
We are seeking volunteers to train for a new annual pedestrian and bicycle counting program. This counting program is a collaboration between the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA), UC Berkeley Traffic Safety Center, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), and other Bay Area public agencies and advocacy groups.

Informal observations suggest that the numbers of bicyclists and pedestrians have been growing throughout Alameda County and the rest of the Bay Area for several years. But unlike cars and transit-riders which have been counted regularly in the past, there have been few systematic counts of people walking and bicycling. Officials and researchers don't have a good grasp of how many people are walking and bicycling or where they are using these modes in different neighborhoods and communities.

Having information on walking and bicycling numbers is important for many reasons, including:

- Baseline data: How many people are biking? Walking? Where? What are volume trends from year to year?
- Return on investment in bike lanes, trails and sidewalks: how many people use bike/pedestrian facilities after they are built?
- Safety: Certain locations have high numbers of bike/pedestrian crashes, but what is the risk exposure rate? Is it high or low relative to bike/pedestrian volumes? How should safety improvements be prioritized?

The trained volunteers will initially be asked to do counts in Alameda County in April and May 2009, but volunteers will also be needed in the following months to count throughout the Bay Area. Since the method of counting will be the same for every location, volunteers completing the training in Alameda County will be able to conduct counts anywhere in the Bay Area. The UC Berkeley Traffic Safety Center will conduct the training. The training will take place in downtown Oakland. Actual counts will be conducted on weekday afternoons as well as Saturdays.

If you are interested in finding out more about this counting program and the training, please come to an orientation on **Wednesday, April 8th** from **6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** in the ACTIA Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 1333 Broadway in Downtown Oakland. The field training will be held on Wednesday, April 15th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., location to be announced. Attendance at both sessions is strongly encouraged.

For more information about the training, please contact: Lindsay Arnold <larnold@berkeley.edu> or Robert Schneider <rschneider@berkeley.edu>.

Optional: **RSVP now to Lindsay Arnold** <larnold@berkeley.edu>, and provide some information about yourself:

Name:
Email:
Phone:

Cities/Locations in which you'd be interested in counting:

Thanks for helping to improve pedestrian and bicycle data collection in the Bay Area!

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