

**2018 Research
Symposium****Bicycle and Pedestrian Counting Program
Management****& STIC Annual
Meeting****RESEARCH PROJECT
TITLE**

Bicycle and Pedestrian Counting
Program Management

STUDY TIMELINE

April 2016 – September 2017

INVESTIGATORS

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VTRANS CONTACTS

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This fact sheet was prepared for the
2018 VTrans Research and
Innovation Symposium & STIC
Annual Meeting held at the State
House in Montpelier, VT, on
September 12, 2018 from
8:00 am– 1:00 pm.

Fact sheets can be found for
additional projects featured at the
2018 Symposium at

<http://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/research/2018symposium>

Additional information about the
VTrans Research Program can be
found at

<http://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/research>

Additional information about the
VTrans STIC Program can be found
at <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/boards-councils/stic>

Problem Statement

Traffic counts are used extensively in transportation system management, planning, policy and research. Vermont has been a leader with VTrans, several regional planning agencies and UVM all active in counting non-motorized travel. These counts remain more dependent on expensive manual data collection since continuous count data is scarce. In addition, counts have tended to focus on more highly traveled paths in more bike- and pedestrian-friendly towns and locations leaving significant spatial gaps. All of the potential uses of bicycle and pedestrian counts will benefit from the compilation of all count data statewide into a single, searchable database. This variety of collection efforts creates a diverse set of statewide count data, but it makes compilation of a single statewide archive challenging.

Action Taken

The objectives of this project were to combine existing bicycle and pedestrian count data into a single database, validate the existing count data and methods of collection, identify gaps in the data, and report on the state of biking and walking demand in Vermont. A set of options and recommendations for continued collection of counts statewide in future years was also provided.

Conclusions and Next Steps

The key outcomes of this work included:

- Creation of a new data input tool that standardized the data formats and response options based on national protocols
- Creation of a new database with a linked Site ID to prevent data duplication and loss
- Creation of a new web portal to view the existing count data in site summary form or to download raw data.
- Recommendations for 20 new count sites to generate a more representative count database, as counting to date has been focused on sidewalks and multiuse paths where high non-motorized volumes are expected.

Continued support of the regional planning commissions to count non-motorized users as part of the Transportation Planning Initiative was encouraged.

Potential Impacts and VTrans Benefits

This project provided VTrans and the rest of its statewide partners with a web-enabled tool for observing its count data in a spatial interface. The tool also allows all of the Vermont partners to enter new count data in a format that is constrained to national standards of consistency.