



Mid-Ohio Regional
Planning Commission

MAY 2015 VOLUNTEER COUNT SUMMARY REPORT

JULY 2015



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On Wednesday, May 13, 2015, for the twenty-second time in eleven consecutive years, MORPC organized volunteers to tally pedestrians, bicyclists, mobility aid users (wheelchair users, strollers, etc.), and other non-motor-vehicle (skates, skateboards, etc.) traffic at various locations throughout Central Ohio. The counting effort represents both a data collection effort for Central Ohio and a contribution to the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project (NBPD), led by Alta Planning and the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). (www.bikepeddocumentation.org/).

The primary objective of this counting effort was to document pedestrian and bicycle usage in order to determine future infrastructure demand. The MORPC count methodology is based on the NBPD methodology, which is based on input from ITE and transportation professionals and best practices nationwide.

Key findings from this count effort include:

- Counts were collected under cool, dry conditions, with temperatures around 55 degrees.
- Of the 287 bicyclists counted at MORPC-coordinated locations in Central Ohio where there are both a sidewalk and a shared street for vehicular travel, 64.1% were riding on the street and 35.9% on the sidewalk. This excludes locations on multi-use paths.
- Of the 822 total bicyclists for which MORPC volunteers collected gender data, 198 (24%) were female and 624 (76%) were male.
- Of MORPC's 26 recognized count locations, volunteers collected counts at 20 locations during the count events. Of these 20 locations, 14 (53.8%) were monitored during both the morning and afternoon counting periods.

COUNT METHODOLOGY

In keeping with NBPD guidelines, counts were conducted to remain consistent with previous data collection efforts, with a morning peak-hour count (7:00–9:00 a.m.) and an off-peak midday count (11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.). MORPC has been organizing counts consistently at around 30 locations throughout Central Ohio since 2005.

During the May 2015 counting period, volunteers recorded volumes at 20 count locations. Counts were conducted at roadway and multi-use path locations throughout Central Ohio in areas with unique characteristics. The count locations were chosen according to the criteria recommended by the NBPD:

- Pedestrian and bicycle activity areas or corridors (downtowns, proximity to schools, parks, etc.)
- Representative locations in urban, suburban, and rural locations
- Key corridors that can be used to gauge the impacts of future improvements
- Locations where counts have been conducted historically
- Locations where there are on-going counts being conducted by other agencies through a variety of means, including videotaping
- Gaps and pinch points for bicyclists and pedestrians (potential improvement areas)
- Locations where bicycle and pedestrian collision numbers are high

MORPC is able to use the data collected through these volunteer counts to further analyze and understand current non-motorized transportation trends throughout Central Ohio. In order to make the most of this effort, it is crucial to record volumes at as many of MORPC's designated locations as possible. Examples of handouts distributed to volunteers prior to the count date for both roadway and multi-use path locations are included in the appendix of this report.

COUNT LOCATION TABLE

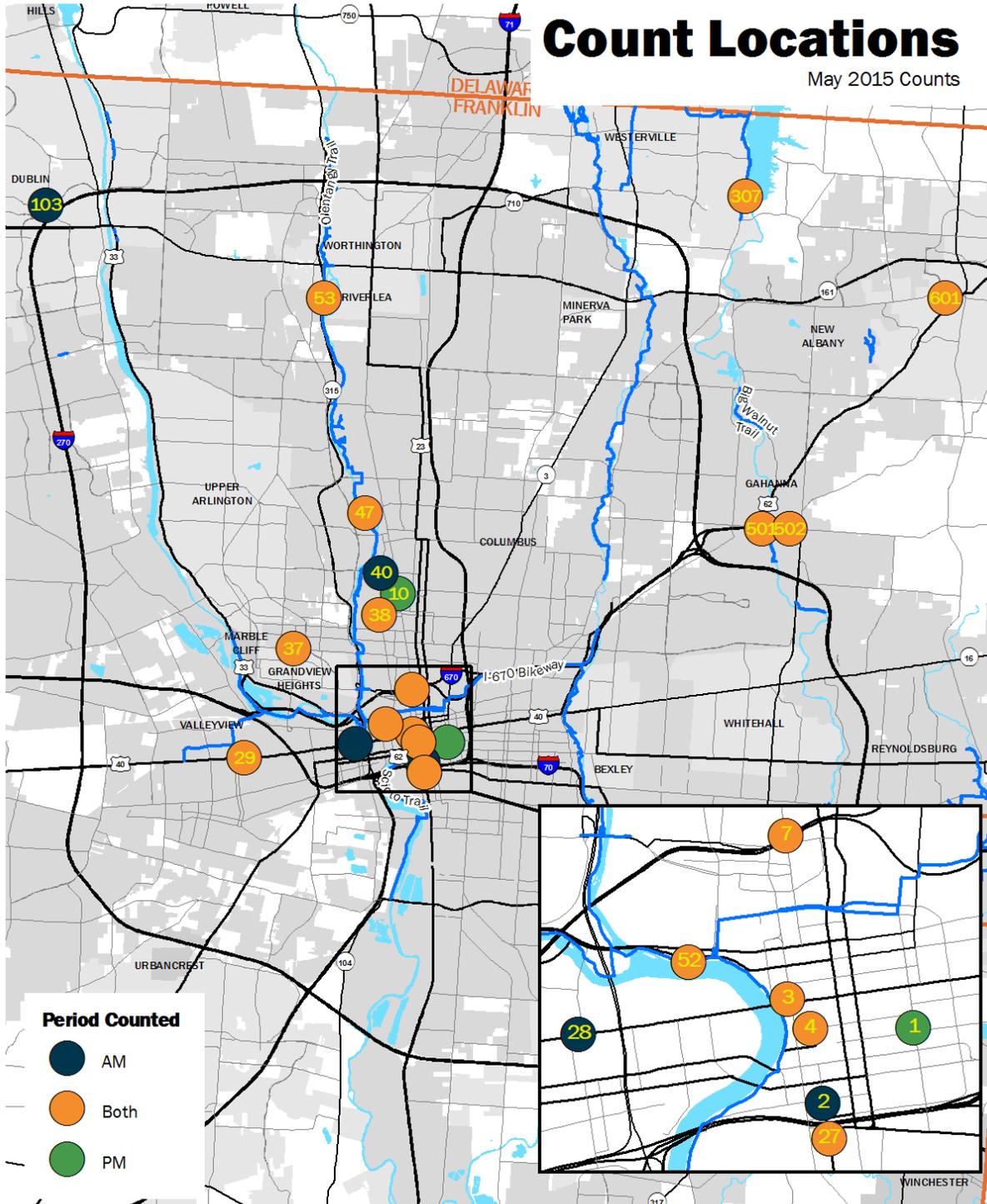
Table 1: May 2015 Count Locations

Loc. #	Jurisdiction	Location
1	Columbus	West side of Grant Ave, North of Town St
2	Columbus	West side of High St., South of Mound St.
3	Columbus	South side of Broad St., West of Front St.
4	Columbus	South side of State St., East of High St.
7	Columbus	West side of High St., South of Poplar Ave.
10	Columbus	East side of High St, North of 15th Ave.
27	Columbus	East side of High St., North of Blenkner St.
28	Columbus	South side of Broad St., East of Souder Ave.
29	Columbus	South side of Broad St., East of Wheatland Ave.
37	Grandview Heights	West side of Grandview Ave., North of Haines Ave.
38	Columbus	West side of Neil Ave., North of 10th Ave.
40	Columbus	East side of Neil Ave., North of Lane Ave.
47	Columbus	Olentangy Trail Bridge, North of OSU Wetlands
52	Columbus	Scioto Trail @ North Bank Park
53	Columbus	Olentangy Trail @ Antrim Park
103	Dublin	Emerald Pkwy. @ Coffman Rd.
307	Columbus	Sunbury Road Trail @ Hoover Dam
501	Gahanna	Big Walnut Trail, South of SR 62/Granville St.
502	Gahanna	South side of Granville St., West of Flint Ridge
601	New Albany	Market St. @ Starbucks

NOTES

- Locations shaded in blue were counted exclusively between 7:00-9:00 AM.
- Locations shaded in orange were counted exclusively between 11:00 AM-1:00 PM.

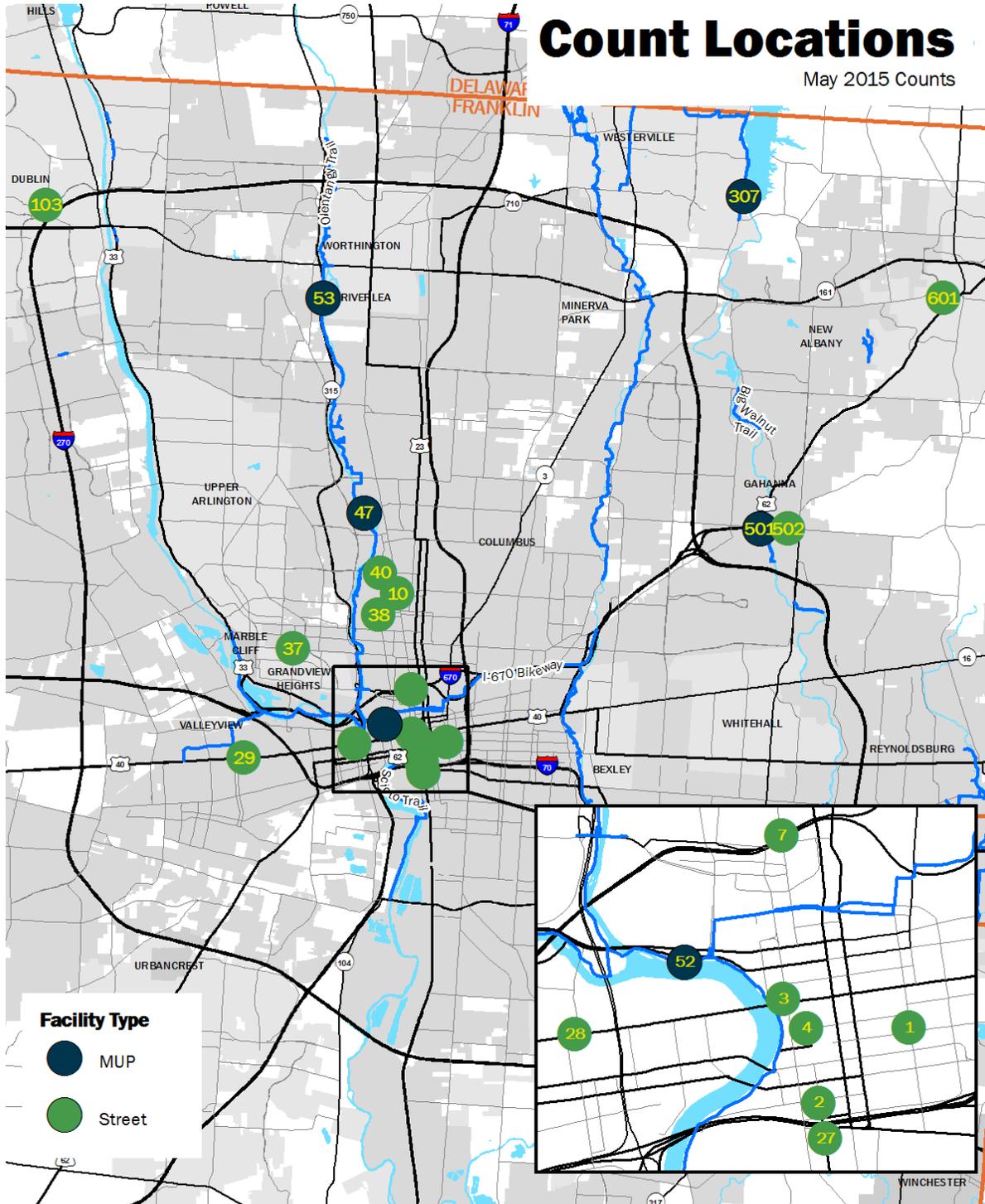
Map 1: Count Periods Monitored by Count Location



The information shown on this map is compiled from various sources made available to us which we believe to be reliable.
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Map 2: Count Locations by Facility Type

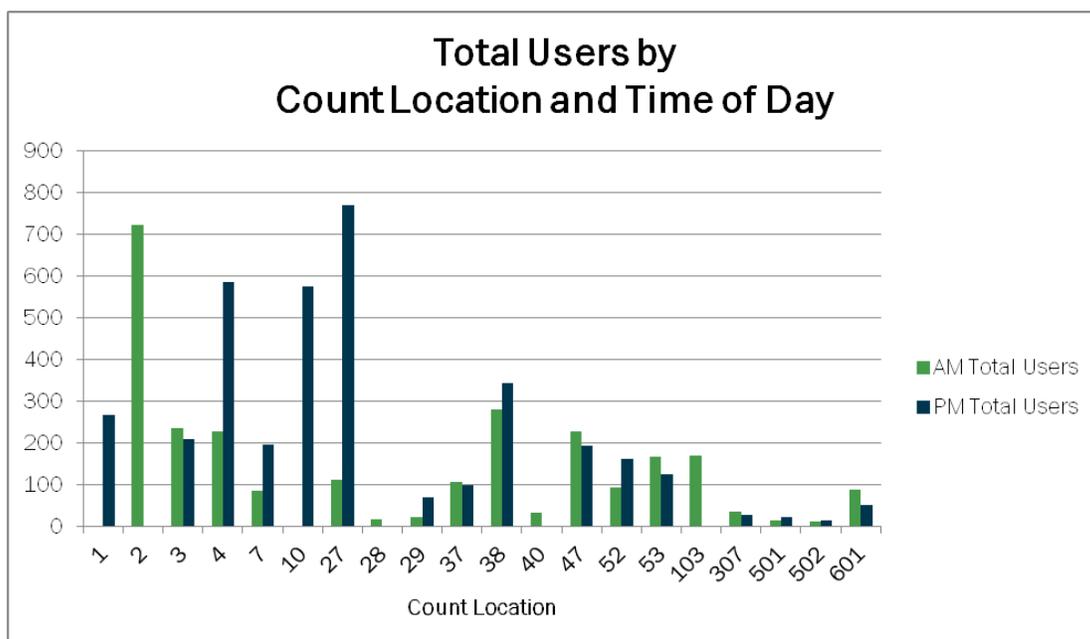
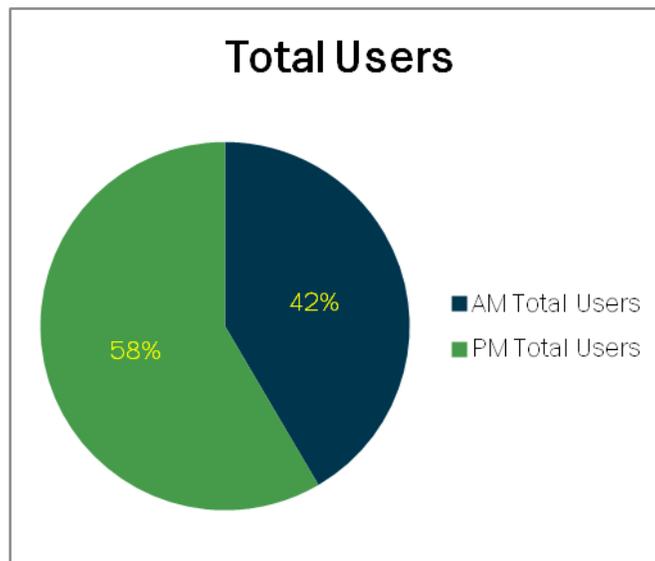


The information shown on this map is compiled from various sources made available to us which we believe to be reliable.
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TOTAL USERS

Volunteers recorded a total of 6,388 total users across the 20 locations during the May 2015 counting period. Of the 6,388 total users, 5,513 were pedestrians and 825 were bicyclists. Multi-use path locations saw 9.5% of the total pedestrian volume (523/5,513), while roadway locations saw 90.5% of total the total pedestrian volume (4,990/5,513). Of the 825 total bicyclists counted, 65.2% (538/825) were cycling at multi-use paths, while 34.8% (287/825) were cycling along roadway segments. Raw count data is shown in Table 2 and Table 3 of this report.



**Table 2: Count Data
Morning (7:00-9:00 a.m.) Count Period**

Loc. #	Location	Pedestrians	Bicyclists						Total	Mobility Aid	Other
			In the Street		On the Sidewalk		On Multi-Use Path				
			Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male			
2	West side of High St., South of Mound St.	709	1	3	2	6			12	4	0
3	South side of Broad St., West of Front St.	216	1	9	1	9			20	1	1
4	South side of State St., East of High St.	221	0	0	1	5			6	1	0
7	West side of High St., South of Poplar Ave.	52	5	28	0	1			34	0	0
27	East side of High St., North of Blenkner St.	104	1	2	2	2			7	0	0
28	South side of Broad St., East of Souder Ave.	8	1	3	1	4			9	0	0
29	South side of Broad St., East of Wheatland Ave.	21	0	0	0	0			0	1	0
37	West side of Grandview Ave., North of Haines Ave.	99	0	5	0	2			7	1	1
38	West side of Neil Ave., North of 10th Ave.	240	4	29	3	3			39	0	0
40	East side of Neil Ave., North of Lane Ave.	23	0	5	1	2			8	0	0
47	Olentangy Trail Bridge, North of OSU Wetlands	69					41	118	159	0	1
52	Scioto Trail @ North Bank Park	25					16	52	68	0	0
53	Olentangy Trail @ Antrim Park	109					11	46	57	0	0
103	Emerald Pkwy. @ Coffman Rd.	167	1	0	0	0			1	1	0
307	Sunbury Road Trail @ Hoover Dam	30					0	4	4	0	2
501	Big Walnut Trail, South of SR 62/Granville St.	5					2	6	8	0	0
502	South side of Granville St., West of Flint Ridge	9	0	0	0	2			2	0	1
601	Market St. @ Starbucks	80	0	0	1	6			7	0	0

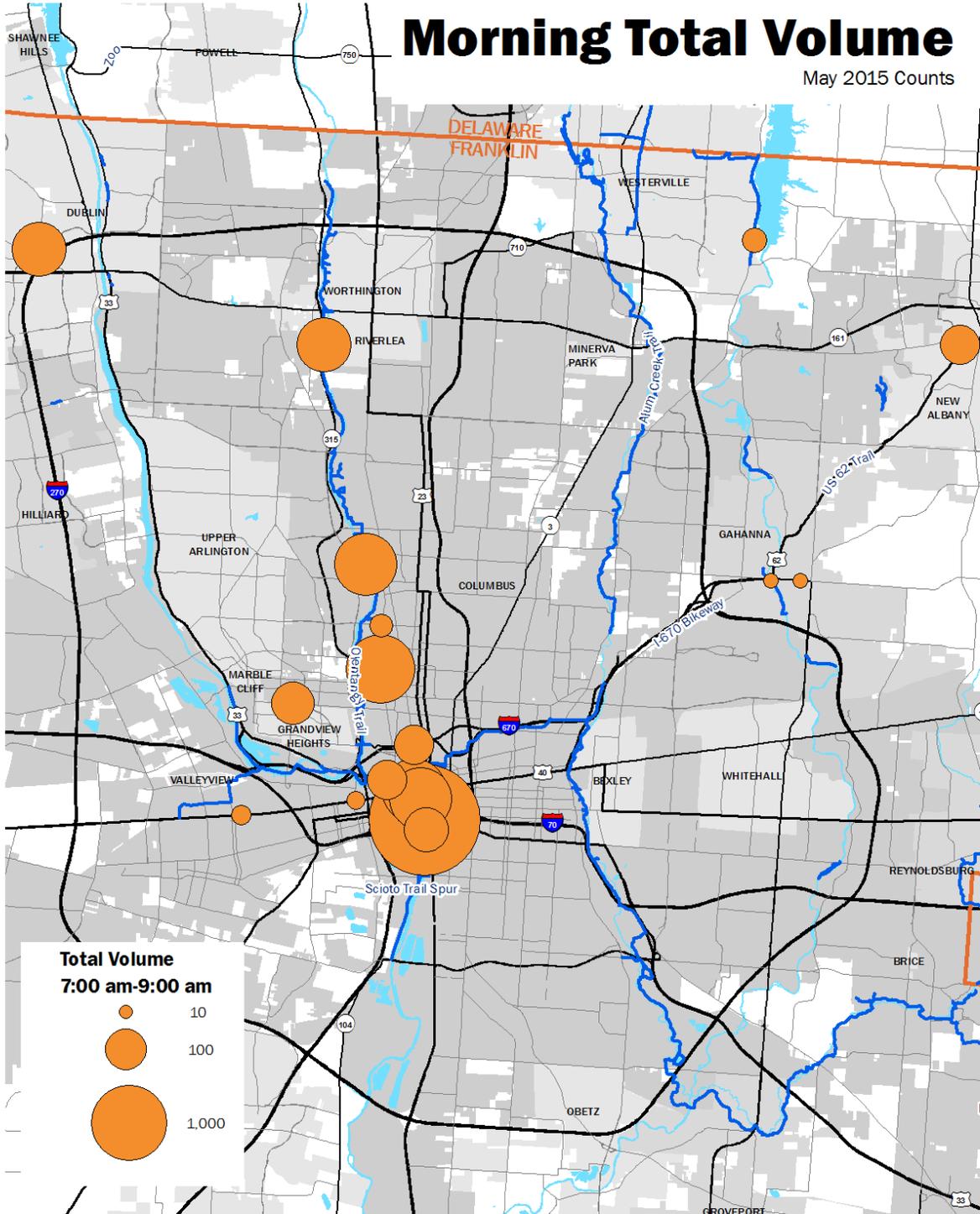
**Table 3: Count Data
Afternoon (11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) Count Period**

Loc. #	Location	Pedestrians	Bicyclists						Total	Mobility Aid	Other
			In the Street		On the Sidewalk		On Multi-Use Path				
			Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male			
1	West side of Grant Ave, North of Town St	245	3	15	0	4			22	2	0
3	South side of Broad St., West of Front St.	201	0	4	0	3			7	0	0
4	South side of State St., East of High St.	572	0	9	1	4			14	1	4
7	West side of High St., South of Poplar Ave.	178	4	10	0	3			17	0	0
10	East side of High St, North of 15th Ave.	550	6	10	4	5			25	0	3
27	East side of High St., North of Blenkner St.	761	0	3	0	6			9	0	0
29	South side of Broad St., East of Wheatland Ave.	62	0	1	1	5			7	2	0
37	West side of Grandview Ave., North of Haines Ave.	98	0	0	0	0			0	2	0
38	West side of Neil Ave., North of 10th Ave.	322	7	12	1	2			22	0	2
47	Olentangy Trail Bridge, North of OSU Wetlands	78					37	79	116	4	0
52	Scioto Trail @ North Bank Park	142					7	12	19	1	0
53	Olentangy Trail @ Antrim Park	26					25	73	98	0	7
307	Sunbury Road Trail @ Hoover Dam	18					2	6	8	1	0
501	Big Walnut Trail, South of SR 62/Granville St.	21					0	1	1	4	0
502	South side of Granville St., West of Flint Ridge	13	0	1	0	0			1	5	0
601	Market St. @ Starbucks	39	0	1	4	6			11	0	0

Map 3: Total Volume
Morning (7:00-9:00 a.m.) Count Period

Morning Total Volume

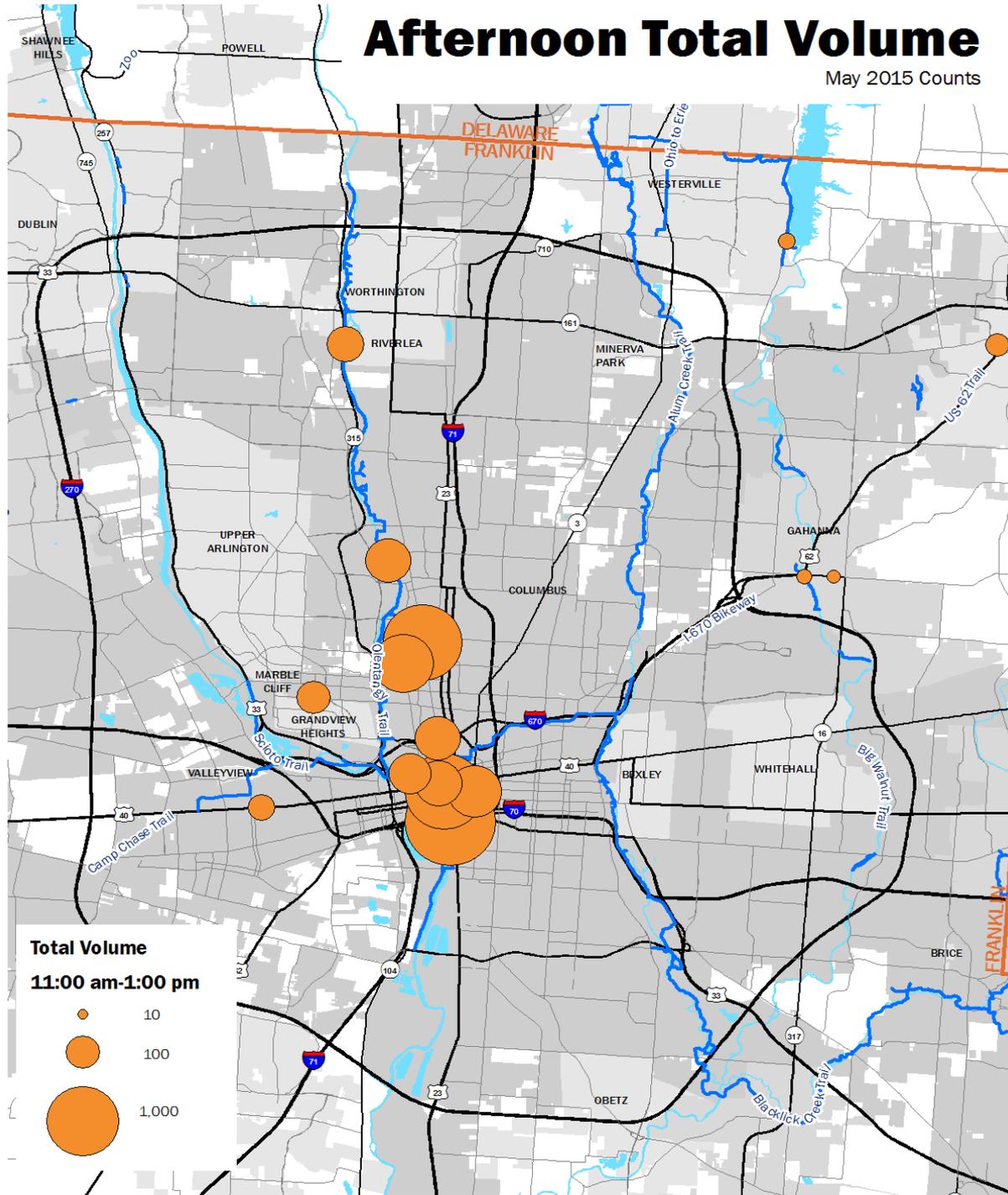
May 2015 Counts



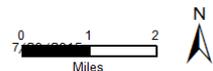
The information shown on this map is compiled from various sources made available to us which we believe to be reliable.
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Map 4: Total Volume
Afternoon (11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) Count Period

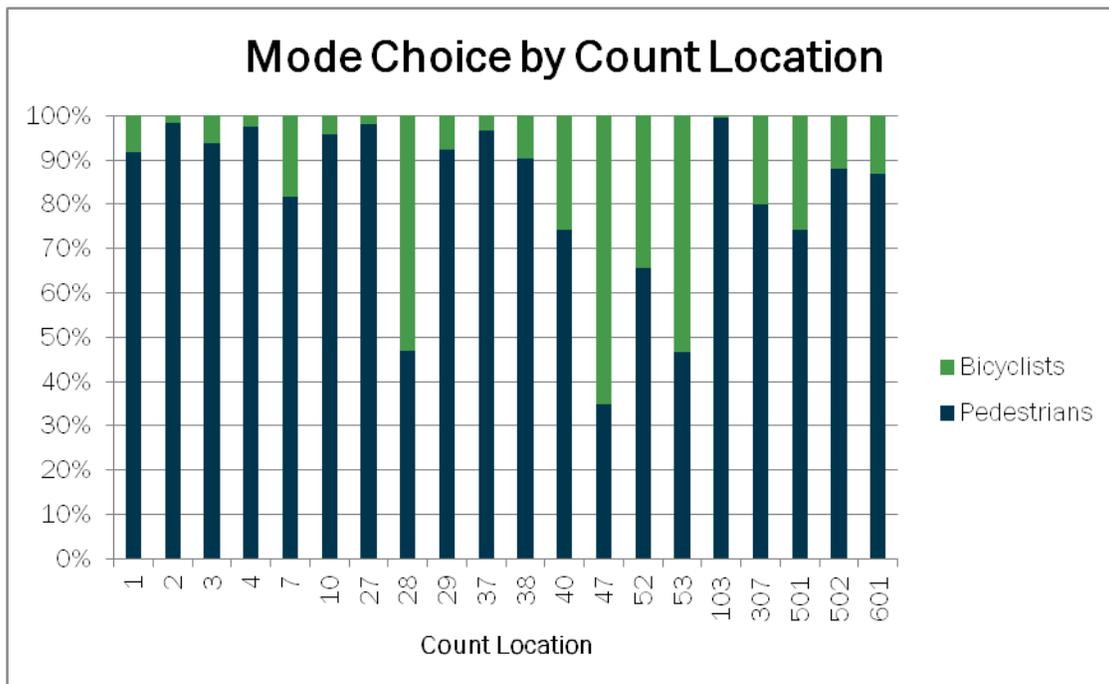
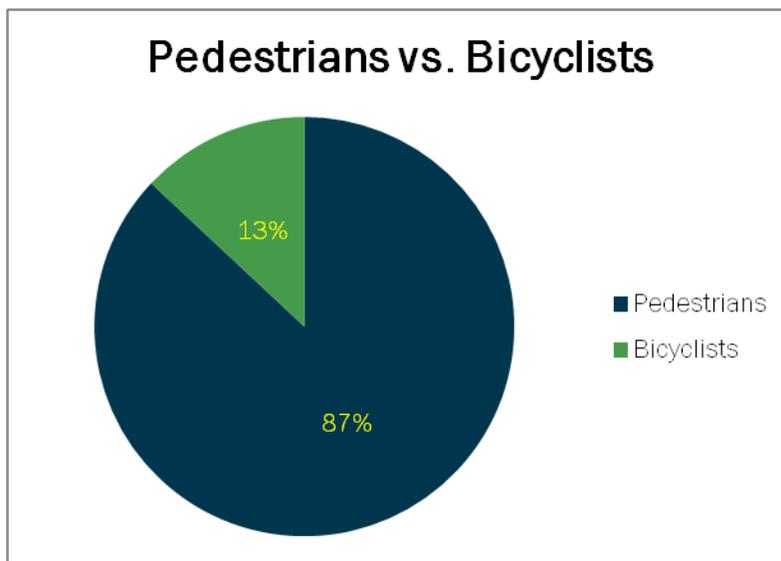


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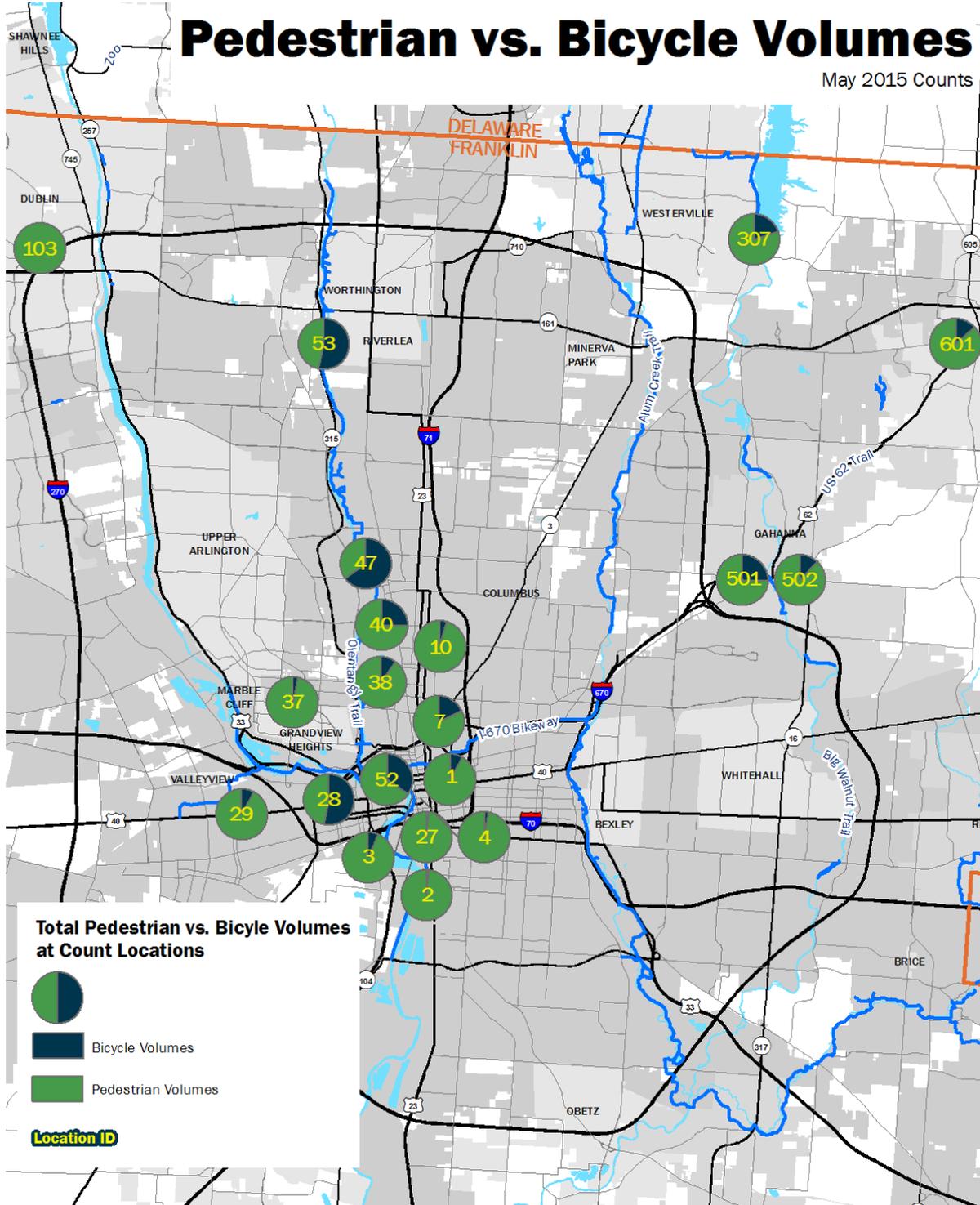


PEDESTRIANS VS. BICYCLISTS

As previously mentioned, of the 6,388 total users recorded during this counting period, 5513 pedestrians and 825 bicyclists were counted. Pedestrians accounted for 87% of total users, with the highest pedestrian volumes recorded during the afternoon counting period in the downtown Columbus area. Bicyclists accounted for 13% of total users, with the majority observed during the morning counting period at multi-use path locations.



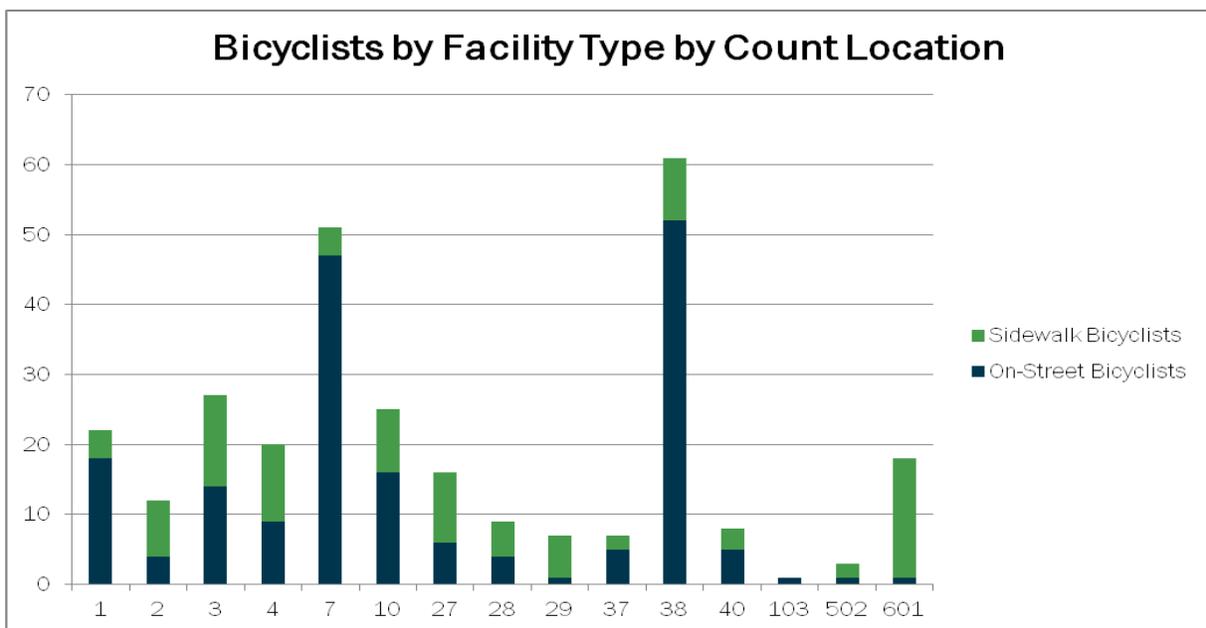
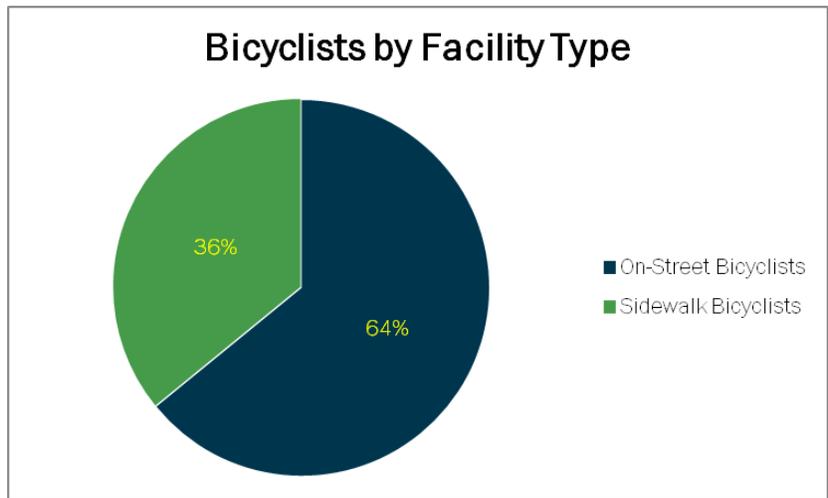
Map 5: Pedestrian vs. Bicycle Volumes by Count Location



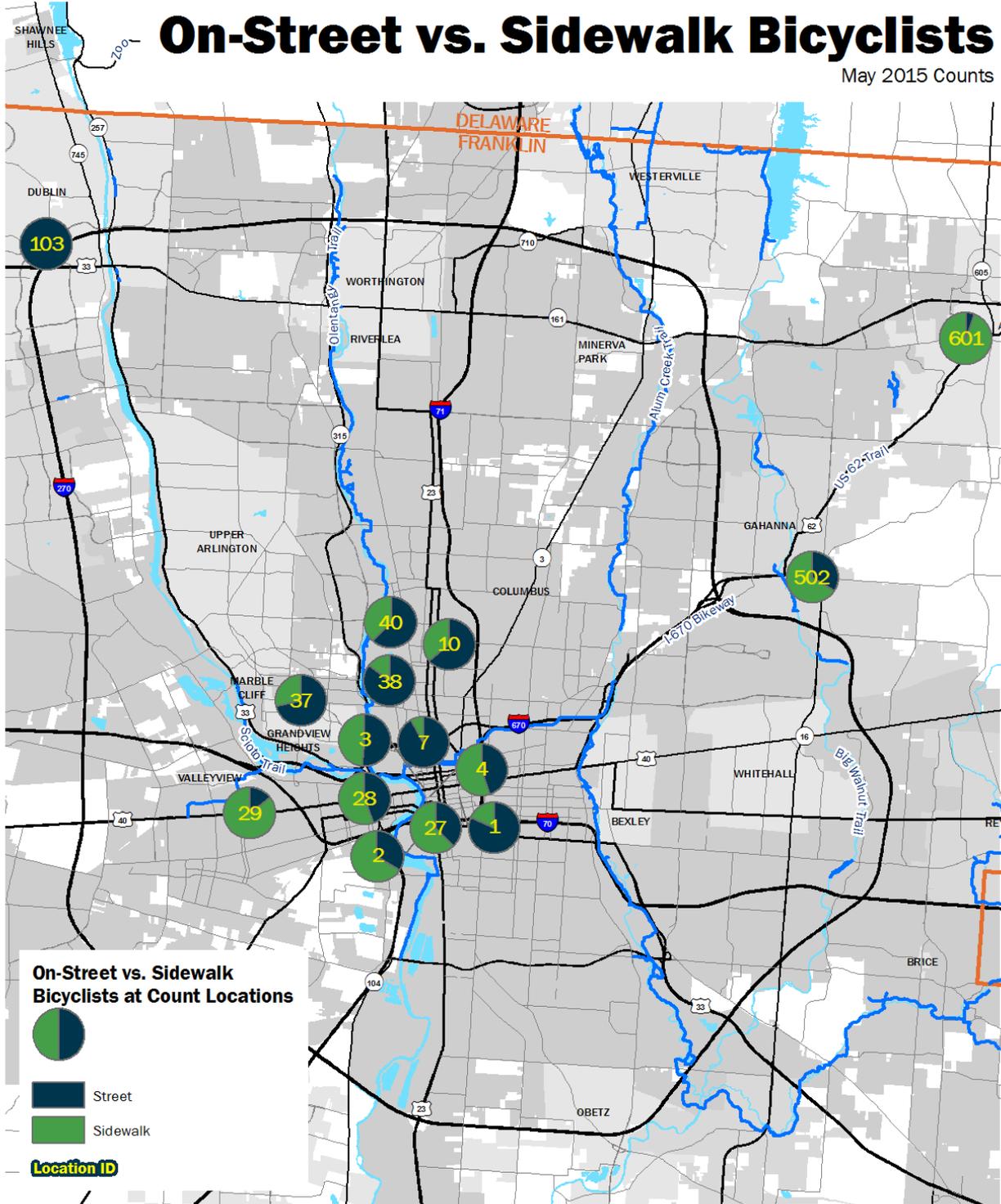
ON-STREET VS. SIDEWALK BICYCLISTS

Of the 825 total bicyclists counted during the May 2015 counts, 287 (34.8%) were recorded at roadway count locations. Adults traveling by bicycle are encouraged to ride on the street. Some jurisdictions have gone as far as making riding on the sidewalk illegal for adults. However, bicyclists are still observed traveling on sidewalks for reasons such as inadequate facilities, high vehicle speeds, inexperience, etc.

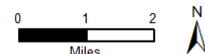
Of the 287 bicycles observed at the count locations, 64% (184/287) traveled on the street, while 36% (103/287) rode on the sidewalk.



Map 6: On-Street vs. Sidewalk Bicyclists by Count Location



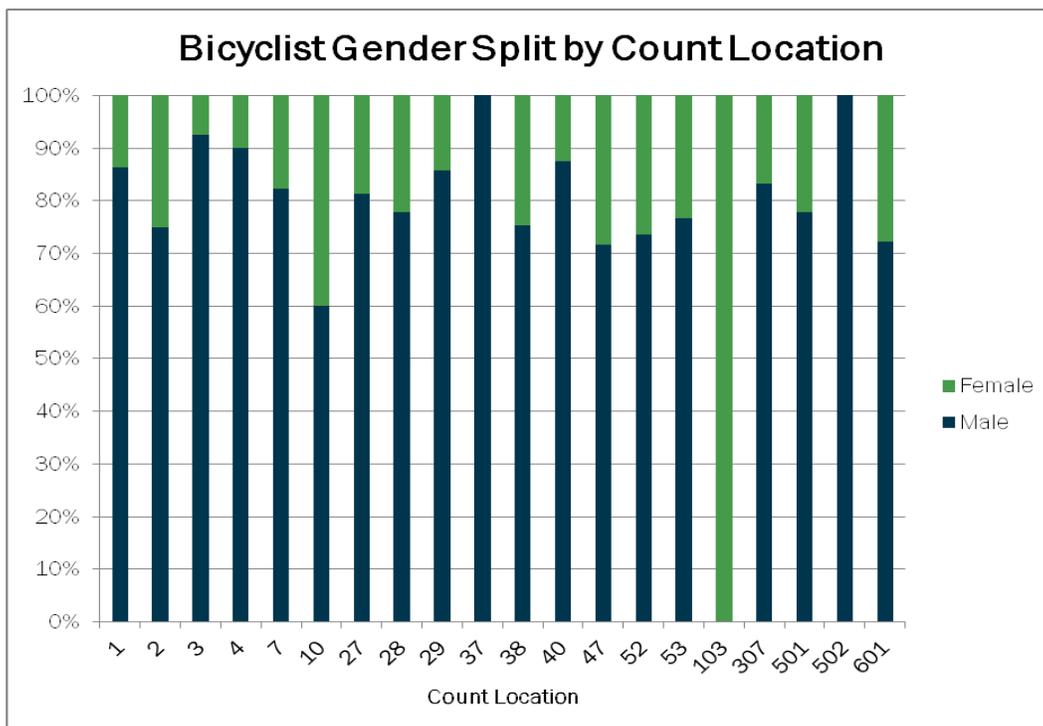
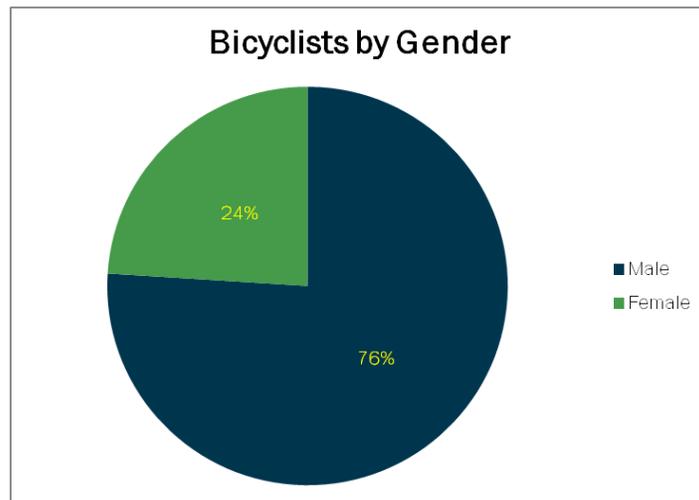
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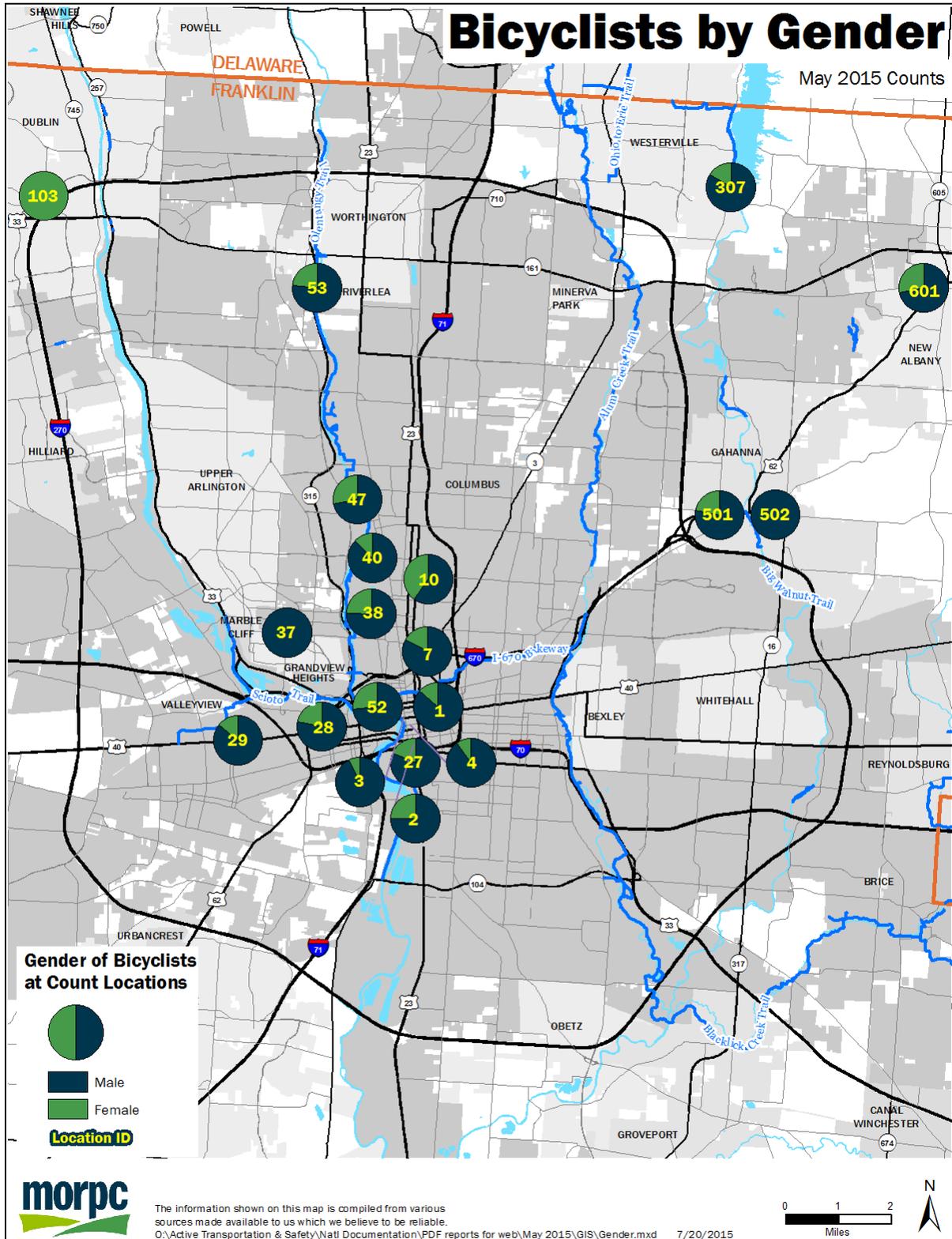
GENDER

Of 825 bicyclists recorded for whom gender information was inferred, 627 were male (76%) and 198 were female (24%). Volumes were highest at multi-use path locations, where 65.2% (538/825) of bicyclists were observed. Of the 538 cyclists riding along multi-use paths, 397 were male (73.8%) and 141 were female (26.2%).

Roadway locations experienced 34.8% (287/825) of total cyclist volumes, where 22.3% (184/825) of cyclists were observed riding in the street and 12.5% (103/825) were observed riding on the sidewalk. Of the 184 cyclists choosing to ride in the street, 150 were male (81.5%) and 34 were female (18.5%). By comparison, of the 103 sidewalk cyclists, 80 were male (77.7%)



Map 7: Bicyclists by Gender



POTENTIAL USES OF DATA

Data on both pedestrian and bicycle traffic can be used for many purposes. Broadly speaking, the potential uses relate to the 5 E's of transportation safety planning: Education, Enforcement, Engineering, Encouragement, and Evaluation. Data can be used to show the need for improved education and enforcement; to show that changes need to be made to the built environment to improve bicycle and pedestrian use at a given location; to support and justify efforts that encourage more people to walk and bike; and to evaluate projects (for example, a project involving a new bike lane could be evaluated by comparing bicycle counts before and after its construction).

More specifically, data from pedestrian counts can be used for many purposes:

- Estimating current and future levels of pedestrian traffic.
- Determining the need for pedestrian infrastructure, such as new or improved sidewalks, signs, and crosswalks.
- Determining the need to adjust signal timing at signalized crosswalks.

The following are some potential uses for data regarding bicycle traffic, with details such as gender and street/sidewalk use:

- Justifying the need for expanded educational and public awareness programs for both bicyclists and motorists. Educational programs could include topics such as rules of the road, safety, and sharing the road.
- Demonstrating the need for improved infrastructure, such as bike lanes, multi-use paths, and sharrows.
- Helping to justify more experimental infrastructure projects, such as bike boxes, bike boulevards, and cycle tracks.
- Supporting and justifying changes to municipal and state laws (e.g. street/sidewalk use).

MORPC will continue to organize semi-annual counts and use data from future counts to conduct trend analyses. For those interested, data from previous volunteer counting efforts is available on the [MORPC website](#). Additionally, data collected from other regional counting efforts will be used to analyze non-motorized transportation in Central Ohio in an effort to improve the user experience.



APPENDIX

National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project

COUNT PROCEDURES

Please follow these counting procedures to ensure data consistency and reliability:

1. Arrive at your assigned location 10 minutes before the starting time. If you drive, remember to give yourself extra time to park and walk to your count location – note that many places have on-street parking restrictions during the rush hour.
2. Identify a specific point within the box on your Location Map where you will conduct the count. Place yourself in a safe, visible location on public property that does not block pedestrians and bicyclists. If there is no previous count location, mark your specific count location on the Location Map and briefly describe it on the Working Count Sheet. If it is not convenient to stand at your count location, position yourself nearby where you can easily see the count location.
3. Fill out the top portion of the Working Count Form.
4. Count all pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-motorized traffic using the following criteria as appropriate:
 - a. For street locations, count all people passing your location in both directions on one side of the street (all people within the red box in the picture to the right). The street centerline marks the boundary of your counting area.
 - b. For multi-use paths, count all people passing your location in both directions. Be sure to count separately all pedestrians using a mobility aid device including wheelchairs, scooters and strollers (be sure to count children even if they do not walk). Please also count cyclists according to gender and whether they are on the sidewalk or in the street, as the form indicates.
5. Count for two full hours. If you arrive at your location more than 5 minutes late, begin counting at the next 15-minute interval and continue for two hours. *Be sure to mark your actual starting and ending times on the Working Count Sheet.*
6. Return Working Count Form and any equipment to the receptionist at MORPC upon completion of the count. If you have easy access to scanning equipment, you can also scan and e-mail your Count Form to MORPC staff.



THANK YOU FOR HELPING WITH THIS NATIONAL DOCUMENTATION EFFORT!

Please be sure to let MORPC know if you are interested in assisting with future count efforts.

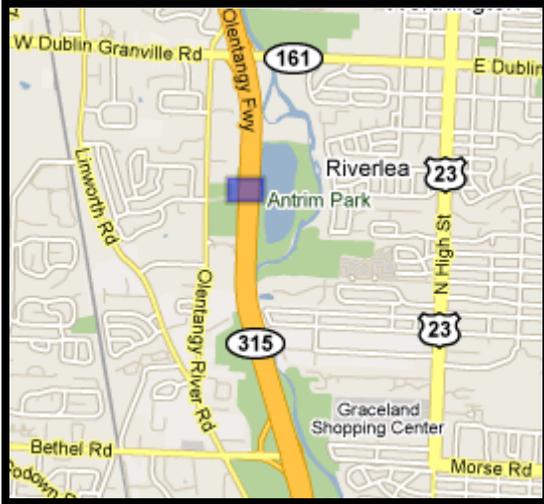


Image source: Google Maps



National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project

Location: 53 – Olentangy Trail at Antrim Park



MORPC PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE COUNT FORM

Counter Name: _____

Specific Count Location: _____

Date: _____ Weather Conditions: _____

LOCATION CODE:

Did you start on time? If not, please mark the correct times in the boxes below.

Please record numbers using hash marks (#). Please record numbers in 15-minute increments.

Time	Pedestrians	Bicyclists				Mobility Aid*	Others**
		In the Street		On the Sidewalk			
		Female	Male	Female	Male		
7:00-7:15							
7:15-7:30							
7:30-7:45							
7:45-8:00							

* "Mobility Aid" includes people using a wheelchair, baby stroller, or similar device. It also includes small children being carried.



** "Others" includes people using skates, skateboards and other non-motorized methods of travel.

FORM CONTINUES ON REVERSE SIDE

Time	Pedestrians	Bicyclists				Mobility Aid*	Others**
		In the Street		On the Sidewalk			
		Female	Male	Female	Male		
8:00-8:15							
8:15-8:30							
8:30-8:45							
8:45-9:00							

* "Mobility Aid" includes people using a wheelchair, baby stroller, or similar device. It also includes small children being carried.

** "Others" includes people using skates, skateboards and other non-motorized methods of travel.



MORPC PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE COUNT FORM (Multi-Use Path)

Counter Name: _____
 Specific Count Location: _____
 Date: _____ Weather Conditions: _____

LOCATION CODE:

Did you start on time? If not, please mark the correct times in the boxes below.

Please record numbers using hash marks (#). Please record numbers in 15-minute increments.

Time	Pedestrians	Bicyclists		Mobility Aid*	Others**
		Female	Male		
11:00-11:15					
11:15-11:30					
11:30-11:45					
11:45-12:00					
12:00-12:15					
12:15-12:30					
12:30-12:45					
12:45-1:00					

* "Mobility Aid" includes people using a wheelchair, baby stroller, or similar device. It also includes small children being carried.

** "Others" includes people using skates, skateboards and other non-motorized methods of travel.





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