

ORANGETOWN BIKE STUDY BIKE COUNTS

Count Assistant Training Webinar

Conference Dial-in Number: (605) 468-8005
Participant Access Code: 786019#



About PTNY

- ▶ Parks & Trails New York is the state's leading advocate for parks and trails, working since 1985 to expand, protect and promote a network of parks, trails and open spaces for use and enjoyment by all
- ▶ PTNY has conducted trail counts on the Canalway Trail system for 11 consecutive years and on several trails across NYS
- ▶ In 2016, PTNY conducted 22 counts on 9 trails in the Capital District
- ▶ PTNY has pioneered the use of the latest count methodologies and methods and advocated for the collection of trail use data that is comparable across states



Orangetown Bike Study

- ▶ Engage the community in creating a vision for a town-wide biking network
- ▶ **Understand diverse use of local cycling network and both positive and negative perceptions of impact of cycling on the community**
- ▶ Propose new facilities, treatments, and routings that maximize safety and accessibility
- ▶ Plan for future programming, evaluation, and funding of the bike network



Count Methodology

- ▶ National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project (NBPDP) - protocol for counting trail users
- ▶ Allows comparison of data between trails and intersections
- ▶ “Adjustment factors” - extrapolate daily, monthly, and annual users from the counts on trails
- ▶ NBPDP calls for at least two counts during the same time period and week (i.e. one weekday and one weekend)

Count Methodology

- ▶ Integrity of annual use estimates in Orangetown depends on your counts
 - ▶ Economic impact studies
 - ▶ Promotional materials
 - ▶ Grant funding, other opportunities
- ▶ Consistent methods and practices
- ▶ Helps to improve existing national database
- ▶ Helps Orangetown and Rockland County identify trends and needs of the regional bikeway network



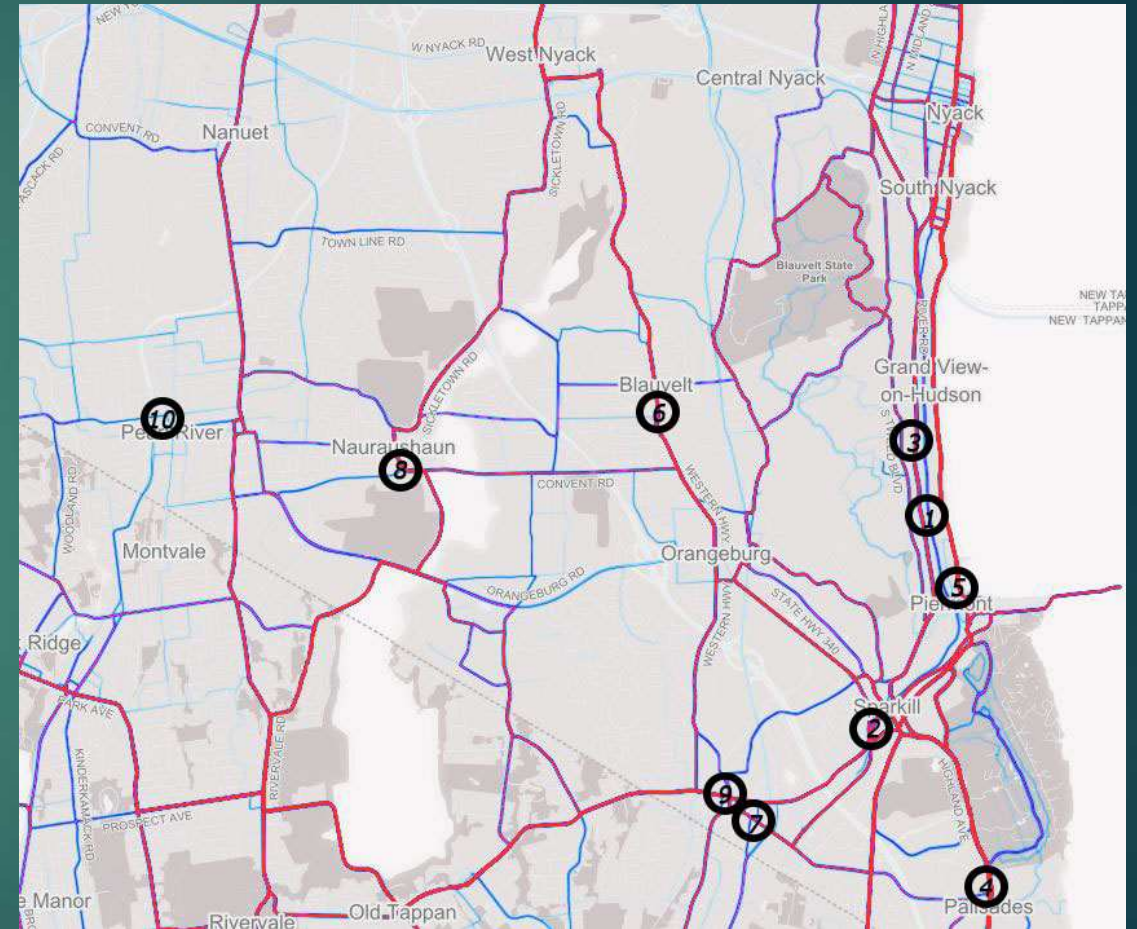
Count Design

- ▶ Per NBPDP, we recommend the following times for counts:
 - ▶ For trail locations:
Weekday, 5-7 PM
Saturday or Sunday, 12 noon – 2PM
 - ▶ For road intersections:
Weekday, 4-6 PM
Saturday or Sunday, 12 noon – 2PM

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
No counting	Weekday count (one day will be selected)			No counting	Weekend count (Option 1)	Weekend count (Option 2)

Count Locations (TENTATIVE)

- ▶ Esposito Rail Trail – manual counts and automatic counter between Ash and Old Mountain Roads (1)
- ▶ Joseph B Clarke Rail Trail – manual counts and automatic counter at Sparkill Depot (2)
- ▶ Route 9W, north of Sparkill (3)
- ▶ Route 9W, south of Sparkill at Oak Tree Rd (4)
- ▶ Piermont and Ash St (5) (NEW LOCATION)
- ▶ Western Highway at Blauvelt Rd (6)
- ▶ Route 303 at Oak Tree Rd (7)
- ▶ Sickletown/Gilbert Intersection (8)
- ▶ Washington St/Main St/Old Tappan Rd Intersection (9)
- ▶ Pearl River NJ Transit Station (10)



Outcomes

- ▶ Broadly, manual and electronic count data will be used to understand the diverse uses of the local cycling network
- ▶ Count data helps planners prioritize expansion and enhancement of the local bikeway network
- ▶ Expands existing information on active transportation usage; sets baseline for future counts

Count Protocol

Count Assistants

- ▶ One assistant will conduct each two-hour count
- ▶ PTNY staff will be available during counts to answer questions via phone

Procedure

- ▶ Goal is to observe, not influence, usage during two-hour count
- ▶ For intersections: record all usage on the Standard Bicycle Intersection Count Form
- ▶ For trails: record all usage on the Standard Screenline Count Form
- ▶ Stand where you do not block movement but can easily observe users as they pass (~ 10 ft off of the trail or close to the intersection); do not stand at parking lot entrances or trail intersections
- ▶ ID badge will be provided, as will short script for answering questions from users

Count Protocol

- ▶ NBPD procedures call for 2-hour counts, conducted at times of peak usage

Peak periods generally include

- ▶ Weekday, 5-7 PM
 - ▶ Weekday, Noon-2 PM
 - ▶ Saturday, Noon-2 PM
-
- ▶ Peak period for your trail location has been determined by PTNY based on previous counts and past experience

Count Protocol - Trails

The Form

- ▶ New sheet each time you count
- ▶ Make a tic for the type of trail user that passes by
 - ▶ For tandem, tick for each rider
 - ▶ For someone pushing a baby carriage or stroller, tic for each child
 - ▶ Record person pushing the carriage or stroller as a walker
- ▶ Don't worry if you count someone twice because they pass you going in both directions - formulas used at the end will take that into consideration

STANDARD SCREENLINE COUNT FORM

Name: _____ Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

Weather: _____

Please fill in your name, count location, date, time period, and weather conditions (fair, rainy, very cold). Count all bicyclists and pedestrians crossing your screen line under the appropriate categories.

- Count for two hours in 15 minute increments.
- Count bicyclists who ride on the sidewalk.
- Count the number of people on the bicycle, not the number of bicycles.
- Pedestrians include people in wheelchairs or others using assistive devices, children in strollers, etc.
- People using equipment such as skateboards or rollerblades should be included in the "Other" category.

	Bicycles		Pedestrians		Others
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
00-:15					
15-:30					
30-:45					
45-1:00					
1:00-1:15					
1:15-1:30					
1:30-1:45					
1:45-2:00					
Total					

Count Protocol – Intersections

The Form

- ▶ New sheet each time you count
- ▶ Count bicyclists who ride on the sidewalk
- ▶ Mark bicyclists with “C” and pedestrians with “W”
- ▶ Record the **direction** of travel
- ▶ Mark totals on “Standard Bicycle Intersection Count Tally Sheet”

National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project: Forms

STANDARD BICYCLE INTERSECTION COUNT FORM

Name: _____ Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

Weather: _____

Please fill in your name, count location, date, time period, and weather conditions (fair, rainy, very cold).
Count all bicyclists crossing through the intersection under the appropriate categories.

- Count for two hours in 15-minute increments.
- Count bicyclists who ride on the sidewalk.
- Count the number of people on the bicycle, not the number of bicycles.
- Use one intersection graphic per 15-minute interval.

00-15 15-30 30-45 45-1:00

5

Count Protocol – Intersections

The Form

- ▶ Mark cyclist totals on “Standard Bicycle Intersection Count Tally Sheet”

National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project: Forms

STANDARD BICYCLE INTERSECTION COUNT TALLY SHEET

Time Period	Bicycle Counts											
	Leaving Leg A			Leaving Leg B			Leaving Leg C			Leaving Leg D		
	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B3	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	D3
00-:15												
15-:30												
30-:45												
45-1:00												
1:00- 1:15												
1:15- 1:30												
1:30- 1:45												
1:45- 2:00												
Total												
Total Leg:												
Street Name A to C:							Location 1 (Total Leg A + Total Leg C) =					
Street Name B to D:							Location 2 (Total Leg B + Total Leg D) =					

Count Protocol – Intersections

The Form

- ▶ Mark pedestrian (or other) totals on “Pedestrian Tally Sheet”

National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project: Forms

STANDARD BICYCLE INTERSECTION COUNT TALLY SHEET

PEDESTRIAN TALLY SHEET

Time Period	Bicycle Counts											
	Leaving Leg A			Leaving Leg B			Leaving Leg C			Leaving Leg D		
	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B3	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	D3
00-15												
15-30												
30-45												
45-1:00												
1:00-1:15												
1:15-1:30												
1:30-1:45												
1:45-2:00												
Total												
Total Leg:												
Street Name A to C:							Location 1 (Total Leg A + Total Leg C) =					
Street Name B to D:							Location 2 (Total Leg B + Total Leg D) =					

How Do You count This?



→ 5

1 bicyclist +
1 passenger

2 ←



How Do You count This?



2

1 walker +
1 wheelchair user



6

3 walkers +
3 strollers

Bicyclists vs. Pedestrians vs. Others

Bicyclists

- Tandem, recumbent, or traditional bike riders
- Bike passengers in trailer, child seat
- eBike users

Pedestrians

- Walkers
- Dog walkers, baby strollers (both pusher and passenger)
- Trail users in wheelchairs or other assistive devices

Others

- Skateboarders
- Rollerbladers
- Hoverboarders

QUESTIONS?



Items to bring to the trail

- ▶ Instruction sheet with location, protocol, script for answering trail user questions
- ▶ Name badge
- ▶ Location map
- ▶ Count form
- ▶ Name and phone number for coordinator will be included on instruction sheet, count form, and back of name badge
- ▶ Optional: hat, sunscreen, jacket, folding chair, water/snacks, umbrella in case of rain

Your responsibilities

- ▶ Perform your assigned counts – two weekday and one weekend count OR one weekday and two weekend counts at assigned locations and times
- ▶ Be on time at count site; stay for entire two-hour period unless instructed by PTNY to leave (*safety or extreme weather are exceptions – JUST LEAVE!*)
- ▶ Wear your name badge while counting, and be courteous and professional when dealing with trail users
- ▶ Notify PTNY as soon as possible if you encounter any problems
- ▶ Travel to and from count site
- ▶ In-person or electronic delivery of count forms to PTNY

Data delivery

- ▶ Please return forms to:

Orangetown Bike Count
c/o Parks & Trails New York
29 Elk Street
Albany, NY 12207

Phone: (518) 434-1583

Fax: (518) 427-0067

Email: jmeerdink@ptny.org

➤ **OR RETURN TO VICKI CARAMANTE AT ORANGETOWN TOWN HALL**

- ▶ Send physical copies, fax, or scan originals and email by September 30, 2017

Questions? Comments?



THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

PTNY contacts:

Greg Francese, 518-434-1583

James Meerdink, 518-434-1583

