NOACA BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN COUNTS
VOLUNTEER TRAINING

CONTACT
Andrew Stahlke
email: 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.)
- NOACCA 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
How to record

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

- If unsure about gender, mark male
• 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 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
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
• 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.