

# Executive Summary

The use of the bicycle in New York City has been rising steadily during the last decade. More and more New Yorkers are embracing the bicycle as a liberating, healthy, inexpensive, environmentally beneficial and, in general, fun way to travel. Despite its reputation for insufferable congestion, New York City is in many ways ideal for cycling, offering dense land use (ideal for short trips), relatively flat topography, a spectacular, expansive waterfront, and an extensive, linear park system.

The objective of the *New York City Bicycle Master Plan* is to encourage cycling as a mode of transportation. The goals of the *Plan* are as follows:

- Implement and maintain the city's bicycle network and greenway system
- Improve cycling safety
- Provide bicycle parking and support facilities
- Improve bicycle access on bridges and mass transit facilities
- Institutionalize cycling in public agencies and private organizations

Consistent with these goals, the *Plan* identifies a 909 mile, city-wide bicycle network and proposes design guidelines to assist in the implementation of the network. The network maps are enclosed in the back of the report. The *Plan* also reports on the New York City Greenway, a multi-agency initiative to develop bicycle routes connecting the city's parkland, and recommends improved bicycle access to bridges and mass transit. Finally, the *Plan* proposes a Comprehensive Bicycle Program, documenting existing and proposing new multi-agency initiatives in the areas

of bicycle encouragement, engineering, enforcement and education.

Implementation of the *Plan* could have a profoundly positive impact on New York City, enhancing New Yorkers transportation and recreation options, improving the city's air quality, alleviating the city's notorious noise pollution and congestion and, in general, transforming New York City into a more welcoming, enjoyable place in which to live and visit.



*Eastern Parkway multi-use path.*