

GetAbout Columbia  
Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program  
Follow-up on 2012 Report to Congress

The report to Congress on the Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program showed results in Columbia trailing the other three pilot communities. This is misleading. To be consistent, all four communities took before and after counts during the same two-hour window, on the same day, in 2007 and 2010. Weather can affect the results. Columbia's 2010 weekday data collection was taken during a day when there was occasional light rain. Thus, the reported increase of only 14% in walking and 26% in bicycling.

If the data from the 2011 count was used for the report, the results would have been very different. During the two hour window in 2011, pedestrian activity was up 74% and bicyclists up 147% over the baseline 2007 data. Unfortunately, the 2011 data (summary attached) was not available when the report to Congress was compiled. A follow-up report in 2013 is planned and should reflect much different results for Columbia.

Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program  
Summary of 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts and Surveys

December 2011



*See where it takes you.*

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# 1 Executive Summary

This report presents bicycling and walking data gathered through counts and surveys in the City of Columbia as part of the Non-motorized Transportation Pilot Program (NTPP) for the past five years. Pedestrian and cyclist counts took place at seven strategic locations during the second week of September (except for 2011 when counts and surveys were administered during the third week of September), measuring weekday activity during the afternoon peak period and weekend activity during the mid-day peak period. These counts have served as a benchmark for the NTPP project in Columbia, with counts taking place annually to track results from infrastructure and program improvements.

The NTPP is a federally funded project that allocated \$25 million each to four communities in the U.S. to determine whether increased investments in programs and projects would result in more people walking and bicycling. Counts and surveys were a key element of this project and were conducted using the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project (NBPD) methodology<sup>1</sup>. The NBPD aims to establish a consistent national bicycle and pedestrian count and survey methodology and to generate a national database of count information. This information will assist analyses and describe correlations between bicycle and pedestrian activity and a range of factors from land use to demographics to facility-type.

## Usage Characteristics

Highlights from the 2011 counts include:

- 2011 Peak Hour Weekday Pedestrian Activity – increased by approximately 56% over 2010 count volumes and 74% over 2007.
- 2011 peak hour Weekend Pedestrian activity – was nearly identical to 2010 levels and 10% higher than 2007.
- 2011 peak hour Weekday Bicycle activity – increased by approximately 46% over 2010 count volumes and 147% over 2007.
- 2011 peak hour Weekend Bicycle activity – decreased by approximately 9% as compared to 2010, but was 20% greater than 2007.



*MKT Nature and Fitness Trail*

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<sup>1</sup> <http://bikepeddocumentation.org/>