

# **NOACA BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN COUNTS VOLUNTEER TRAINING**

## **CONTACT**

**Andrew Stahlke**

**email: [astahlke@mpo.noaca.org](mailto:astahlke@mpo.noaca.org)**

**phone: 216-241-2414 x 332**

# OVERVIEW

- Purpose of the program
- Overview of materials
- Instructions for counts
- Safety issues
- Importance of accuracy



# PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

- National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project
- National standard for bicycle and pedestrian counting since 2004
- Creation of a valuable database to supplement additional research
- Means of supporting multimodal projects with defensible data
- Development of a prioritization process for multimodal projects



# MATERIALS TO BRING TO COUNT

- Two pens or pencils
- Means of keeping time (cell phone, watch, etc.)
- NOACA contact information
- Count Instructions
- Tally Sheet
- Count Location Map
- Chair (optional)



# INSTRUCTIONS

- Arrive at the location before the count starts
- Find a safe, comfortable, and visible location
- Fill in the background info on your count form
- Begin counting at the indicated start time, placing a tally mark for each non-motorist in the appropriate column
- Move on to the next 15 minute block when necessary
- Return forms to NOACA when complete



# COUNTING

## NOACA Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Form

Count Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Bicycle Infrastructure at Location:  Sharrows  Bike Lane(s)  Buffered Bike Lanes  Trail/path

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Weather:  ACCEPTABLE...*(no rain, between 50 and 90 degrees)*

Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_  POOR.....*(light rain, 90-95 degrees, below 50 degrees, strong winds)*

EXTREME.....*(heavy rain, above 95 degrees)*

	Bicyclists (tally all that apply for each bicyclist)				Other = Rollerbladers, Skateboarders, etc	
	Male	Female	No Helmet	On Sidewalk	Pedestrians	Other
5:00- 5:15						
5:15- 5:30						
5:30- 5:45						
5:45- 6:00						

## How to record

*Example: If one male bicyclist without a helmet rides by on the sidewalk, place one mark in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>, columns.*

- If unsure about gender, mark male





# COUNTING



- **Screenline counts**
  - Only count non-motorized traffic that passes through the red line on your Count Location Map.
  - Count people up to 2 times if they pass back and forth



# COUNTING



## Counting BICYCLISTS not BICYCLES

- Counted as 10, not 1





# COUNTING



All marked as 'Other'

- Any form of non-motorized transportation is being documented



# INSTRUCTIONS



## Bikes vs. peds

- Concentrate on bikes first, then pedestrians and other modes



# SAFETY ISSUES

- Find a comfortable spot to count, as out of the way as possible, from all modes of transportation
- Bring a counting buddy (optional)
- Be aware of your surroundings while counting
- Stay hydrated
- Wear sunscreen if necessary
- Direct any questions or inquiries to NOACA



# IMPORTANCE OF ACCURACY

- Planning decisions will be made based on this data, so accuracy is vital
- Inflated numbers = difficulty to show growth in demand in future years
- Understated numbers = difficulty for bicycle projects to compete for funding in the present





# REVIEW

- Arrive ten minutes before the starting time to set up with all necessary materials
- Remember to place count marks in appropriate 15 minute window
- Always be aware of surroundings and direct any inquiries to NOACA
- When finished, return all materials to NOACA







NOACA will **STRENGTHEN** regional cohesion, **PRESERVE** existing infrastructure, and **BUILD** a sustainable multimodal transportation system to **SUPPORT** economic development and **ENHANCE** quality of life in Northeast Ohio.