This year marks the eighth annual count of bicycle and pedestrian activity across 35 different locations within the WAMPO region (all of Sedgwick County and parts of Butler and Sumner County).

Held on Thursday, September 19th and Saturday, September 21st, this year’s count would not have been possible without the assistance and commitment of our volunteers!

During this year’s count, volunteers counted 9% fewer people when compared with the 2018 total. The decrease in totals from 3,141 to 2,844 is largely attributed to the decrease in volunteer support in 2019 compared to previous years, with the exception of 2013 where 35 volunteers covered 100% of the site locations.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Event
At each of the 35 WAMPO area sites, volunteers manually count the number of people using bicycle and pedestrian facilities over the course of two hours.

The Goal
The project goal of this event is to collect data that is representative of actual levels of biking and pedestrian activity in the WAMPO region. WAMPO, along with many of our planning partners, use this information to better understand the trends and locations of existing bicycle and pedestrian activity.

Local Impact
Understanding the trends and locations of existing bicycle and pedestrian activity helps WAMPO and its partners plan for future system improvements in the places where people actually use them. The data collected over the past five years will be used as the baseline for regional facility usage in the WAMPO region.

Count Methodology
The National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project (NBPDP) methodology was used for the 2019 count. This methodology, developed by the Institute for Transportation Engineers, is designed to provide a consistent, nationwide approach to estimate the level of bicycle and pedestrian activity in communities across the nation.

Volunteers
Thanks to the willingness of over 30 volunteers, the eighth annual WAMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Count was a success! Volunteer affiliation ranged from a wide variety of service organizations, advocacy groups and interested individuals from across the region.
Year Three with the ActiveICT Mobile App!

Funded in part by the Knight Foundation Fund at the Wichita Community Foundation, the ActiveICT mobile app supports the active transportation, wellness and civic engagement activities of WAMPO, Health ICT, and Wichita Parks & Recreation. This includes the WAMPO Annual Bicycle & Pedestrian Count Event, Walktober, and Open Streets ICT!

The mobile app specifically supports the WAMPO volunteers by offering an interactive section pre-loaded with the volunteer’s count site assignment(s). The volunteer section includes both visual and written content related to their assignment, easy to use icons for capturing categorical data, and a public comment section that allows them to share their thoughts and images while in the field.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO T3 AT WSU FOR ALL THEIR SUPPORT IN DEVELOPING OUR NEW & IMPROVED 2019 VERSION!

Count Site Categories

Three categories of individuals were counted during the 2019 event. These categories include bicyclists, pedestrians (including people using wheelchairs or other mobility devices and children in strollers) and an “other” category that captured individuals traveling via other equipment (roller skates, skateboards, Segway etc.).

Results

In 2019, event volunteers counted a total of 2,844 people across all categories. The majority of individuals counted fell into the “pedestrian” category (1,730 people or 61%).

At the 15 sites where we counted in both 2018 and 2019 the number of people counted decreased by 35% (from 2,031 to 1,312). This same comparison between 19 sites counted during the first WAMPO count held in 2012 and this year’s count showed a 50% increase (1,744 to 2,615).

One other interesting trend for 2019 was the dramatic increase of traffic among the “other” category from 2% in 2018 to 11% in 2019. This dramatic increase was noted by volunteers as being associated with an increase in “scooter traffic” at the site locations around the region.

2019 Top 10 Count Sites

1. Ark River Path at Keeper of the Plains - 633
2. Broadway & 1st - 465
3. Douglas & Washington - 435
4. Broadway & Central - 351
5. 1st & Waco - 167
6. Central at Nims - 104
7. Pawnee & Broadway - 65
8. 21st & Ridge - 62
9. Ark River Path at 13th - 60
10. Gypsum Creek Bike Path at Oliver - 58

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