



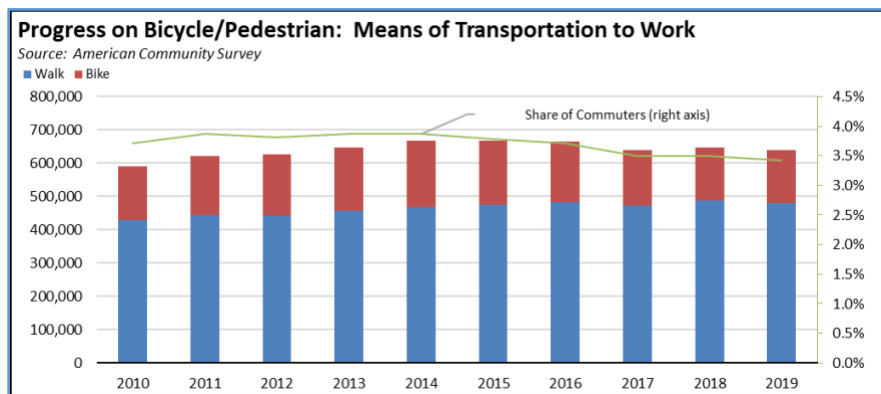




## State Goal: Vehicle Alternatives

Additional provisions in the Order, among others, direct the agencies to develop actions and strategies to increase alternatives to vehicle use, notably transit, bicycles, and pedestrian options. These same components have been the core of existing strategies within the state’s climate program as well as planning and capital expenditures under the cap and trade program, transportation funding, and requirements place on private developments under the SB 375 and SB 743 programs. As detailed in the Center’s recent report on [Telecommuting](#), these efforts have shown no substantive results to date. Instead, as use of these transportation modes has dropped even as capital investments have increased, the outcome has been increased rather than reduced emissions as reliance on vehicles has grown.

An indicator to track progress on the bicycle and pedestrian components of the Order is provided through the annual American Community Survey. The chart below shows the use of these options as the primary commute mode beginning in 2010, the year the early action items under AB 32 (establishing the state’s climate program) began. As indicated, the number of commuters using these two modes rose slightly through 2014, but has dropped consistently since then even as these options have become more of a state priority including under the expanded transportation funding through higher fuel taxes enacted in 2017 through SB 1. Measured as a share of commuters, the drop has been even more, going from a peak of only 3.9% of commuters in 2013 and 2014, to 3.4% in 2019.



Transit use has shown steeper drops, even prior to the current collapse of ridership since the pandemic crisis began in March. As indicated below, transit use as measured by unlinked passenger trips (UPT) peaked in the second quarter of 2014, at only 7.6% above the average for 2010. In the fourth quarter of 2019, ridership was 8.6% below the 2010 average, for a total drop of 16.2 points in spite of significant system expansions in this period. Ridership since plummeted during the current crisis and has yet to get anywhere near a recovery.

