

Manual Count Program: Background and Methodology

Introduction:

Each year, Hennepin County recruits volunteers to count people walking and biking from 4:00-6:00 pm during the second week of September. The data is then used to calculate estimated daily traffic (EDT) at each site, which means that 2-hour counts are extrapolated to understand larger trends in walking and biking. The counts are conducted in accordance with the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project.

Materials and methodology:

Hennepin County staff provide volunteers with the forms needed to conduct the counts. The forms include a map with two screen lines and instructions, as well as two count forms (one for each screen line).

Screen Line Instructions & Map

You have 2 screen lines.

Be sure to count bicyclists and pedestrians on each screen line using separate count forms.

If you notice someone making repeat trips, count them each time.

If an individual crosses two screen lines, count them both times.

Record bicyclist street and sidewalk/path riding accordingly.

Hennepin County Public Works Bicyclist & Pedestrian Count Form

Name: _____ Date: _____

Screen Line (see attached map): **66th St west of Nicollet Ave**


Instructions:

- Use tally marks in groups of 5 to indicate each bicyclist or pedestrian (4 = ||||, 5 = |||||).
- Count all bicyclists and pedestrians crossing your screen line.
- Count both sides of street, including sidewalks and/or paths in both directions.
- Count every person each time they cross the screenline.
- Please record your precise start time: _____ and precise end time: _____

Questions?
Please call
Emily Kettell at
612-543-1963

15 Minute Time Periods	Bicyclists ¹		Pedestrians ²
	Riding in Street	Riding on Sidewalk and/or Path	
4:00 - 4:15			
4:15 - 4:30			
4:30 - 4:45			
4:45 - 5:00			
5:00 - 5:15			
5:15 - 5:30			
5:30 - 5:45			
5:45 - 6:00			
Total			

¹ Count the number of people bicycling, rather than the number of bicycles. Someone walking a bicycle is a pedestrian.
² Includes individuals walking, crawling, using wheelchairs, electric scooters, children being carried or in a stroller, skaters, roller bladers, skateboarders, skiers, kick scooters, and segways. Do not count motor scooters or golf carts.
 Please mail completed count form to 701 Fourth Avenue South, Suite 400, Minneapolis, MN 55415 or scan and email to emily.kettell@hennepin.us Thank you!

Updated 2017 

Hennepin County Public Works Bicyclist & Pedestrian Count Form

Name: _____ Date: _____

Screen Line (see attached map): **Nicollet Ave north of 66th St**


Instructions:

- Use tally marks in groups of 5 to indicate each bicyclist or pedestrian (4 = ||||, 5 = |||||).
- Count all bicyclists and pedestrians crossing your screen line.
- Count both sides of street, including sidewalks and/or paths in both directions.
- Count every person each time they cross the screenline.
- Please record your precise start time: _____ and precise end time: _____

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Updated 2017 

Volunteers are directed to count pedestrians defined as individuals walking, crawling, using wheelchairs, electric scooters, children being carried or in a stroller, skaters, roller bladers, skateboarders, skiers, kick scooters, and segways. Volunteers were instructed not to count motor scooters or golf carts. An individual walking a bicycle is considered a pedestrian.

Count locations:

Count locations are chosen for one or more of the following reasons:

- County roads: count site is located on at least on Hennepin County road
- Near county projects: future projects are planned at location and counts will measure volumes before and after project implementation
- High activity area: location is a common route for bicyclists and pedestrians and/or is near a commercial node
- Near planned improvements or bicycle gaps

Data processing:

The methodology used to calculate EDT for a 24 hour period comes from the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project, a nationwide model of data collection and analysis for nonmotorized counts. The Project methodology assumes that 20% of daily bicycle traffic and 18% of daily pedestrian traffic occurs between 4:00-6:00 pm.