



NASHVILLE AREA

Metropolitan Planning Organization

2013 Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts

Summary Report

September 10, 2013

Summary

The Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization completed a third unannounced, region-wide, biennial count of bicyclists and pedestrians, documenting approximately 7,171 bicycle and pedestrian trips at 33 sampled locations throughout five counties on September 10, 2013. Morning bicycle commute trips increased over 40% from the 2011 counts. The counts are organized by the Nashville Area MPO and staffed by volunteers. The data collection effort is part of the National Bicycle & Pedestrian Documentation Project which is a nationwide effort to provide data to help planners and policy makers better understand the need for bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Background

Non-motorized transportation planners have historically lacked a uniform way to document bicycle and pedestrian facility usage and demand. Without accurate and consistent figures on bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure demand and usage, it is difficult to measure and justify the benefits of investing in facilities like sidewalks and bikeways, or to understand what factors influence trips made by walking and biking, especially when compared to the large amounts of data collected for motor vehicles.

The National Bicycle & Pedestrian Documentation Project assumes that, in order to estimate existing and future bicycle and pedestrian demand and activity, agencies like MPOs must start conducting counts and surveys in a consistent, standardized manner.

The 2009, 2011 and 2013 counts help the MPO to: build the region's database of bicycle and pedestrian count information; understand the facility needs and uses of bicyclists and pedestrians; gather information on potential trends for walking and bicycling trips (by conducting counts at the same locations year-over-year); and share data with the National Bicycle & Pedestrian Documentation Project.

Findings

The top count location overall was Belmont Boulevard and Bernard Avenue near Belmont University in Nashville, where volunteers noted over 1,420 trips: 1,288 pedestrian trips and 140 cyclist trips. The counts were conducted in Davidson, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson and Wilson counties during peak commute times [7:00-9:00 a.m., and then 4:00-6:00 p.m.] on Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2013.

- Women made up **49%** of the 2013 pedestrians and **25%** of the 2013 bicyclists.
- The morning bicycle counts went up **42%** from 2011 to 2013 at the original 21 locations.
- Despite the weather, the 2013 morning and afternoon counts were almost identical to the 2011 numbers at the original 21 locations.
- The 2013 morning bicycle and pedestrian counts show a **7%** increase over the 2011 bicycle and pedestrian morning counts at the original 21 locations.
- The 2013 morning bicycle and pedestrian counts show a **60%** increase over the 2009 bicycle and pedestrian morning counts at the original 21 locations

Documenting the Need for Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

Fifty percent of trips taken in U.S. metro areas are three miles or less and nearly thirty percent of trips are one mile or less. The average person can walk one mile in about twenty minutes and can bicycle the same distance in less than half

that time. Creating safe, convenient routes for those who want to walk or bicycle for short trips –to work, school, or elsewhere– is a critical component of any metropolitan region’s transportation plan.

One-third of Americans don’t drive and 12 percent of all trips in America are by walking or bicycling. And despite the fact that 55 percent of Americans want to bike more than they do now, drive less and walk more, 65 percent of trips under one mile are still taken by automobile due to inadequate facilities for active transportation. With Tennessee now tied for tenth in the nation for obesity rates (up from second in 2009 and fourth in 2011), the MPO seeks to pursue infrastructure policies that reflect a desire for healthier options to get around communities, including safer, more convenient means to walk or cycle for routine trips.

Observations

Volunteers noted an overall increase in both bicycle and pedestrian trips, including those that appeared to be for leisure and exercise as well as those that appeared to be for transportation. The areas around Vanderbilt and Belmont Universities continue to see high numbers of bicyclists and pedestrians, primarily because of a large population traveling short distances to get to nearby destinations. Other areas of the region that have experienced bicycle and pedestrian improvements such as sidewalks, bicycle lanes and greenways, in addition to being served by land uses such as retail located near residential or offices/campuses, noted an increase in trips. Overall, it appears that the increase in bicycle and pedestrian facilities as well as the increase in destination options is contributing to the rise in bicycle and pedestrian trips.

Conclusions

Investments in the non-motorized modes help increase access to transit, provide safe and reliable transportation choices for trips of short distances, promote physical activity, improve air quality, lower the region’s overall carbon footprint, and encourage infill redevelopment of existing centers and corridors that may be nearing capacity on the supporting roadway infrastructure. These outcomes support the goals of the MPO’s 2035 Regional Transportation Plan, which has three policy priorities: 1) A Bold New Vision for Mass Transit, 2) Support for Active Transportation and Walkable Communities, and 3) Preserving and Enhancing Existing Roadways. The 2035 Plan programs federal transportation dollars for regional transportation projects in the counties of Davidson, Rutherford, Sumner, Wilson and Williamson as well as portions of Maury and Robertson Counties.

Although the counts provide a small snapshot of pedestrian and bicycle traffic on one given weekday, they are important for several reasons since they provide insightful data that the MPO can reference when proposing or seeking to fund bicycle and pedestrian transportation projects in the MPO planning area. In addition, the data contributes to a national study that compiles data from over one hundred communities across the nation. MPO staff believes that the increase in bicycle and pedestrian trips demonstrates a desire to walk or bicycle to a destination. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities are important for everyone, including car drivers, since even drivers are pedestrians as they walk from their cars to their final destinations.

Additional information

For more information on the MPO Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts and other efforts to support safety, improve population health and improve air quality by increasing active transportation trips as part of the regional transportation system, visit NashvilleMPO.org/BikePed.

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Nashville Area MPO

2013 Bike & Pedestrian Count

Inset Map:

- 156 & 12 Jefferson & DB Todd
- 152 & 78 Shelby Pedestrian Bridge
- 32 & 23 Charlotte Ave & 28th Ave
- 428 & 46 West End & Centinnial
- 328 & 81 Demonbreun & 8th Ave
- 193 & 66 Edgehill Ave & 16th Ave S
- 1288 & 140 Belmont & Portland
- 675 & 77 21st & Blakemore

Main Map:

- 12 & 1 Lower Station Camp & Bison
- 200 & 11 S Water in Gallatin
- 96 & 12 Trail Head by in Drakes Creek Park
- 219 & 4 Lebanon Square
- 64 & 12 US HWY 231 & Elmwood-Dr
- 8 & 3 N Castle Heights & Coles Ferry
- 2 & 0 S Hartmann Dr & Blue Devil Dr
- 70 & 29 Cumberland Dr & S Greenwood
- 21 & 5 S College St & E Gay St
- 6 & 10 Mt Juliet Rd & Providence
- 106 & 11 Stones River Greenway
- 156 & 60 MT Boulevard & E Main St
- 186 & 10 Dickerson Pk & Gatewood Ave
- 79 & 8 Gallatin S. of Douglas
- 50 & 5 Lebanon Pk
- 22 & 7 Mt. Juliet Rd & Division St
- 328 & 81 Demonbreun & 8th Ave
- 122 & 41 Woodland St & S 5th St
- 282 & 169 Shelby Bottoms Park
- 428 & 46 West End near Centinnial-Vandy
- 193 & 66 Edgehill Ave & 16th Ave S
- 134 & 8 Murfreesboro Pk & Spence Ln
- 675 & 77 21st & Blakemore
- 87 & 6 Harding & Nolensville
- 227 & 41 Trailhead by YMCA
- 29 & 9 Mallory Ln & McEwen Dr
- 15 & 11 Highway 96 & 11th Ave N
- 22 & 12 Franklin Rd & Maryland Way
- 22 & 12 Franklin Rd & Maryland Way
- 29 & 9 Mallory Ln & McEwen Dr
- 15 & 11 Highway 96 & 11th Ave N

INSET

Pedestrian & Bike Count Location



2013 Nashville Area MPO Bicycle & Pedestrian Count Results												Key	AM Count or PM Recount	No Count Data	Rain Count
#	Location	AM Female Pedestrian Total	AM Male Pedestrian Total	AM Pedestrian Total	AM Female Bicyclist Total	AM Male Bicyclist Total	AM Bicyclist Total	PM Female Pedestrian Total	PM Male Pedestrian Total	PM Pedestrian Total	PM Female Bicyclist Total	PM Male Bicyclist Total	PM Bicyclist Total	Totals	
Davidson County														5658	
1	21st Avenue @ Blakemore Avenue	233	140	373	16	40	56	168	134	302	4	17	21	752	
2	Belmont Boulevard @ Bernard Avenue	236	252	488	18	49	67	409	391	800	16	57	73	1428	
3	West End Avenue near Centennial Park	108	58	166	4	9	13	118	144	262	5	28	33	474	
4	Demonbreun @ 8th Avenue	26	112	138	6	29	35	58	132	190	8	38	46	409	
5	Harding Place @ Nolensville Pike	24	33	57	1	2	3	9	21	30	0	3	3	93	
6	Jefferson Street @ DB Todd	25	56	81	0	8	8	26	49	75	0	4	4	168	
7	Shelby Bridge Pedestrian Bridge	11	22	33	7	34	41	48	71	119	2	35	37	230	
8	Shelby Bottoms Greenway	49	54	103	12	29	41	106	73	179	50	78	128	451	
9	Lebanon Road just west of OHB	4	7	11	0	2	2	9	30	39	0	3	3	55	
10	Murfreesboro Road near Spence Lane	20	60	80	0	6	6	14	40	54	0	2	2	142	
11	Gallatin Road south of Douglas	12	24	36	1	4	5	5	38	43	1	2	3	87	
12	Woodland and S. 5th Street	26	37	63	7	14	21	17	42	59	2	18	20	163	
13	Charlotte and 28th	6	11	17	2	15	17	5	10	15	0	6	6	55	
14	24th Blakemore	174	120	294	22	54	76	133	133	266	19	41	60	696	
15	Edgehill 16th	71	67	138	11	30	41	20	35	55	8	17	25	259	
16	Dickerson and Gatewood	87	56	143	1	8	9	25	18	43	0	1	1	196	
Rutherford County														333	
1	Murfreesboro Road in LaVergne													0	
2	Stones River Greenway near Thompson Ln	70	28	98	5	6	11	2	6	8	0	0	0	117	
3	Mid TN Blvd at E. Main St	51	46	97	4	14	18	29	30	59	15	27	42	216	
Sumner County														332	
1	South Water @ West Main in Gallatin	60	116	176	1	6	7	6	18	24	0	4	4	211	
2	Trail around Drake's Creek Park	37	20	57	5	4	9	17	22	39	1	2	3	108	
3	Lower Station Camp @ Bison Road	1	2	3	0	1	1	2	7	9	0	0	0	13	
Williamson County														366	
1	Mallory Lane @ McEwen	5	8	13	1	4	5	10	6	16	1	3	4	38	
2	Trailhead by YMCA off Concord Road	178	49	227	9	32	41							268	
3	Franklin Road/Maryland Way	7	7	14	0	2	2	3	5	8	3	7	10	34	
4	Highway 96 N 11th Street	0	8	8	0	4	4	2	5	7	0	7	7	26	
Wilson County														482	
1	N. Castle Heights Avenue @ Coles Ferry Pike	5	3	8	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	11	
2	Cumberland Drive @ S. Greenwood Street	9	45	54	7	10	17	0	16	16	3	9	12	99	
3	Mt Juliet Road near Providence	2	3	5	3	7	10	0	1	1	0	0	0	16	
4	US 231 and Elmwood	3	18	21	0	2	2	16	27	43	0	10	10	76	
5	South College East Gay	2	4	6	1	1	2	2	13	15	0	3	3	26	
6	Mt Juliet Road Division	6	7	13	2	1	3	3	6	9	2	2	4	29	
7	Square Lebanon	41	42	83	0	2	2	85	51	136	0	2	2	223	
8	Hartmann Blue Devil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	
Nashville Area MPO Total		1,589	1,515	3,104	146	430	576	1,347	1,576	2,923	140	428	568	7171	