

MTC Regional Bicycle Working Group Meeting
SUMMARY
03.18.10

Introductions

Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts Inventory

- Sean Co, MTC, mentioned that regional counts would be conducted at 100 locations using the same methodology as ACTIA. These screenline counts would take place at intersections with adjustments made to the counts for land use, exposure, and time of day.
- MTC was planning to release an RFQ in the next week. There was \$25,000 budgeted for this task. Mr. Co mentioned the cost for 100 counts plus analysis would be \$50,000. He added that there would likely be more funding for counts in the upcoming Climate Initiatives Program.
- Mr. Co noted that locals could pay MTC to conduct counts the behalf of local governments.
- Rochelle Wheeler stated that Alameda County had conducted counts every other year since 2002 at 12 intersections using volunteers. She added that UC Berkeley's SafeTREC had also conducted counts in 2008 and 2009 (50 and 30 locations, respectively). Ms. Wheeler added that Alameda is moving towards institutionalizing the counts with a regular annual count effort.
- Gayle Paine talked about Alameda's efforts with mobile and in-pavement counters, as well as Alameda's process for manual counts, which is contracted out. She also noted the general lack of data on bikes and pedestrians, and how that type of data might best be incorporated into travel models in the future.
- Ms. Wheeler brought up the point of how to determine count locations, considering there are different levels of interest (regional, county, local) in the data.
- Ms. Paine asked why types of data from counts could be used in models, and stated that this type of data would be increasingly important, especially considering future funding sources relating to climate initiatives.
- Ms. Wheeler stated that possibly funds from the county Safe Routes to School programs could be used for counts.
- Mr. Co said hat MTC selected its count locations, in part, based on proximity to the Regional Bikeway Network and where crashes happen.
- Heath Maddox, SFMTA, stated that his agency's counts have shown that as bicycle and pedestrian numbers increase, safety increases as well. Mr. Maddox then gave a presentation on San Francisco's pedestrian count efforts. He stated that San Francisco's first pedestrian count occurred in September 2009 and followed methodology used by Alameda County. Ms. Wheeler asked how the count locations were chosen. Mr. Maddox responded that the counts crossed over with where bike counts take place, and in a range of land uses. He stated that the San Francisco

counts use the SafeTREC methodology with tweaks for San Francisco, and that San Francisco's method also allows for extrapolation to exposure rates. Mr. Maddox also described San Francisco's installation of automatic bike counters.

- Sean Duggen of East Bay Parks discussed his agency's count process. He stated that East Bay Parks has 17 count locations for count both pedestrians and bikes, and that a number of infrared counters are rotated from count site to count site. The data is then downloaded onto laptops and uploaded onto a website, which interpolates the data.
- Matt Lasky of Alta Planning spoke about the count efforts that are a part of the Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Project. The count, which includes baseline and screenline counts, will be annual, and will be conducted at 22 locations where future bicycle projects will be built.

Complete Streets Checklist Webpage

- Sean Co discussed the new Complete Streets checklist webpage. There was a brief discussion over when county bicycle/pedestrian advisory committees should review the project relative to the checklist. Mr. Co stated that it is up to the county CMAs to decide that, but that committees should generally review projects and checklists prior to when a CMA is recommending funding to MTC.
- Ms. Wheeler stated that advisory committees might not find the checklist useful because committee members may not see their actions as affecting funding decisions. The checklist approval by the advisory committee is included in the record of the project as it moves forward, and that perhaps advisory committee comments could be added to the checklist. In addition, the advisory committee comments need to be effective, but balanced with the need to keep the programming process moving.

Other Items

- It was announced that a version of BikeMapper was available on the MTC website.

NEXT MEETING:

Unless notified otherwise, the next meeting of this group will be on Thursday, July 15, 2010.