Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts and Proposed Pilot Project

BPAG

September 15, 2021
Agenda

• Overview
• Why Count?
• History of Program Development
• Proposed Pilot Project
• Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Program (Proposal in Development)
• Cost Estimate
• Next Steps
Overview

• **Traffic Count Contract**
  - Three year contract with AMT Consulting
  - BMC has historically conducted traffic counts
  - Contract includes ability to conduct bicycle and pedestrian counts

• **Proposed Pilot Project**
  - Fall 2021
  - One count site in each jurisdiction (total eight)

• **Proposed Full Count Program**
  - Estimated to start spring 2022
  - Present to Tech Committee in early 2022
  - Informed by pilot project
  - Developed in coordination with BPAG members, member jurisdictions, and planning partners
Why Count?

• Quantitative data for bicycle and pedestrian planning is increasingly important to support performance-based approaches

• Assist in understanding the role bicyclists and pedestrians play in transportation network

• Support regional, local, and state planning activities:
  – Inform the public and decision makers about actual usage and travel patterns
  – Track and analyze travel trends
  – Plan for new or improved facilities
  – Measure impacts of specific projects (before and after)
  – Support funding applications
  – Increase understanding of safety concerns and exposure rates
History of Program Development

• Reviewed State of Practice with BPAG
  – Existing and Emerging Count Technology
  – Reasons for Conducting Bike/Ped Counts
  – Process to Develop a Count Program
    o Determine Existing and Historic Counts
    o Determine Purpose of Data Collection
    o Count Location Selection
  – Short Duration Count Types
    o Repeating
    o Project Specific (Before/After)

• Input from BPAG, Member Jurisdictions, and Planning Partners
  – Repeating and Project Specific Count Locations
  – Regional Goals
  – Prioritization Criteria
Proposed Pilot Project: Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts

- Weeklong counts conducted at eight sites throughout the region during Oct 2021
  - One count site in each jurisdiction
  - Count locations reflect input from BPAG members, BMC member governments, and planning partners
  - Located on a variety of facilities

- Outcomes
  - Directional bicycle and pedestrian volumes
  - RAW video files (potential use in safety assessments)
  - Exploration of any challenges with implementation, technology, data
  - Coordination with jurisdictions on data analysis and documentation of needed resources
  - Provide lessons learned to guide recommendations for regional program
Proposed Pilot Project: Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts
Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Program (Proposal in Development)

- Weeklong counts conducted throughout the region on a repeating and project specific basis
  - Repeating counts: measure and track over time bicycle and pedestrian volumes
  - Project specific counts: measure impact (before and after)
  - Located on different facilities

- Development of program
  - Shaped by lessons learned from pilot program and input from BPAG members, BMC member governments, and planning partners will shape
  - Propose 5 – 10 year plan
  - Develop list of count locations
  - Determine achievable program goals
  - Create data management and sharing plan
  - Explore resources required for data analysis and use
Cost Estimate

• Proposed Pilot Project
  – Weeklong counts at 8 locations, $12,000

• Regional Count Program Scenarios
  – Cyclical counts repeated every three years
  – Targeted counts (before/after) every year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario 1</th>
<th>Avg. Annual Cost</th>
<th>Avg. Count Locations per Year</th>
<th>Total Count Locations (9 Years)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>6 repeating, 2 project specific</td>
<td>18 repeating, 18 project specific</td>
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<td>Scenario 2</td>
<td>$23,000</td>
<td>10 repeating, 3 project specific</td>
<td>28 repeating, 27 project specific</td>
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<td>Scenario 3</td>
<td>$48,500</td>
<td>20 repeating, 6 project specific</td>
<td>62 repeating, 54 project specific</td>
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## Next Steps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Action Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 2021</td>
<td>Coordinate with BPAG to finalize pilot project count locations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 2021</td>
<td>Conduct pilot project counts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 2021</td>
<td>Review pilot project data</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 2022</td>
<td>Present pilot project data and lessons learned to BPAG</td>
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<td>Feb – March 2022</td>
<td>Develop recommendations for regional program</td>
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<td>April 2022</td>
<td>Present regional program to Technical Committee</td>
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<td>May 2022</td>
<td>Conduct first round of regional program counts</td>
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