

# Memorandum

## Lawrence-Douglas County

### Metropolitan Planning Organization (L-DC MPO)

**TO:** David L. Corliss, Lawrence City Manager

**FROM:** Jessica Mortinger, L-DC MPO Transportation Planner

**CC:** Todd Girdler, L-DC MPO Senior Transportation Planner  
Lisa Hallberg, Lawrence Bicycle Advisory Committee Chair

**DATE:** November 7, 2012

**RE:** National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project 2012

In September 2012, the MPO staff concluded our 2012 Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts as part of our annual submission to the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project (NBPDP). This is the fourth year participating in the project. The count would not have been possible without the help of 25 volunteers from our community.

This year we counted 17 locations throughout our community, including bicycle and pedestrian activity areas or corridors (downtowns, near schools, parks, etc.); locations near proposed major bicycle or pedestrian improvements or recently built improvements (ex: 12<sup>th</sup> Street lighted pathway), coordinated count locations that were desired by the University of Kansas and places where counts have been conducted historically. Our data has been submitted to the NBPDP database and a summary report is posted online at: <http://www.lawrenceks.org/planning/documents/BikeCountLawrence.pdf>.

The MPO is collecting and tracking the data to analyze the breakdown of trip types in our region. To do this, we use the national methodology to calculate an average annual daily number of bicycle and pedestrian trips per location. We then use the KDOT annual average daily vehicle traffic count numbers to calculate the travel percentage breakdown of trips by mode. This is of particular importance to transportation planners, because changes in trip types can have large impacts on health, environment and congestion. A comparison of the eight locations counted each year since 2009 is shown at right.

Total Mode Split Analysis for Locations in each of the following corridors: Monterey Way, W. 6th Street, W. 27th Street, Clinton Parkway, Naismith, W. 9th Street, 2nd Street, Massachusetts Street						
	Annual Average Daily Traffic		Percentages			
	Vehicles (AADT)	Bicyclists and Pedestrians	Bicyclists and Pedestrians	Vehicles	Bicyclists	Pedestrians
2009	111,543	4,111	3.55%	96.4%	1.4%	2.2%
2010	114,700	3,578	3.02%	97.0%	1.1%	1.9%
2011	114,700	4,531	3.80%	96.2%	1.2%	2.7%
2012	114,700	3,880	3.27%	96.7%	1.2%	2.1%

While it is too early to determine the significance of yearly changes in values with all the external conditions and factors, the data is painting a reasonable picture of the average annual trip counts for a variety of locations and on a variety of facility types. These details can be viewed at the report link above.

Transportation planners also use the data to conduct counts before and after facilities are built to calculate the number of trips attracted on the facility. The 12<sup>th</sup> Street Lighted Pathway is a good

example of how counts before (September 2011) and after (September 2012) the installation of the lighted pathway can indicate the success of the planned facility.

The counts for this particular location included special count times (when the lights are activated). These counts indicate that usage in this corridor has more than tripled for both weekend and weeknights between 9 and 11pm. This resulting data supports the common argument, “build it and they will come.”

The survey also tracks bicycle helmet usage. The 2008 National Survey of Bicyclist and Pedestrian Attitudes and Behavior Report indicates that about one-third (35%) surveyed reported that they wear a helmet for all bicycle rides<sup>1</sup>. This is consistent with the 34-46% of helmet usage we have viewed on the streets of Lawrence from 2009-2012.

The MPO staff will continue coordinating local volunteers to conduct counts and analyze the local mode split in our corridors.

**12th Street- Lighted Pathway  
Location Before and After  
Bicycles & Pedestrians**

		<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Weekday	10am - 12pm	32	45
	5pm - 7pm	71	70
	9pm-11pm	42	114
Saturday	12pm - 2pm	*131	78
	9pm-11pm	49	233

\* KU Football Game day

Data collected as part of the MPO  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts

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<sup>1</sup> National Survey of Bicyclist and Pedestrian Attitudes and Behavior  
(<http://www.nhtsa.gov/DOT/NHTSA/Traffic%20Injury%20Control/Articles/Associated%20Files/810971.pdf>)