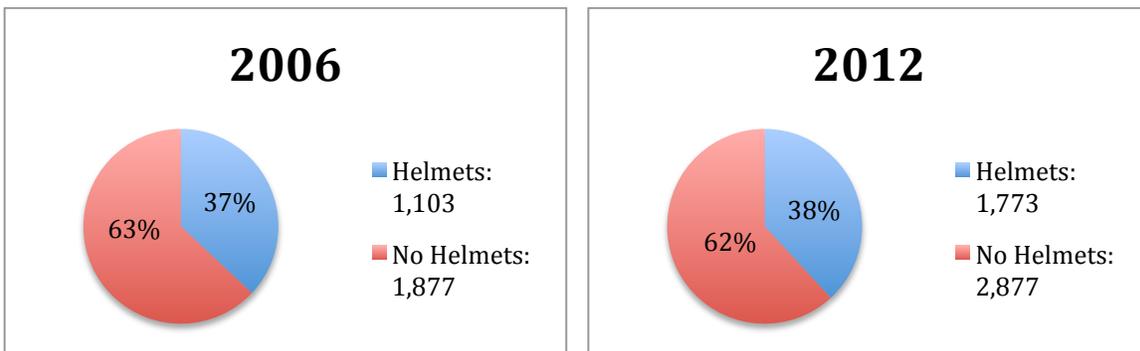
	<b>Overall</b>
<b>2006 Survey</b>	771
<b>2012 Survey</b>	1,361
<b>Difference</b>	+590
<b>Percentage Increase or Decrease</b>	 76.5%

Note: Pedestrians include both walkers and runners/joggers for both surveys.

## V. Bikes on Road

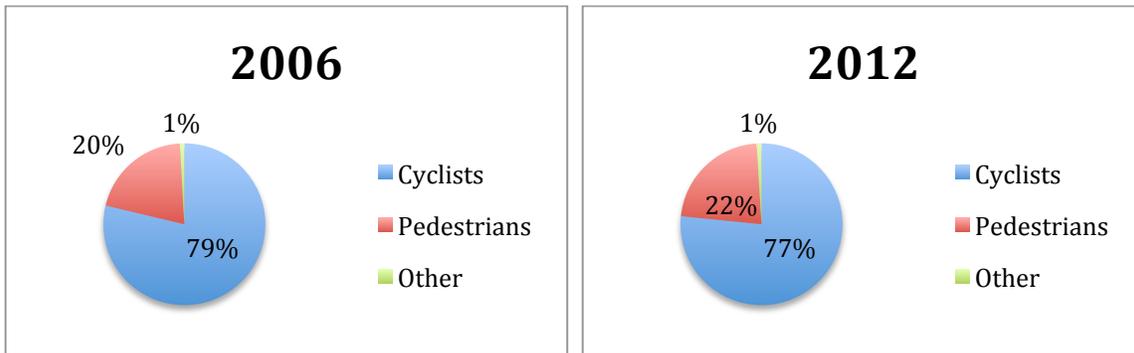
Intersections:	San-Cap/ Rabbit Road	San-Cap/ Tarpon Bay	West Gulf/ Tarpon Bay	Periwinkle/ Casa Ybel	Middle Gulf/ Donax	Periwinkle/ East Gulf
2006 Survey	9	6	13	0	18	22
2012 Survey	7	0	23	1	30	16
Difference	-2	-6	+10	+1	+12	-6
Percentage Increase or Decrease	↓ 22.2%	↓ 100%	↑ 76.9%	--- Flat	↑ 66.6%	↓ 27.27%

## VI. Bicycles Helmet Use Overall Totals



Note: Florida statute 316.2065: Bicycle Regulations (D) states that a bicycle rider or passenger who is under 16 years of age must wear a bicycle helmet that is properly fitted and is fastened securely upon the passenger's head. Above charts are for all riders, including those above 16 years of age.

## VII. Overall Shared Use Path Users



Note: Other includes skaters and surreys.

## VIII. Bicycle Rental Totals

	Overall
<b>2006 Survey</b>	1,215
<b>2012 Survey</b>	1,811
<b>Difference</b>	+596
<b>Percentage Increase or Decrease</b>	 49.1%

Note: Rentals include bicycles with attached signs of rental facility name, clearly marking it as a rental. The category does not include bicycles rented without a sign or borrowed from another.

## Conclusions

- **Bicycle usage at each of the six intersections increased** between 2006 and 2012
- **Pedestrian usage of the Shared Use Path also increased overall** between 2006 and 2012

- **Over 4,500 bicyclists utilized the Shared Use Path in 2012** within the surveys' sample time of four hours on a Thursday afternoon and four hours on a Saturday morning
- **Over 50 percent increase in the overall bicycle traffic** between 2006 and 2012 within the surveys' sample time of four hours on a Thursday afternoon and four hours on a Saturday morning
- **Greatest bicyclist increases** at the intersections of San-Cap/Rabbit Road, West Gulf/Tarpon Bay, Middle Gulf/Donax and Periwinkle/East Gulf
- **All intersections had a more than 80-bicyclist increase** between 2006 and 2012 within the surveys' sample time of four hours on a Thursday afternoon and four hours on a Saturday morning
- **Largest percentage of bicycle increase** from 2006 to 2012 was at the intersection of **Middle Gulf/Donax**, with an **over 93 percent change**
- **Periwinkle/East Gulf** in 2012 saw the **greatest increase in bicyclists**, counting **416 more** than in 2006
- **Overall percentage of increase for pedestrians was much greater at each intersection than the overall percentage of increase for bicyclists**
- **San-Cap/Rabbit, Periwinkle/Casas Ybel and Periwinkle/East Gulf had pedestrian percentage increases of over 100 percent**
- **600 more pedestrians** between the 2006 survey and the 2012 survey within the surveys' sample time of four hours on a Thursday afternoon and four hours on a Saturday morning. This shows that engaging in recreation on Sanibel is **increasing beyond bicycle or conveyance use**, including self-owned and rentals.
- **Pedestrian percentage of increase was over 75 percent** between 2006 and 2012. This shows that more residents and visitors on Sanibel are using the Shared Use Path, regardless of purpose or destination of trip.
- **Pedestrian use of the Shared Use Path increased to 22 percent of all users in 2012 from 20 percent of all users in 2006.** Cyclists decreased to 77 percent in 2012 from 79 percent in 2006 in terms of overall use.
- **Skaters and surrey users remained at 1 percent of all Shared Use Path users for both 2006 and 2012**
- **Bicycles using the road increased** in 2012 at the intersections of West Gulf/Tarpon Bay, Periwinkle/Casa Ybel and Middle Gulf/Donax

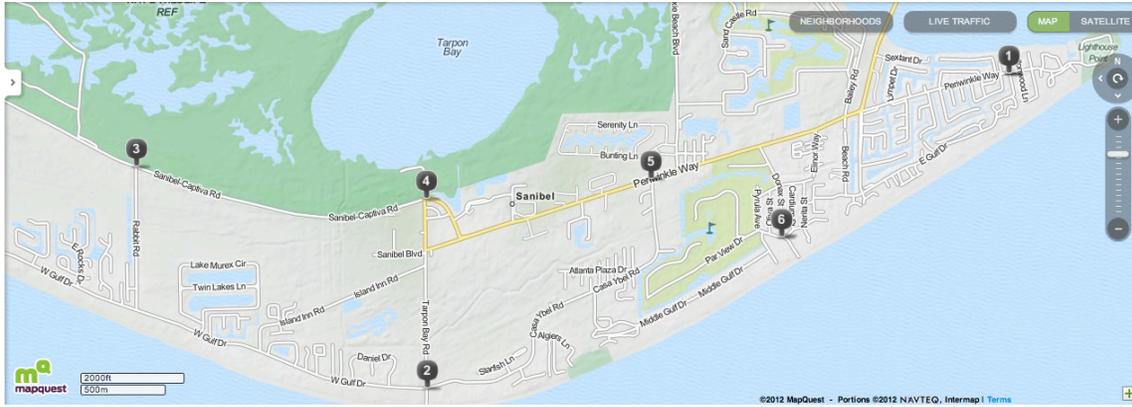
- Intersections of San-Cap/Rabbit Road, San-Cap/Tarpon Bay and Periwinkle/East Gulf saw a **decrease in bicycles using the road**
- **Percentage of helmet use between 2006 and 2012 remained flat. Helmet usage was 37 percent in 2006 and 38 percent in 2012.** About 2/3 of bicyclists are using helmets and 1/3 are not. Bicycle riders or passengers over age 16 are not required by law to wear a helmet. However, age was not part of the surveys.
- **Rental totals increased nearly 50 percent** and by almost 600 people between 2006 and 2012. Rental bicycles only include those with plaques from the rental facility, clearly marking the ownership. It is unknown if any of the other bicycles counted in the overall totals were unmarked or rented from resorts. Thus, results about rental bikes from the surveys pertain to only those rented from certain facilities on Sanibel that use plaques for identification, and the results cannot be considered accurate for all bike rentals on Sanibel.
- **Approximately 62 percent of bikes or conveyances were identified as self-owned in the 2006 survey questionnaire**, while the remaining percent were rented or provided by a rental property. Rental bikes totaled 1,811 in the 2012 survey, but it was not indicated if this was included in the overall bicycle total or a separate count.

### The Next Steps

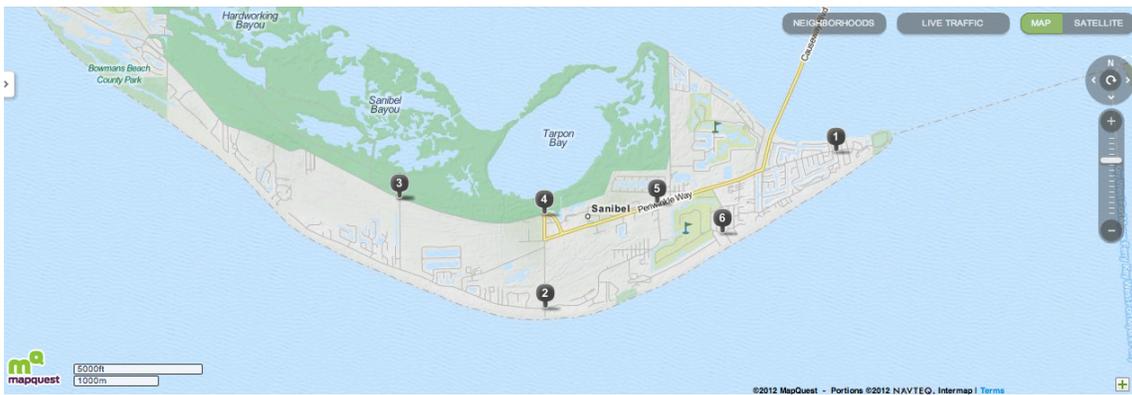
- The effects of the increased utilization of the Shared Use Path system should continue to be monitored.
- Accident history and future collisions/incidents should continue to be monitored and analyzed. If the City pursues additional safety education on helmet usage, an interceptor study on the reasons why cyclists are not using helmets may be helpful.
- The design of a helmet education program should also be considered after the results from an interceptor survey that discovers reasons for helmet use/lack of helmet use is conducted.

## Maps of Intersections

### Zoomed In



### Zoomed Out



### Key

- 1) Periwinkle Way/East Gulf Drive
- 2) West Gulf Drive/Tarpon Bay Road
- 3) San-Cap Road/Rabbit Road
- 4) San-Cap Road/Tarpon Bay Road
- 5) Periwinkle/Casa Ybel
- 6) Middle Gulf Drive/Donax Street