

Quick Take

What:

Bicycle and Pedestrian Traffic Count Program

Significance:

Data collection efforts are underway documenting bicycle and pedestrian usage on shared-use paths in five cities across four counties. The 2015 annual report presents highlights from the program's first year of data collection.

Program History:

Installation of count equipment began in 2014, with many more count stations installed in 2015. Data is collected continuously and serves as a baseline from which growth will be studied over time.

By the Numbers:

4.3 million

The total number of bicycle and pedestrian traffic counts recorded in 2015 at the 26 count station locations.

Region Collecting Bike, Pedestrian Counts

To support effective bicycle and pedestrian planning, the North Central Texas Council of Governments is collecting data about bicycle and pedestrian facility usage in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

NCTCOG partnered in 2014 and 2015 with several local agencies to install data collection equipment. NCTCOG and the partner agencies identified shared-use paths with significant value as active transportation corridors, which connect to major destinations and transit stations. Equipment was installed along the Trinity Trails in Fort Worth, the Denton Branch Rail Trail, Plano's Chisholm Trail, and North Richland Hills' Cotton Belt Trail. NCTCOG receives data collected by other city-owned counters in the region, and those count stations are reflected in the annual report, available at NCTCOG.org/BikePedCountData. The permanent equipment utilizes inductive loop and passive infrared sensor technology to distinguish bicyclists from pedestrians, as well as their direction of travel.

Permanent counting equipment is installed throughout Dallas-Fort Worth to help transportation planners better understand active transportation activity.



Goals of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Traffic Count Program

To better help planners understand where and how people are bicycling and walking in the region, the NCTCOG Bicycle and Pedestrian Traffic Count Program has the following goals:

- Collect baseline data from which NCTCOG can track bicycle and pedestrian usage over time
- Evaluate monthly, weekly, and daily patterns and trends
- Determine the impact of specific projects (before and after) and study the relationship of the surrounding land use to the recorded bicycle and pedestrian traffic volumes

FACTSheet

Among the 26 count stations, the combined mode share is 50 percent bicyclists and 50 percent pedestrians. However, the location of the shared-use path significantly impacts the ratio of pedestrians to bicyclists who use the corridor. Paths with count stations located farther from nearby development or population density generally report a lower percentage of pedestrians and a higher percentage of bicyclists. Corridors in dense residential and retail areas, such as the Katy Trail in Dallas, have among the highest percentage of pedestrians in the region (up to 82 percent) and the most overall users.

NCTCOG has mobile equipment available for loan to local jurisdictions for purposes of conducting short-term counts of bicyclists and pedestrians on either shared-use paths or streets.

To reserve NCTCOG's mobile counting equipment, please contact **Daniel Snyder** at dsnyder@nctcog.org or **817-608-2394**.

For more information on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Traffic Count Program, please visit NCTCOG.org/BikePedCountData.



Data gathered from the region's permanent bicycle-pedestrian traffic counters indicates an even split between bicyclists and pedestrians on the region's facilities. However, some trails are characterized by heavy use by pedestrians, while others are more likely to be frequented by bicyclists. For example, a high percentage of residents who use the Katy Trail are pedestrians.

Number of Permanent Count Stations Monitored by NCTCOG in 2015*

City of Dallas	14
City of Denton	2
City of North Richland Hills	1
City of Plano	6
Tarrant Regional Water District (Fort Worth)	3
Total	26

** Some cities may have additional count stations not tracked by NCTCOG.*



North Central Texas Council of Governments

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