Agenda Item 7: Bicycle and Pedestrian Counters
May 17, 2023
SMART’s Pathway Counters

- SMART has **nine pathway counters** installed on the pathway
- **Public input** – need to track pathway use to be able to describe the benefits of the public investment
- Capture **pathway usage**, help plan infrastructure, and justify investments
- Required for existing pathway grants and invaluable for **future planning and grant applications**
Bike Counter Technology

- Combines a passive infrared sensor and an inductive loop sensor to **differentiate** between bikes and pedestrians
- Can handle **large groups** of pedestrians, cyclists and other users with high accuracy
- SMART conducted **data validation counts in the field** and confirmed that the counters were within **+/- 3% margin of error**.
Data Limitations

- Installation location, environmental factors, and tampering can impact the data
  - Monitor and track abnormal data and adjust it
- Unlinked Trip Counts
  - Consider counts as travel volume indicators, not individual travelers
- Distance between counters
  - Counts are representative but not comprehensive
Total Pathway Counts to Date (Aug-Apr)

52%  202,838

48%  188,519

=  391,357 counts to date
Total Pathway Counts by Location

- Larkspur: 90,987
- San Rafael: 59,357
- Novato (Hamilton): 26,548
- Novato (San Marin): 11,267
- Petaluma: 42,888
- Rohnert Park: 28,749
- Santa Rosa (Bellevue): 28,487
- Santa Rosa (Downtown): 61,993
- Santa Rosa (Guerneville Road): 41,081

**Legend:**

- Bike Total
- Pedestrian Total
Average Weekday vs. Weekend Users

Indicates diverse trip purposes with similar volumes of users on weekdays and weekends.

Daily average counts total 1,640
Travel Patterns: Peak Days

- Wednesday is the peak overall
- However, by location peak days differ
- Suggests the pathway is serving more localized than regional trips

Average Daily Bike ▪ Average Daily Ped
Travel Patterns: Peak Hours

- Pedestrian travel is steady throughout the day.
- Cyclists have a more defined peak period specific to weekday versus weekend trips.
Seasonal conditions greatly affect pathway travel behavior.
Train and Pathway Travel Correspond

Ridership and pathway counts mirror each other.

- Ridership
- Pathway Counts
Pathway Travel and Bikes On-board

Bike counts on the pathway compared to those on-board the train trend in the same direction.
Factors That Contribute to High Counts

Diverse Destinations

Continuous Pathway

Connection Opportunities

Pathway Usage
Key Takeaways

- Pathway travel happens **consistently** every day
- Travel is **more localized** than regional
- **Weather** affects walkers and bikers
- Pathway volumes and ridership trends **track closely**
- Pathway is providing **first/last mile connection to the train**
- **Continuous pathway** and a high concentration of destinations and connection opportunities may contribute to **higher usage**
Next Steps

- Continue to monitor and validate counts
- Routine maintenance and inspection
- Regular reporting to the board on pathway counts
- Use data to leverage new grant sources for pathway
- Install counters on future pathway segments
Questions?
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