NATIONAL BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

Count Adjustment Factors

March 2009

While more year-long automatic count data is needed from different parts of the county, especially for pedestrians and on-street bicyclists, enough data now exists to allow us to adjust counts done almost any period on multi-use paths and pedestrian districts to an annual figure.

All percentages in the following tables represent the percentage of the total period (day, week, or month).

How to Use This Data

The factors in the following tables are designed to extrapolate daily, monthly, and annual users based on counts done during any period of a day, month, or year. The factors currently are designed to be used by (a) multi-use pathways (PATH) and (b) higher density pedestrian and entertainment areas (PED).

How Many Counts Can it Be Based On?

Given the variability of bicycle and pedestrian activity, we strongly encourage that all estimates be based on the average of at least two (2) and preferably three (3) counts during the same time period and week, especially for lower volume areas. For example, counts could be done from 2-4pm on consecutive weekdays (Tuesday – Thursday) during the same week, or, in consecutive weeks. Weekday counts should always be done Tuesday through Thursday, and never on a holiday. Weekend counts can be done on either day.

Bicyclists versus Pedestrians

The factors used in these formulas are for combined bicyclist and pedestrian volumes. Once you have calculated your total daily, monthly, or annual volume, you can simply multiple the total by the percent breakdown between bikes and pedestrians based on your original count information.

Start with the Hour Count

Once you have collected your count information and developed an average weekday and weekend count volume for bicyclists and/or pedestrians, pick any one (1) hour period from either of those days.

Adjustment Factor

Your next step is to multiply those counts by 1.05.

Sample #1

Average 1 hour weekday count: 236 bikes/peds x 1.05 = 248

Average 1 hour weekend day count: 540 bikes/peds x 1.05 = 567

This adjustment factor is done to reflect the bicyclists/pedestrians who use the facility between 11pm and 6am, or, about 5% of the average daily total. The count formulas are all based on total counts between 6am and 10pm, since many available counts only cover those periods. If you are certain your facility gets virtually no use between those hours, you can forgo this step.

<u>Calculate Daily Weekday and Weekend Daily Total</u>

Identify the weekday and weekend hour your counts are from in Table 1 below. Be sure to use the PATH column for all multi-use paths, and the PED column for all higher density pedestrian areas with some entertainment uses such as restaurants. Be sure to select the correct time of year (April-September, or, October-March) as well.

Sample #2: done in June on a multiuse path (weekday = 4-5pm, weekend day = 12-1pm):

Adjusted weekday hourly count = 248/.07 = 3,542 daily users

Adjusted weekend day hourly count = 567/.1= 5,670 daily users

<u>Calculating Average Weekly Volumes</u>

We need to adjust these figures based on the day of the week. See table 2 below. Find the day of the week your counts were done, and factor them by that percent. If you did multiple counts on different days of the week, then take the average of those factors.

Sample #3: counts were done on a Tuesday and a Saturday.

Adjusted weekday count = 3,542/.13 = 27,246 average weekly users

Adjusted weekend count = 5,670/.18 = 31,500

Add these two figures together, and divide by 2: 27,246+31,500=58,746/2 = 29,373 people

The average weekly volumes for that month are 29,373 people.

<u>Convert to Monthly Volumes</u>

To convert from average weekly volumes to an average monthly volume, multiply the average weekly volume by the average number of weeks in a month (4.33 weeks).

Sample #4: 29,373 x 4.33 = 127,282 people.

This is the average monthly volume for the month the counts were conducted.

<u>Convert to Annual Totals</u>

To convert from the average monthly volume for the month the counts were taken into an annual total, divide the average monthly figure by the factor from Table 3 for the month the counts were conducted. Use the general climate zones described. Some climate zone types are not included.

Sample #5: counts were done in June in a moderate climate zone.

Average monthly volumes = 127,282/.08 = 1,591,037 people.

Based on these sample figures, it is estimated that almost 1.6 million people use the pathway annually.

Average Monthly and Daily Figures

To identify the average monthly and daily figures, simply divide the annual figure by 12 (for month) or by 365 (for daily figures).

Monthly average = 1,591,037/12 = 132,586 people

Daily Average = 1,591,037/365 = 4,359 people

Table 1

Hourly Adjustment Factors

Multi-use paths and pedestrian entertainment areas by season

	April - September					October - March			
	6am - 9pm					6am - 9pm			
	---- PATH------		-----PED-----			---- PATH------		-----PED-----	
	wkdy	wkend	wkdy	wkend		wkdy	wkend	wkdy	wkend
0600	2%	1%	1%	1%	0600	2%	0%	1%	0%
0700	4%	3%	2%	1%	0700	4%	2%	2%	1%
0800	7%	6%	4%	3%	0800	6%	6%	3%	2%
0900	9%	9%	5%	3%	0900	7%	10%	5%	4%
1000	9%	9%	6%	5%	1000	9%	10%	6%	5%
1100	9%	11%	7%	6%	1100	9%	11%	8%	8%
1200	8%	10%	9%	7%	1200	9%	11%	9%	10%
1300	7%	9%	9%	7%	1300	9%	10%	10%	13%
1400	7%	8%	8%	9%	1400	9%	10%	9%	11%
1500	7%	8%	8%	9%	1500	8%	10%	8%	8%
1600	7%	7%	7%	9%	1600	8%	8%	7%	7%
1700	7%	6%	7%	8%	1700	7%	5%	6%	6%
1800	7%	5%	7%	8%	1800	6%	3%	7%	6%
1900	5%	4%	7%	8%	1900	4%	2%	7%	6%
2000	4%	3%	7%	8%	2000	2%	1%	6%	6%
2100	2%	2%	6%	8%	2100	2%	1%	5%	5%

Table 2

Daily Adjustment Factors

Note: Holidays use weekend rates.

MON	14%
TUES	13%
WED	12%
THURS	12%
FRI	14%
SAT	18%
SUN	18%

Table 3

Monthly Adjustment Factors by Climate Area

	Climate Region		
Month	Long Winter Short summer	Moderate Climate	Very hot summer Mild winter
JAN	3%	7%	10%
FEB	3%	7%	12%
MAR	7%	8%	10%
APR	11%	8%	9%
MAY	11%	8%	8%
JUN	12%	8%	8%
JUL	13%	12%	7%
AUG	14%	16%	7%
SEP	11%	8%	6%
OCT	6%	6%	7%
NOV	6%	6%	8%
DEC	3%	6%	8%