

AMATS 2017 Bike & Pedestrian Count Program

Bicycle and pedestrian counting is an important aspect of bicycle planning. It helps target the location for future bicycle facilities in areas where land use and development promote frequent use. The data will also help determine trends in bicycling and walking by measuring the benefits of these investments.

In 2017, AMATS completed bicycle and pedestrian counts in **14 locations** with **11 of them in the Akron area; one in Kent near KSU; and two in Barberton near the Magic Mile trail section** (a leg of the Towpath Trail that connects downtown Barberton to Lake Anna). The locations were prioritized based on demographics and land use in mostly urban settings, proximity to retail, business and University areas. Locations were also chosen where bike lanes already exist in order to develop exposure rates.

This was the first year that AMATS utilized the *MioVision* Camera in identifying bicycle and pedestrian traffic. In the past, counts were completed manually out at the location. Tracking bicycle and pedestrian counts with the *MioVision* allows for improved documentation and more efficient data collection by storing the videos for reference and access at any time.

The highest volumes of bicycle and pedestrian activity were in the Akron downtown area around mid-day from 11:30 – 1:30 pm. Main and Market Streets had the highest pedestrian counts, however, totals were down about 30% from the year 2015 for the same location and times. Bike counts for 2017 increased slightly in the Akron downtown area locations compared to a few years ago.

The following count times and locations were completed in 2017:

Akron

- E Market St/Arlington/Kent St 7.25.17
- W Market St/S. Highland Ave & Casterton 7.25.17
- W Market St/Sand Run Rd 9.26.17
- E Exchange St/Spicer St 9.19.17
- E Exchange St/Brown St 9.26.17
- Sumner St/E Exchange St 10.3.17
- Portage Trail/Akron-Peninsula Rd 8.3.17
- Waterloo Rd/Firestone Blvd Sept.
- Waterloo Rd/Glenmount Ave Sept.
- N Main St/Tallmadge Ave 7.18.17
- N Main St/Salome Ave 7.20.17

Kent

- Franklin Ave/Main St & W Erie St 9.5 through 9.15.17

Barberton

- 5th St NW/Park Ave 9.5 through 9.15.17
- Wooster Rd N/Robinson Ave 9.5 through 9.15.17

There has been an active public response to back up the need for improved bicycle facilities with supportive data. The goal in 2018 is to count more locations in the Greater Akron area and reaching out to other communities.