People who bicycle and walk along the Lawrence Loop have reported a higher number of users on shared use paths and trails throughout the community since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Counts were taken using National Bicycle & Pedestrian Documentation Project methodology in June to explore the relationship between previous Lawrence Loop use and current use in 2020. Counts taken did not reflect clear increases in walking and bicycling trips overall, however they do indicate the times when users are most active has changed.

Comparing these counts allows the MPO to infer how COVID-19 may be impacting demand for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. As part of analysis, the MPO reviewed the temperatures of count days and projected average weekday and weekend data to understand their potential impacts on biking and walking trips. The count temperatures in 2017 were approximately between 50-79 degrees Fahrenheit. The 2020 count temperatures were approximately between 82-95 degrees Fahrenheit. The daily higher temperature differences are assumed to have affected bicycle and pedestrian turnout. In 2017, the weekend projected counts were higher than the 2020 counts, but conversely the 2020 weekday counts were higher.

To further expand understanding of the impacts of COVID-19 on Loop usage, additional counts will be collected via automated counters. The counters are placed from sunup to sunset, capturing 12 hours of counts per day, more than the three-two hour counts conducted during the manual count. Reviewing the 12-hour data will enable analysis to be conducted to decide if the three-two hour count windows are the appropriate time to be counting bicycle riders and pedestrians. Furthermore, these counts will allow the MPO to validate the manual counts’ data. Listed below is a map of the Lawrence Loop and a table with count data from both years and a change analysis comparing the two years of counts. For more information regarding previous bicycle riders and pedestrians. Furthermore, these counts will allow the MPO to validate the manual counts’ data. Listed below is a map of the Lawrence Loop and a table with count data from both years and a change analysis comparing the two years of counts. For more information regarding previous bicycle riders and pedestrians.

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