



**METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION**

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***Memorandum***

TO: Local Streets and Roads Working Group

DATE: June 12, 2009

FR: Sean Co

W. I.

RE: Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Project

**Background**

Pedestrian and bicycle trips are often undercounted in Census data and MTC's own Bay Area Travel Survey (BATS). As a result, it is difficult to track changes in cycling and walking trips to transit, increases due to fluctuations in gas prices, response to infrastructure changes and exposure rates for collision data.

MTC staff has been working with Alta Planning, UC Berkeley Traffic Safety Center and the ITE to develop count standards as part of the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project. Count methodology for screenline counts as well as intersection counts have been developed which will allow comparison among Bay Area agencies as well as to other areas throughout the country.

**Recommendation**

MTC staff would work with a consultant to conduct counts at 100 locations within all nine counties. Each county would have roughly a dozen locations with data collected twice a year. This effort was conducted by MTC using agency funding in 2002 then again in 2003 and 2004, but no data has been collected in recent years.

Staff proposes to use regional bike funding (e.g. TDA Article 3 or STP/CMAQ Regional Bike Plan funds) to procure a consultant to complete the counting project. The total project is estimated at \$25,000 for fall and spring counts; ideally, we'd like to do counts every two to three years. Spread regionally, the individual amount each county would pay is a small amount of total available funding. For illustrative purposes, the table below shows FY 2009/2010 TDA-3 revenue estimates (STP Cycle 1 – FY 09-12 are not yet known):

Estimated TDA-3 Revenue FY 09/10 and County Share for Counts

	FY 09/10	County %	County Share	% of FY 09/10
Alameda	\$1,002,736	18%	\$ 4,578	18%
Contra Costa	\$ 626,406	11%	\$ 2,860	11%
Marin	\$ 192,432	4%	\$ 879	4%
Napa	\$ 129,392	2%	\$ 591	2%
San Mateo	\$ 611,753	11%	\$ 2,793	11%
San Francisco	\$ 655,059	12%	\$ 2,991	12%
Santa Clara	\$1,604,742	29%	\$ 7,327	29%
Solano	\$ 297,657	5%	\$ 1,359	5%
Sonoma	\$ 355,200	6%	\$ 1,622	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,475,377</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

This new data will allow the measurement of benefits of existing and future programs, infrastructure improvements and exposure rates when reporting crash data for bicycle and pedestrians.

Staff is seeking our partner's concurrence with funding this project since we think its important data that should be regularly collected on a regional basis to gain economies of scale. As such, we also think it's appropriate that "regional funds" pay for the costs of the counts since this is a regional effort; as seen above, the share paid by each county would be negligible. If you agree, then we will work closely with the cities and counties to determine the number and locations of the counts and confirm the most appropriate funding source given eligibility and distribution constraints.

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