



## **New Report Highlights Transportation Policies That Improve the Nation's Health**

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**WASHINGTON, DC, July 20, 2011** – Partnership for Prevention (Partnership) today released *Transportation and Health: Policy Interventions for Safer, Healthier People and Communities*. Partnership collaborated with the Safe Transportation Research and Education Center (SafeTREC) at the University of California, Berkeley; Booz Allen Hamilton; and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The report examines the effects of transportation policies on health in three key areas – environment and environmental public health, community design and active transportation, and motor vehicle-related injuries and fatalities.

The general public and the government have a strong interest in improving health, controlling health care costs, and reducing energy use and traffic congestion. This report highlights existing scientific evidence on the health effects of nearly 40 transportation policies and policy concepts that can further our multiple health and transportation goals.

“Public health researchers, practitioners and advocates recognize that policies from many fields can significantly affect health. Policies about the crops we grow, the parks we build and the roads we travel have widespread impact on our health and wellness,” said Jud Richland, president of Partnership. This report focuses on many of the connections between health and transportation. “We offer this report to supplement the growing number of persuasive resources available to those engaged in developing and advocating for effective and evidence-based transportation policies that contribute to healthful living.”

Partnership commends the American Public Health Association (APHA) and Transportation for America for their leadership in promoting a strong health focus in transportation policies. “As public health leaders, it is our responsibility to identify transportation policies that make our streets and cars safer, promote cleaner environments, support community designs that encourage physical activities, and consider the needs of all community members,” said Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP, FACEP, APHA executive director and Partnership board member.

“Most of these transportation policies and programs promoting public health also have the co-benefit of reducing energy use by substituting lower-energy modes for high-energy modes and promoting more

efficient use of energy through improvements in fuel efficiency and congestion management,” said David Ragland, PhD, MPH, Director of SafeTREC, and co-author of the report.

Partnership for Prevention encourages all organizations and individuals concerned about our Nation’s health, environment and communities to work to incorporate health- and environment-friendly polices into federal transportation programs.

The report is available on the Partnership for Prevention website at:  
[www.prevent.org/transportation](http://www.prevent.org/transportation)

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Partnership for Prevention is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization of business, health and government leaders working to make evidence-based disease prevention and health promotion a national priority.