

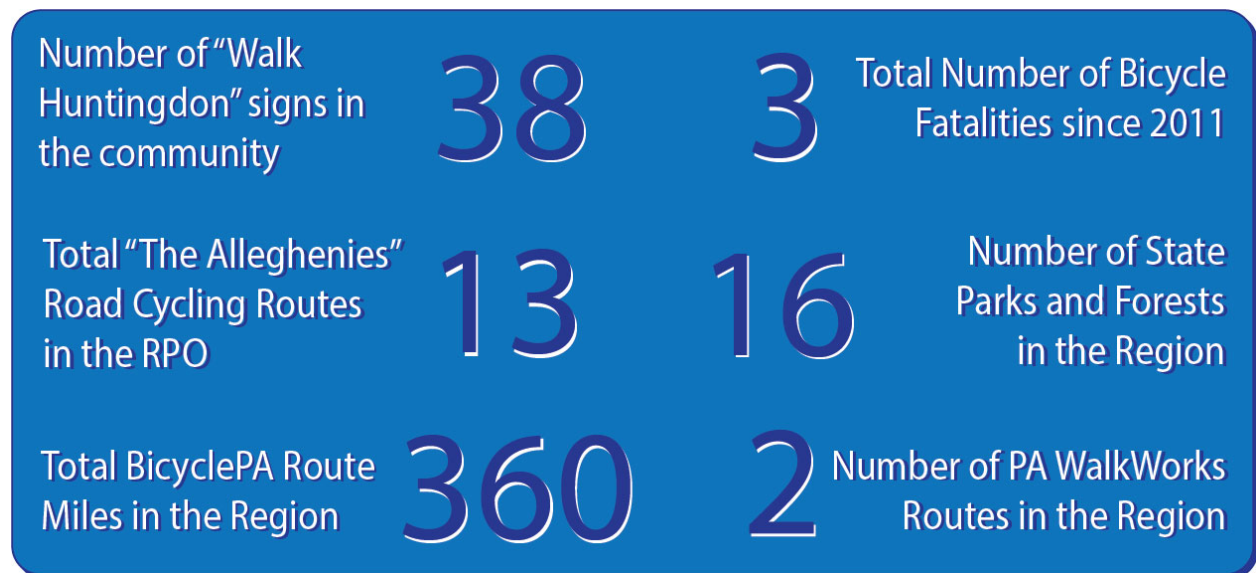
## Executive Summary

### Plan Overview

The Southern Alleghenies Rural Planning Organization (RPO) is charged with administering a multimodal transportation program, addressing not only the region’s highway and bridge infrastructure, but also the elements that support walking and bicycling. Through the 2021 update of the **Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan**, the RPO is placing a higher premium on planning for walking and bicycling for transportation and recreational purposes. The following sections provide information on the region’s bicycle and pedestrian networks and the ongoing efforts to maximize the investment of public funds into these facilities.

### Biking and Walking, By the Numbers

While rates of bicycling and walking as means of travel to work are low, the region demonstrates opportunities for improved bicycle and pedestrian transportation through existing facilities and ongoing programs.



### Public Outreach

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan update included a two-pronged public participation strategy to garner feedback from the region.

<p><b>Project Steering Committee</b></p> <p>At the project outset, the RPO identified an 11-member steering committee to assist with the development of a regional vision for the plan and guide the overall planning process.</p>	<p><b>User Survey</b></p> <p>A digital survey was distributed throughout the Region to capture additional input. In total, 238 individuals completed the survey.</p>
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## Plan Directions

The plan’s goals, objectives, and performance measures/progress indicators were developed through a series of technical meetings and steering committee meetings where members identified, discussed, and refined the region’s most critical bicycle and pedestrian transportation priorities and determined how to measure progress toward meeting them. A summary of plan goals is presented below.

Goal 1: Bolster the Region’s bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure so that it is safe to use and enjoy.

Goal 2: Ensure our Region’s bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure is well maintained.

Goal 3: Continue planning for bicycle and pedestrian initiatives.

Goal 4: Educate our Region’s stakeholders, elected officials, and public at-large of key regional initiatives involving bicycle and pedestrian transportation.

Goal 5: Maximize the benefits of transportation investments in the Region.

## Trail Gaps and Proposed Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements

The plan also began to develop an inventory of trail gaps within the existing bicycle and pedestrian network. Shown below, these gaps were identified through discussions with the steering committee and bicycle and pedestrian user survey responses.

