

# BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN COUNTS VOLUNTEER TRAINING



**CONTACT: JACOB VANSICKLE,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Email: [Jacob@bikecleveland.org](mailto:Jacob@bikecleveland.org)  
Phone: 216-273-6863**



# 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

- Tally sheet and location information
- Two pens or pencils
- Means of keeping time (cell phone, watch, etc.)
- Contact information
- Count Instructions
- Tally Sheet
- Count Location Map
- Chair, safety vest (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 columns
- Move on to the next 15 minute block when necessary
- Return forms to Bike Cleveland when complete:  
Scan/Take photo and email to:  
Jacob@bikecleveland.org  
OR  
Mail to: Bike Cleveland  
3000 Bridge Ave., Suite 1  
Cleveland, OH 44113

# 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 Jacob VanSickle at [Jacob@bikecleveland.org](mailto:Jacob@bikecleveland.org)

# 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 [Jacob@bikecleveland.org](mailto:Jacob@bikecleveland.org)
- When finished, return all materials to Bike Cleveland (scan/photograph or mail)