Conducting Manual Counts
Manual Counts

Why?

Infrared Pedestrian Counters:

- Consistently undercount
  - Side by side
  - Groups
  - Higher speed cyclists
- Can overcount
  - Animals
  - Weather/ wind
- Cannot distinguish between cyclists, pedestrians, “other” uses.
Manual Counts

Why?

In-Person Counts:

- Used to develop a calibration factor for more accurate IR counts
- Collect information that IR counters cannot:
  - Mode (Bike, Ped, Other)
  - Group size
  - # of children
Manual Counts

How?

You will need...

- A watch with a second hand OR a smartphone with service at counter location
- Clipboard*
- Manual Count Form*
- Pen/Pencil*
- One page instruction sheet*

*Provided
Manual Counts

How?

1. **Synchronize with “Official US Time”**
   - Counters are on US Official Time (DST)
     - [www.time.gov](http://www.time.gov)
   - All manual counts need to start at the top of the hour and continue for entire hour.
Manual Counts
How?

1. Synchronize with “Official US Time”
2. **Choose A Location**
   - Line of sight to counter
   - Bring a chair or sit in car
   - Be unobtrusive - you should be a *passive observer!*
Manual Counts
How?

1. Synchronize with “Official US Time”
2. Choose A Location
3. **Check the Counter**
   - Is it working?
   - Clear Scope?
   - Red 1X/ 5 seconds.
   - Green when tripped.
Manual Counts
How?

1. Synchronize with “Official US Time”
2. Choose A Location
3. Check the Counter
4. Prepare Count Form
   - Date
   - Location
   - Volunteer Name
   - Time Start ([www.time.gov](http://www.time.gov))
   - Weather
Manual Counts How?

Examples:
Group of 3 walking
Manual Counts
How?

Examples:
Single runner

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Ped</th>
<th>Bike</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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Manual Counts

How?

Examples:
Adult pushing a stroller
Manual Counts
How?

Examples:
4 adult bicyclists

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Manual Counts

How?

Examples:
2 adults walking with 2 children on bicycles
Manual Counts

How?

Examples:
Adult pushing a double stroller (occupied) AND single adult walker in opposite direction
Manual Counts

How?

Examples:
4 adults - 3 walking, 1 in a wheelchair
Manual Counts

How?

At the end of the hour:

- Total up all peds, bike and others
- Begin a new sheet if continuing
- E-mail a scan or image of the sheet to cttrailcensus@gmail.com
Manual Counts

How?

For best results...

- 10 full hours per year per counter
- Varied days of week and time of day
- Avoid bad weather/ low volume times
- Get there early!
- Counts most important to record if you get overwhelmed
- Official US time & full hours
- Record anything else of note
Happy Counting!

Questions?

cttrailcensus@gmail.com

Or (Emergency only)

203.489.0362