



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

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MAYOR

BIKE + PEDESTRIAN COUNTING PROJECT

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do I need to count for the entire 1.5 hour-long AM or PM collection time?

A: No. Count for one hour only. You can choose the hour that works best for your schedule, within the collection timeframe (AM collection times are between 7:15 and 8:45 AM and PM collection times are between 4:45 and 6:15 PM). The counts will be skewed if you count for more than one hour.

Q: I was planning to collect data from 7:45 to 8:45 AM but I got to the site 5 minutes late. Should I stop collecting data at 8:45 or count for an entire hour, until 8:50?

A: Count for the entire hour, even if you go over the collection time by 5 or 10 minutes. (AM collection times are between 7:15 and 8:45 AM and PM collection times are between 4:45 and 6:15 PM). The counts will be skewed if you count for less than one hour, or if you put the incorrect time on your sheet.

Q: I was planning on collecting the data on Tuesday morning but a conflict arose in my schedule. Can I collect in the afternoon instead?

A: No! You cannot change between AM and PM collection times. You can switch to a different day if a conflict arises, as long as you continue to keep the AM or PM time and location the same.

Q: I was planning on collecting data on Wednesday afternoon but I had to work late – can I change to Thursday afternoon?

A: Yes. As long as you keep the location and AM or PM collection time the same, you can collect data on any day in the counting project.

Q: I was planning on counting today but it is raining. Do you want me to collect today or can I count a different day with better weather?

A: You can collect when it is raining if you want, but feel free to switch to a day with better predicted weather as long as it is one of the designated days in the counting project. Make sure you still collect at your designated location and AM or PM time slot. Mark down the weather conditions on your sheet.

Q: I have to suddenly go out of town. Can I collect on Friday when I get back?

A: No. Collection days are only Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Contact Kathleen (info below) as soon as possible to let her know you cannot complete your counts.

Q: Historically, my location experiences high levels of movement. Can I bring a friend along to help count?

A: You can if you would like, but it may be more confusing than helpful (i.e. double-counting, missing someone). Some of the *busiest intersections are #2, 7, 13, 16, 17, 35* – if you would rather count at a slower intersection, sign up for a different location.



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Q: Someone is walking their bike. Should I count them as a bicyclist or a pedestrian?

A: A pedestrian. They are traveling by foot, even though they are carrying a bike.

Q: Someone is running, but it looks like they are just running for a minute and are clearly not 'out for a jog'. Should I count them as a pedestrian or a jogger?

A: A jogger. They are running at the time you saw them.

Q: Someone is pushing a double-stroller with two kids in it. How do I mark this?

A: Mark it as 3 pedestrians.

Q: Should I count people on both sides of the street (both sidewalks)?

A: Yes, make sure to count on both sides of the street.

Q: Do I count bikers going the wrong way down a one-way street?

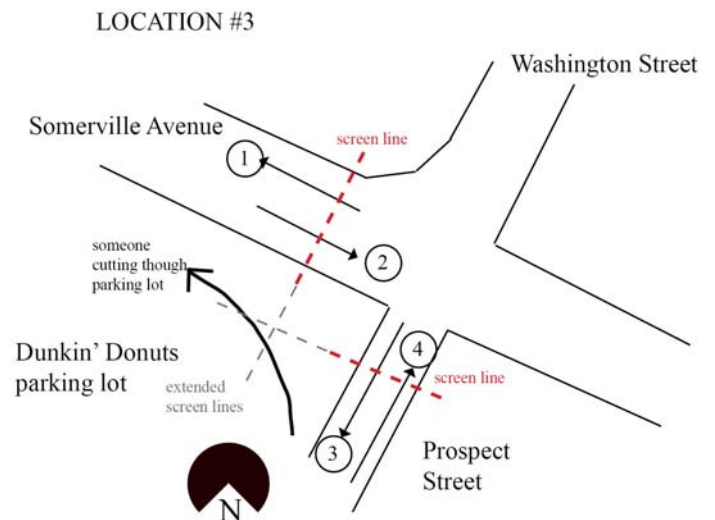
A: Yes. Mark the bicyclist under the appropriate movement (#1, 2, 3, or 4).

Q: My screen line is just to the left of a bus stop/entrance to a store. Many people walk past my screen line but then enter the bus/store. Do I count them all?

A: Yes. Count everyone who passes your screen line.

Q: I am collecting data at an intersection with a parking lot/green space/vacant area at the corner. Many people cut through the parking lot/green space/vacant area and therefore don't cross my screen line. Should I count them on my sheet?

A: Yes, if the person would have to pass your screen line if there were a building or other physical structure on the site, count them in your tally marks. This is especially relevant for **locations #3, 7, 10, 12, 15, 21, 24, 26, 29 and 31**. On the diagram below, even though the person doesn't technically cross your original screen line (shown in red), think of extending your screen line (dotted grey lines) to where the pedestrian is walking. In this case, the pedestrian (movement shown in dark arrow) would be counted for both movements # 4 and #1. If the parking lot had a building in the corner, the person would have walked along the sidewalk and therefore should be counted in the observations.



Additional Questions?

Contact Sarah Spicer at the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Design at 617-625-6600 ext. 2519 or sspicer@somervillema.gov

THANK YOU!