Portland Bike Count Volunteer Training

Instructions for counting people on bikes (and skateboards!)

WE KEEP PORTLAND MOVING.

TINYURL.COM/PDXBIKECOUNTS
What are we counting?
What are we counting?

The standard bike count form
What are we counting?

Tracks gender and helmet use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>with</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>helmet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>without</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>helmet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>totals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What are we counting?

Includes a diagram for turning movements

Bicycle Count Form
use different form for each hour

Location: __________________________

Date: ____________________________ Time: ____________________________

Weather: __________________________ Name: __________________________

Notes: ____________________________

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Skateboard tally:

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What are we counting?

With a separate tally for skateboards

Skateboard tally:
Citywide helmet use is up to 83%
In 1992, only one in five people on bikes were female; in 2017, it was one in three. 
(We’re aiming for one in two.)
Site counts go up and down from year to year...
...and trends develop over time.
Don’t worry - we’ll get there!
Copenhagen’s bike mode share was not a straight line to the top.
Where are we counting?
Where are we counting?

306 sites citywide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sector</th>
<th># sites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridge</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Center</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Most sites are located at the intersection of two bikeways.

- Streets with bike lanes
- Neighborhood greenways
- Multi-use paths

SE Ankeny & 28th
Portland also has a few automated “hose” counts.

Hawthorne Bridge: http://portland-hawthorne-bridge.visio-tools.com/
Tilikum Crossing: http://portland-tilikum-crossing.visio-tools.com/
Portland also has a few automated “hose” counts.

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Tilikum Crossing: http://portland-tilikum-crossing.visio-tools.com/
That’s why we need you!
That’s why we need you!

We utilize **100+ volunteers** every summer to count as many sites as we can.
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We utilize 100+ volunteers every summer to count as many sites as we can.
tinyurl.com/pdxbikecounts

- Count forms
- Map of sites
- Data
- This presentation

tinyurl.com/pdxbikecounts2019

- Volunteer assignments
- Available sites
When are we counting?
When are we counting?

- **Summer months**: June through August
- **Mid-week**: Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday
- **During peak rush hour**: 4-6pm for most, 7-9am for some
- **Each site is only counted one time**

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**Summer 2018 Bike Count Calendar**

Conduct counts on good weather Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays from June through September.

**Holidays:**

- July 4th, Independence Day
- September 4th, Labor Day

**Do not count during the week of July 4th!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Wed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Done with your counts early? Had so much fun you want to do more? Contact Taylor to help fill in the gaps:
taylor.sutter@portlandoregon.gov, 503-823-4533
See the list at tinyurl.com/pdxbikecounts2018.
When are we counting?

Avoid counting:

• On rainy days
• During extreme heat
• The week of Independence Day
When are we counting?

Last day to complete a bike count:

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

DO NOT BE LATE.
How are we counting?
How are we counting?

Instructions for Using the Bicycle Count Form:

1. Complete the top portion of the form with information about where & when you are counting:
   - Location: typically names of intersecting streets, include site ID if you know it
   - Date: include day & day of week
   - Time: clearly label the time period, one hour page
   - Weather: general weather information (cold, cloudy, warm, hot, sunny, rainy, overcast, etc.)
   - Notes: anything unusual, such as nearby construction that might affect people riding bikes, lots of wrong-way riding by people on bikes, or many people riding on the sidewalk

2. Establish the North arrow:
   - If you are unsure which way is north, draw in landmarks such as a park, grocery store, or other business

3. Label the streets on the intersection drawing:
   - Modify the drawing (or use a blank form) for T-intersections or other non-standard intersections
   - Draw in arrows representing each legal move that can be made by a person on a bike (straight through, right turn, left turn, etc.)

4. Count each bike passing through the intersection by making a tick mark in two locations: below next to the arrow in the diagram that describes their movement through the intersection, and above in the corresponding box for helmet use & gender:
   - Begin counts precisely at the beginning of the hour and end promptly at the end of the hour
   - Remember to flip to page 2 for the second hour

5. After two hours, count your tally marks and record in each section:
   - Record the total for each gender/helmet box in the top portion
   - Record the totals for each movement in the lower diagram

6. Write the total number of gender/helmet tallies in the box provided. Record the total from the directional count in the lower right hand corner:
   - When there is a discrepancy between the gender/helmet tally and the directional tally, the directional tally will be used

Tips for Counting:

- Mark the tally only after the bicycle has passed through the intersection, rather than trying to anticipate their movement. Try picking a visual point the bike must pass before you record the information.
- When working with a partner, especially at busy intersections, it generally works best if one person records the directional information and the other records the gender and helmet information on a separate sheet.
- Do not try to add the tally information after the first hour; wait until the count is complete.
- DO INCLUDE people riding on the sidewalks and/or making illegal movements through the intersection.
- DO NOT INCLUDE people walking their bikes.

Bicycle Count Form (use different form for each hour)

Location: NE 12th St & Tillamook

Date: 3/25/06 Time: 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Weather: 80°F, Sunny Name: John Doe

Notes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender/Helmet</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>With helmet</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Without helmet</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Totals: 25

Indicate movement of bike intersection by using arrows to show direction of travel (left turns, through, etc.). Indicate north, label legs of intersection. If no standard intersection, use blank form and draw in design.
How are we counting?

Numbered steps = Circled numbers

Download instructions at tinyurl.com/pdxbikecounts
How are we counting?

Plan ahead:

- Scope out your site before you count
- Find a shady spot, bring a hat or umbrella
- Bring snacks and water
- Use a clipboard or other hard surface to write on
- Bring an extra writing utensil
- Don’t forget your count form!
Before you start, prepare the count form.

1. Fill in the top portion on both sides.
   - You will count one hour per side
   - Note anything unusual or interesting
     - Construction
     - Lots of bikes on the sidewalk
     - Large Pedalpalooza ride

Bicycle Count Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location:</th>
<th>NE 12th &amp; Tillamook</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>7/25/06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time:</td>
<td>4:00 - 5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weather:</td>
<td>80's, sunny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
<td>John Doe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Before you start, prepare the count form.

1. Fill in the top portion on both sides.
2. Draw an arrow to indicate which way is North.
   • If you are unsure, draw in other landmarks such as a park or grocery store.
Before you start, prepare the count form.

1. Fill in the top portion on both sides.
2. Draw an arrow to indicate which way is North.
3. Label the streets in the diagram at the bottom of the page.

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[Diagram of a street with labeled streets: NE Tillamook and NE 12th Ave]
Before you start, prepare the count form.

1. Fill in the top portion on both sides.
2. Draw an arrow to indicate which way is North.
3. Label the streets in the diagram at the bottom of the page.
4. Draw arrows in the diagram to represent potential movements.
During the count, track helmets, gender, and direction of travel.

5. Count each person on a bike as they pass through the intersection.
   - **Each bike gets two tick marks:** one for helmet/gender and one for direction of travel
   - Flip to page 2 after the first hour
During the count, track helmets, gender, and direction of travel.

5. Count each person on a bike as they pass through the intersection.

BONUS: Tally skateboards!

• You do not need to track helmet/gender for skateboards
• Keep this separate from the bike tallies
After the count, check your tally marks.

6. Add the tally marks for each section of the top box.
After the count, check your tally marks.

6. Add the tally marks for each section of the top box.
7. Sum together and write the total in the lower right box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>with helmet</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>without helmet</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>totals</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Indicate movement thru intersection by using arrows to show direction of travel (left turns, through, etc.).
After the count, check your tally marks.

6. Add the tally marks for each section of the top box.
7. Sum together and write the total in the lower right box.
8. BONUS: Add the tally marks in the bottom diagram.
   • This should match the total from the top
A completed count form:

**Bicycle Count Form**

*Use different form for each hour*

**Location:** N Rosa Parks + N Denver

**Date:** 18 June 2015  |  **Time:** 5-6pm

**Weather:** 75° Sunny  |  **Name:** John Beaton

**Notes:** Lots of speeding along N Rosa Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>with helmet</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>without helmet</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>totals</strong> →</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Indicate movement thru intersection by using arrows to show direction of travel (left turns, through, etc.).

Indicate north, label legs of intersection. If not standard intersection, use blank form and draw in design.

![Diagram of intersection]

TINYURL.COM/PDXBIKECOUNTS
Let’s review:
Let’s review:

Start and end precisely at the top of the hour. 4-6pm for most counts, 7-9am for some.

Don’t forget to flip to the next page for hour two!
Let’s review:

Do not cheat!

We’re depending on the counts to be accurate
Let’s review:

Wait to record the movement until it is complete.

People on bikes sometimes use sidewalks and crosswalks to better position themselves in the roadway.
Let’s review:

Remember to mark each person on a bike for helmet/gender and for direction of travel.

If there are discrepancies, the directional count will be used.
High-volume Sites

^ = 200-400 bikes expected

* = 400+ bikes expected

Consider a partner!

Partner required!

High-volume sites are not recommended for new volunteers.

When counting with a partner, it usually works best to have one person track gender/helmet and the other track the direction of travel.
Frequently Asked Questions
Q: Should I include people riding on the sidewalk?
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Should I include people riding on the sidewalk?

A: Yes. This could indicate that existing infrastructure is not ideal for how cyclists want to get around. We want to know!

Bonus: It’s helpful if you can draw a sidewalk on the count form with separate arrows; otherwise, write a note at the top of the form indicating if there were a few or many sidewalk riders.
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What about people walking their bike?
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What about people walking their bike?

A: No. Only include people actively riding through the intersection.
Q: Should I count people riding the wrong way on a one-way street, or those making an illegal turn movement?
Q: Should I count people riding the wrong way on a one-way street, or those making an illegal turn movement?

A: Yes. Any illegal or otherwise questionable movements should still be counted.
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Should I include people using scooters or segways?
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Should I include people using scooters or segues?

A: No. We want to focus on getting an accurate count of bicycles. We really want you to count skateboards, but please keep these tallies separate from the bike tallies.
Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** How would I count a tandem or a child on a bike?
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How would I count a tandem or a child on a bike?

A: Generally, if someone is pedaling you should count them separately.
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How would I count a tandem or a child on a bike?

A:

2

1

4
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What if there is a large group of people (such as a Pedalpalooza ride) riding by at once?
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What if there is a large group of people (such as a Pedalpalooza ride) riding by at once?

A: Do your best to accurately count them all.
   • For high-volume intersections*, bring a friend to help you count
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What if the cyclist is wearing spandex/is a child/is not wearing clothes?
Q: What if the cyclist is wearing spandex/is a child/is not wearing clothes?

A: Count everyone on a bicycle.

• Portlanders use bikes for many different reasons including transportation, recreation, commuting, and more. We want to count them all – EVERY BIKE COUNTS!
Frequently Asked Questions Recap:

Q: Should I include people riding on the sidewalk? A: Yes.

Q: Should I include people walking their bike? A: No.

Q: Should I include people riding the wrong way on a one-way street? A: Yes.

Q: Should I count people using scooters or segues? A: No.

Q: How would I count a tandem or a child on a bike? A: If they are pedaling, count them each separately.

Q: What if there is a large group all at once? A: Count them.

Q: What if the cyclist is wearing spandex/is a child/is not wearing clothes? A: Count them all!
Pop Quiz!

How would you count these guys?
Pop Quiz!

- 0 helmets
- 10 bikes
- 8 males
- 2 females
- Count tandem as two
- Just a passenger

Counting the Muppets using Portland manual bike count methodology

TINYURL.COM/PDXBIKECOUTNS
When you have completed your count(s):

*Please return your count forms ASAP!*

**by MAIL**
Taylor Phillips  
PBOT Bike Count  
1001 SW 5th Ave, Ste 500  
Portland, OR 97204

**by SCAN & E-MAIL**
`taylor.phillips@portlandoregon.gov`

Check tinyurl.com/pdxbikecounts2019 if you want to grab another site!
And one last thing...

We appreciate our dedicated, hard-working volunteers, so we have this special offer for you:

Complete **3 or more** bike counts this year, get **first dibs** next year! *Or count the same site for 3 or more years.*

*Get started now!*
Thank you!

We couldn’t do this without you.

Contact Taylor Phillips with any questions, or to sign up for count sites!

taylor.phillips@portlandoregon.gov, 503-823-6142

Find count forms and other info at tinyurl.com/pdxbikecounts