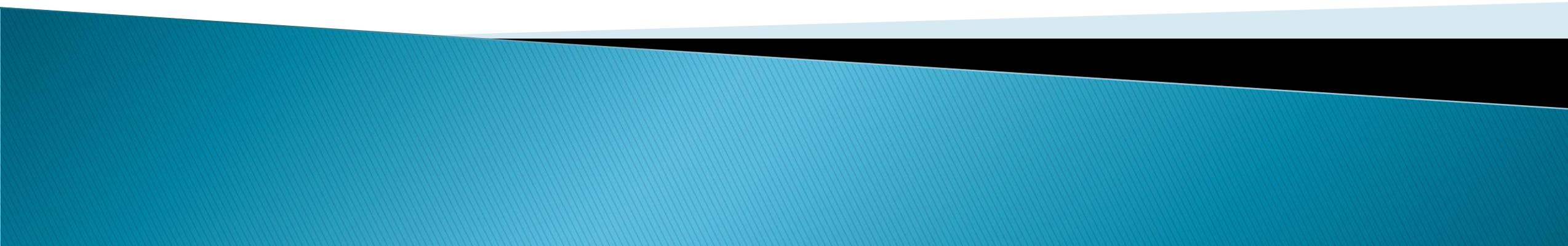
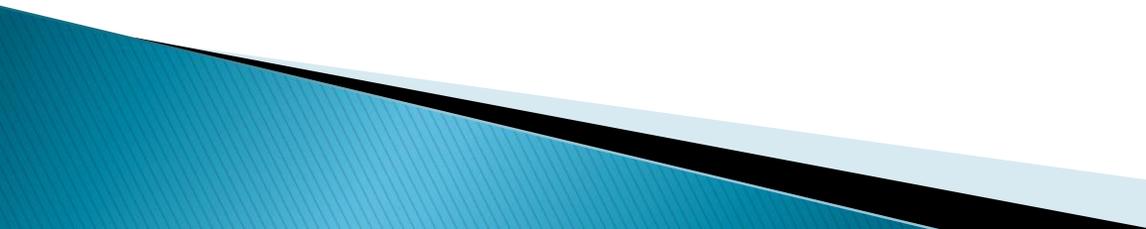


City of Fairfax
Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts
Conducting Counts



Why do counts?

- ▶ “Non-motorized” traffic (bicyclists & pedestrians) needs to be documented and analyzed to understand travel and recreational patterns and needs (similar to motorized traffic)
 - Note that the “non-motorized” travel options are evolving to include things like e-bikes and e-scooters
 - ▶ Helps document where there are more or fewer cyclists and walkers from year to year, and provides a better understanding on things that influence these trends
 - ▶ Helps measure the benefits of investments in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure
- 

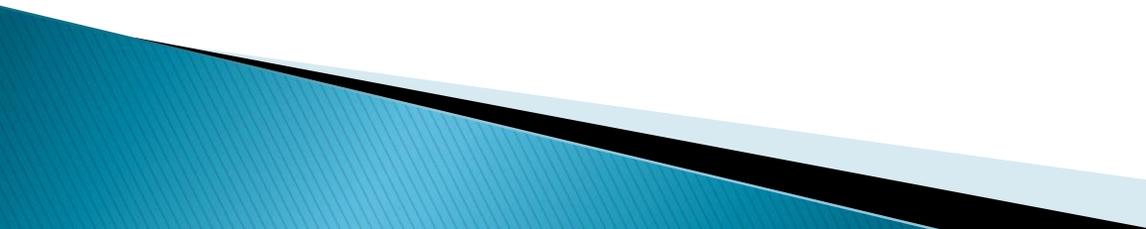
How do we do counts?

- ▶ Collect a sample of counts at key intersections and trails around the city – 2 hours during a “typical” weekday commute period, 2 hours on a weekend
 - “Peak period” samples can be used to estimate larger patterns
- ▶ Data collection forms provided to tally the number of people moving through an intersection
 - Collect turning movements to understand directional demands
- ▶ Consistency is important! Measuring at the same times, in the same locations, with the same methods helps measure changes over time and space
 - Sometimes this means counting in cloudy or rainy weather; weather is background information that can be incorporated in understanding a “typical” day (though severe weather may require canceling or rescheduling)
- ▶ Methods, forms and timing are aligned with national and regional efforts (such as www.bikepeddocumentation.org)

Counting instructions

- ▶ Before the 2-hour count period:
 - Fill out a volunteer waiver
 - What to bring
 - Setting up at the site
 - Background data
- ▶ During the count period:
 - Counting people by direction
 - Filling out the form
- ▶ After the count period:
 - Returning the form

What to bring

- ▶ Instructions (including count manager contact information)
 - ▶ Count forms (enough for each 15-minute interval of the 2-hour period)
 - ▶ Safety vest or bright clothing
 - ▶ Clipboard
 - ▶ Pens or pencils
 - ▶ Watch or timer to record 15-minute intervals
 - ▶ Optional: Weather appropriate gear (hat, jacket, sunscreen, etc.), snacks, water, folding chair
- 

Setting up at the site

- ▶ Plan to arrive a little early to get set up
- ▶ **Safety first!** Find a safe and comfortable spot near the intersection where you can observe cyclists and pedestrians in all directions
- ▶ Set up your station to make your count period easy (chair or other seating in a safe spot, clipboards and materials within easy reach)
- ▶ Be prepared in case someone stops to ask you questions
 - Be polite, explain what you are doing, and feel free to share the count manager's contact information if they have more questions

Background Data

- ▶ Set up your form with background data (you can do some of this ahead of time)

Name, Location,
Date, Time

Note weather
conditions

15-minute
interval (different
for each sheet)

Standard Bicycle-Pedestrian Intersection Count Form
City of Fairfax

Example

Instructions:

- Label location, date, time, streets
- Count all pedestrians and bicyclists
- Make a tic mark by the "P" for pedestrians and by the "B" for bicyclists
- Note supplemental info

Name: Chew Location: Old Lee + Layton Hall

Date: 9/12/17 Start Time: 5 pm

Weather: cloudy, chance of rain

15-minute Interval:

- :00 - :15
- :15 - :45
- :30 - :45
- :45 - 1:00

	A1	A2	A3
Street: <u>Old Lee Hwy</u>	P B (7) #	P B (13) 	P B (4)

↑ trail ↓

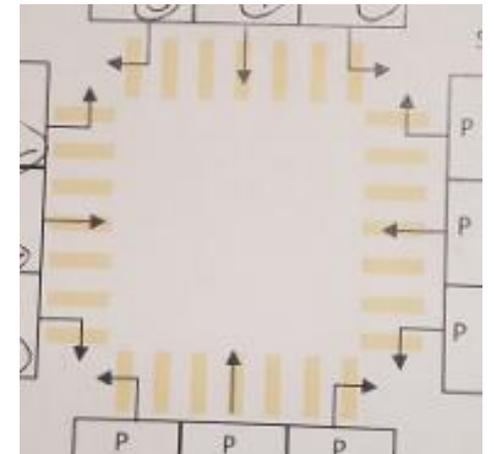
N

Label streets (orient with "north" arrow)

Note any landmarks (parks,
trails, shopping centers, etc.)
to help orient yourself

Counting people by direction

- ▶ Count the number of people moving through the intersection
 - People on bicycles – remember, there may be more than one person on a bike (tandem bikes, child trailers, etc.) – count each person
 - People on foot – people in wheelchairs and mobility devices are also pedestrians
 - People on other equipment (skateboards, scooters, etc.) – currently they are counted as “pedestrians”. If there is a significant volume in the future these may be counted separately.
- ▶ Count by direction – there is a separate box for each turning movement (left, through, right)
 - Bikes on sidewalks should be counted based on direction
 - You may need to modify your form if you are not at a “typical” intersection (3-way or 5-way intersection)



Filling out the form

- ▶ Make a tic mark in each box for each person you see
- ▶ At the end of the 2-hour count period, note the final tally for each turning movement
- ▶ Write down any relevant observations in the “field notes” section as you count (and as you have time)

15-minute Interval:
X :00 - :15
— :15 - :45
— :30 - :45
— :45 - 1:00

Example

Street: ~~Old Lee Hwy~~ *Old Lee Hwy*

Street: ~~Old Lee Hwy~~ *Old Lee Hwy*

Street: ~~Old Lee Hwy~~ *Famcroft Dr*

Street: ~~Old Lee Hwy~~ *Old Lee Hwy*

Courthouse shopping center

Field Notes:

- About half of bicyclists wear helmets
- Lots of strollers
- Saw a few scooters
- Lots of people going down the trail parallel to Old Lee (by Famcroft)

The diagram shows a street intersection with three main streets: Old Lee Hwy (top and bottom), Famcroft Dr (right), and an unlabeled street (left). The intersection is divided into several counting zones labeled A1, A2, A3, D1, D2, D3, B1, B2, B3, C1, C2, and C3. Each zone contains a grid of boxes for recording pedestrian (P) and bicyclist (B) counts. The boxes contain tally marks and circled numbers representing the final counts for each movement. For example, in zone A1, there are 7 P and 3 B counts. In zone D1, there are 4 P and 12 B counts. In zone B1, there are 2 P and 3 B counts. In zone C1, there are 4 P and 8 B counts. The field notes provide additional context about the observed traffic, such as helmet usage and the presence of strollers and scooters.

Examples

Two bicyclists (two people)



Two pedestrians (walking the bike is still walking)



A crowd! (including a skateboard) But some might be standing at the corner, not crossing



Four pedestrians (scooters counted as pedestrians for now)



Bicycle (even if it's on the sidewalk)



Which way are they going? You may need to wait until they leave the intersection to count them



Field Notes

- ▶ Use the Field Notes section to make any observations about the count period (construction, accidents or near-misses, nearby events or gatherings, etc.)
- ▶ As you have time, you can also record supplemental data about cyclists and pedestrians, such as:
 - Number of males and females
 - Number of cyclists with/without helmets
 - Number of cyclists on sidewalks
 - Number and type of “other” equipment users
- ▶ The primary goal is to get the total count, so only include supplemental information as time allows

Returning the forms

- ▶ When you have completed the count period and finished making your notes, return the forms to the City of Fairfax Transportation Division:
 - Take photos of each form or scan your forms and email to: chloe.ritter@fairfaxva.gov
 - Drop your forms off in person at City Hall
 - 10455 Armstrong Street, Room 200 (Public Works office)
 - Mail your forms
 - City of Fairfax Transportation Division
 - 10455 Armstrong Street
 - Fairfax, VA 22030

Questions?

Thank you for your help!