

Making bicycles and pedestrians count:

Arlington County's bicycle and
pedestrian counting project

The plan of this presentation

- Why?
 - What's at stake
- How?
 - Three-plus versions of how
- So what?
 - How to use what we learn

Contested space

A - TRAFFIC AGENT LANE. A personal walkway for those peripatetic squads of uniformed men and women sworn to wander the streets and catch the culprits who get the tickets that pay for the uniformed men and women.

B - SKATEBOARD/SCOOTER/SEGWAY LANE frees up sidewalk space for runaway taxicabs, double-parked U.P.S. and FedEx trucks, outdoor restaurant seating, etc.

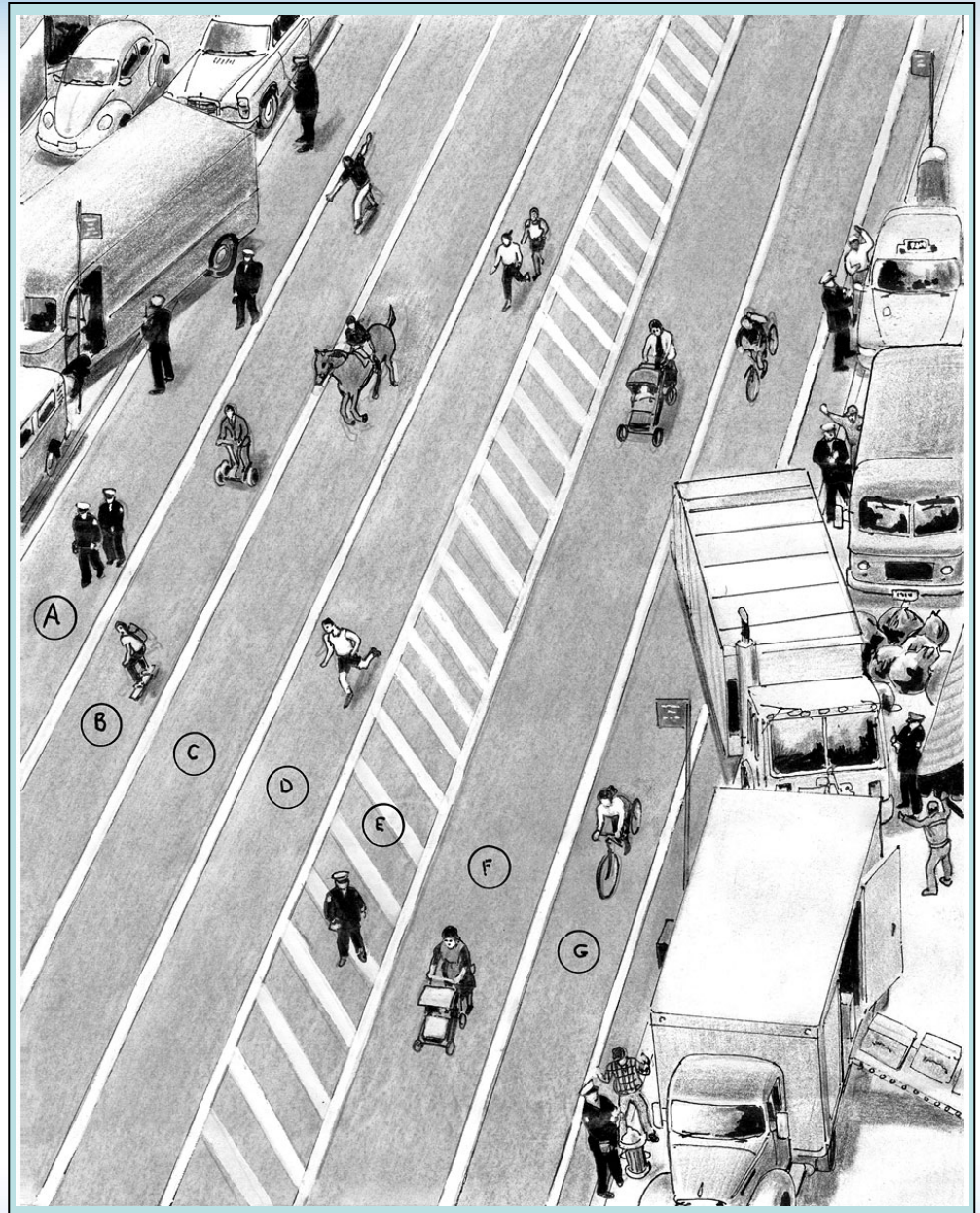
C - BRIDLE LANE brings new hope to Manhattan's imperiled equestrian industry.

D - RUNNER/JOGGER LANE will ease foot-traffic congestion in Central Park, Riverside Park and other open spaces. (\$65 fine for running/jogging in the wrong direction.)

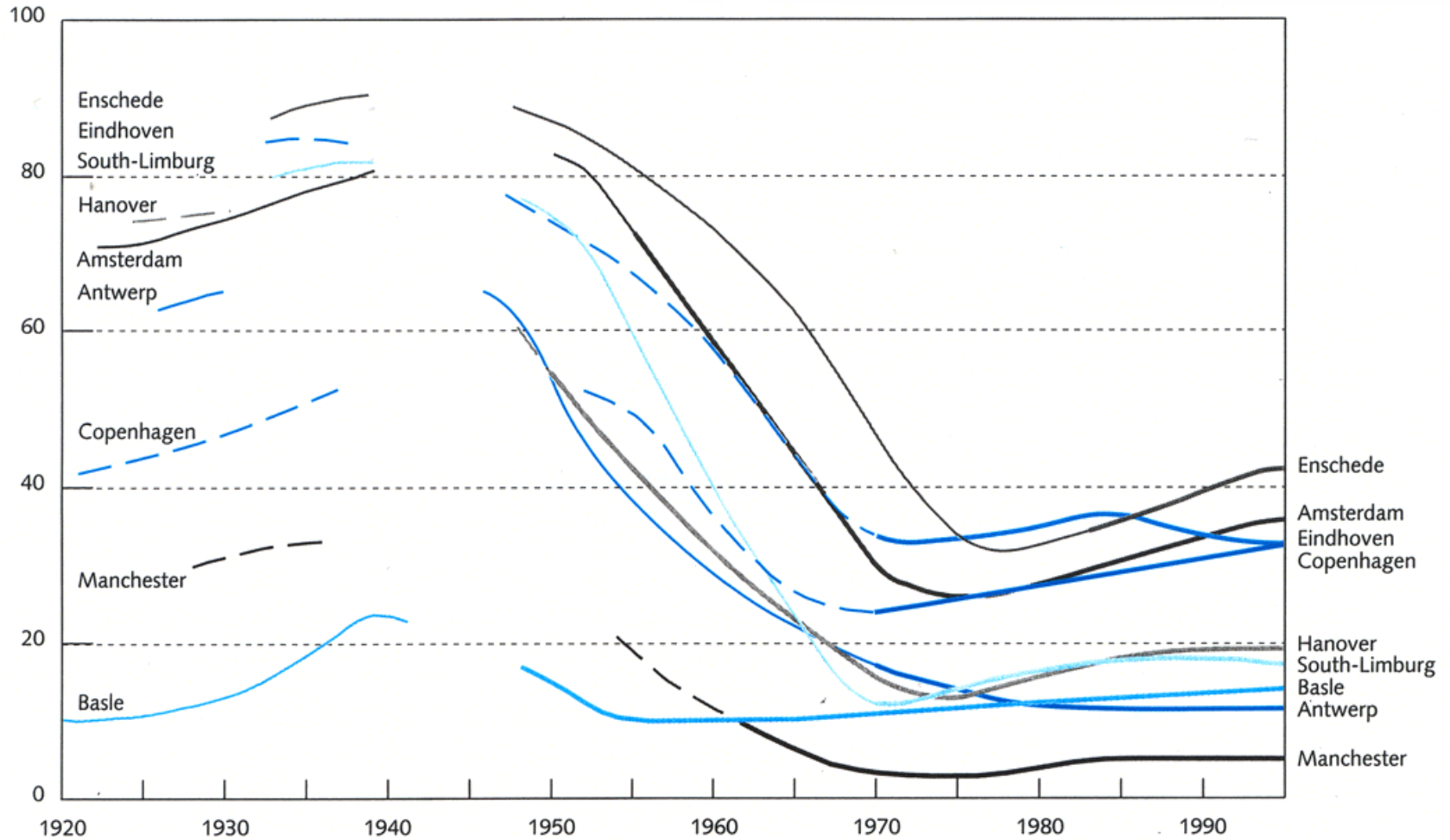
E - PROHIBITED LANE. A revenue-bonanza no man's land with no purpose except to slap the unwary with a \$95 fine.

F - BABY STROLLER LANE. Those clusters of gabbing pram-pushers can at last roam free without blocking pedestrians. (Unoccupied strollers subject to \$65 fine.)*

G - BICYCLE LANE. As many as **seven cyclists per hour** are expected to exploit this lane.



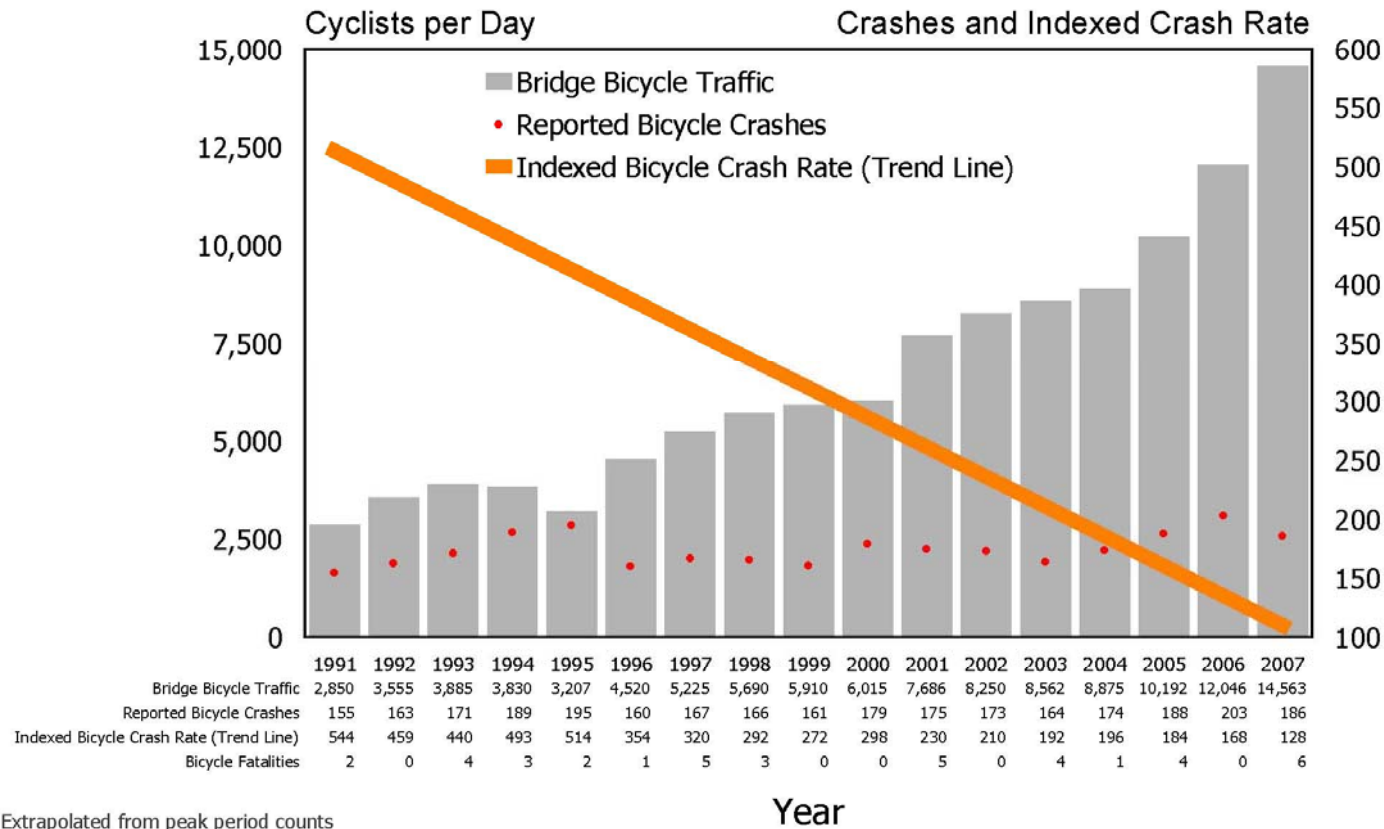
History



Reconstructed trend lines of the bicycle share in the total number of car, bicycle, motoped and public transportation trips in nine West European Cities, 1920-1995 (in%)(Source: A.A. Albert de la Bruheze and F.C.A Veraart, 1999: 34) 4

Because Portland does it ...

Combined Bicycle Traffic over Four Main Portland Bicycle Bridges Juxtaposed with Bicycle Crashes

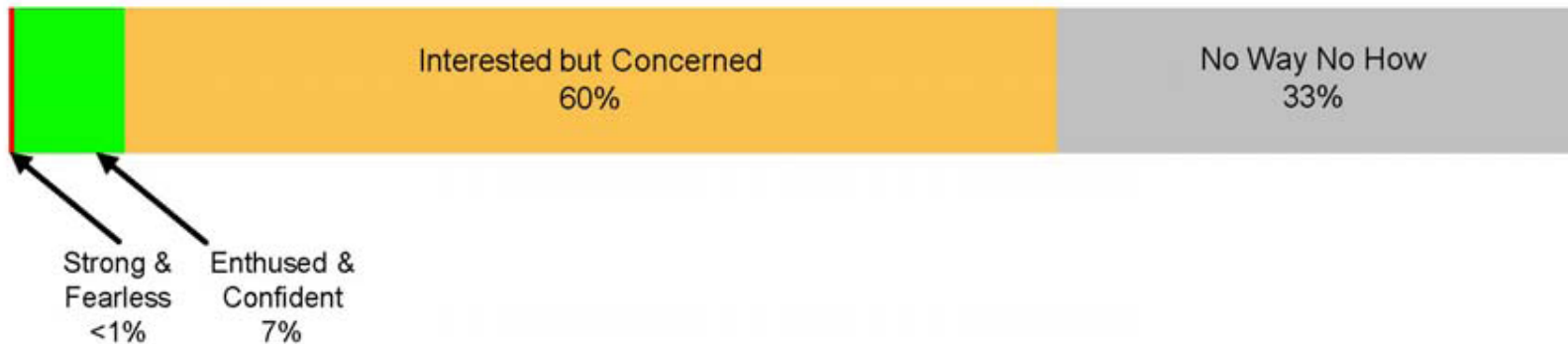


Extrapolated from peak period counts

"Crash Rate" represents an indexing of annual reported crashes to daily bicycle trips across the four main bicycle bridges.

Which helped identify ...

Four Types of Transportation Cyclists in Portland By Proportion of Population



This typology was developed using professional knowledge and experience in a field where data is woefully inadequate. The analysis was initially vetted with many professionals in the field, representing hundreds of years of bicycle planning, policy, and operational experience. So far, this typology has been supported by all available data that has since been generated regarding either bicycle use or attitudes toward bicycling.

This categorization remains relevant and supported. It is fundamental to understanding both the market for increasing bicycle transportation and what needs to be undertaken to cater to them...
– Roger Geller

How #1: Manual counts

- NBPD: joint ITE / Alta initiative
- Arlington supports this effort, with modifications
- We have so far carried out nine large seasonal volunteer counts (100+ vols)
- We are building a database to allow for rich analysis of the compiled data
- Adding questions to a resident survey (ACCS)

Manual count forms

Name: _____ Count date: _____ Temperature: _____
 Count location: _____ Start time: _____ Precipitation: _____
 Wind: _____

Use this column for 15 minutes of counting

Mode	Gender	Direction
Pedestrian	M	E
		W
	F	E
		W
	N/O	E
		W

Use this column for 15 minutes of counting

Mode	Gender	Direction
Pedestrian	M	E
		W
	F	E
		W
	N/O	E
		W

Mode	Gender	Direction	Wearing helmet?
Bicyclist	M	E	Yes
			No
		W	Yes
			No
	F	E	Yes
			No
		W	Yes
			No
	N/O	E	Yes
			No
		W	Yes
			No

Mode	Gender	Direction	Wearing helmet?
Bicyclist	M	E	Yes
			No
		W	Yes
			No
	F	E	Yes
			No
		W	Yes
			No
	N/O	E	Yes
			No
		W	Yes
			No

Mode	Gender
Other	M
	F
	N/O

Mode	Gender
Other	M
	F
	N/O

Form 8 P384EW

* Other: for example, roller blades, skate board, Segway

N/O = No Observation

Compiled first order results

Arlington Bike-Ped Count Results March, 2010	Location #	Multiple "legs"	Thursday, March 11th 7-9 AM		Thursday, March 11th 4-6 PM		Saturday, March 13th 12-2 PM		Notes:
			Bicyclists	Pedestrians	Bicyclists	Pedestrians	Bicyclists	Pedestrians	
Shared Use Paths									
W&OD trail at East Falls Church (just W of Lee Hwy and Ffx Dr)	A1		95	55	139	118			March 13 was very windy and wet counter did not show on Sat.
W&OD trail below Patrick Henry Dr. (three-way intersection at Custis split)	A2	*	150	87	209	212			
W&OD trail just N of Columbia Pike	A3		41	36	90	109	10	51	
Custis Trail split (three way intersection nr I-66, George Mason, and 10th St N)	A4	*	159	113	135	147	11	75	
Custis Trail at Lee Hwy. & Lynn St. (approach to Mt. Vernon Trail)	A5		183	79	170	132	13	65	
Shirlington bike/ped bridge over I-395	A6		8	34	8	67	2	38	
Four Mile Run Trail at S Eads St. (nr water treatment plant)	A7	*	84	30	127	80	13	31	
Four Mile Run Trail at rest area near 27th Road South	A8	(location moved)	68	41	86	67	17	24	*auto counter location
W&OD Trail at Shirlington Road	A9	(location moved)	25	19	40	49	5	21	
Custis Trail at 3.5 mile marker (near Troy and 20th Rd N)	A10	(new location)	189	68	156	83	8	71	*auto counter location
Urban sidewalks									
Wilson Blvd. at Ft. Myer Dr. (N side of Wilson nr Rosslyn Metro)	B1		18	1043	6	2058	1	529	Thurs. PM start at 4:07
Clarendon Blvd. at N Fillmore St. (S side sidewalk w bike lane nr Clarendon Commons)	B2		23	111	8	653	2	901	Thurs AM peds seem low
Fairfax Dr. between N Taylor St. and N Stuart St. (S side sidewalk w bike lane in Ballston)	B3		24	702	10	734	2	182	
Fairfax Dr. at N. Glebe Rd. (N side of Fairfax, E of Glebe)	B4				34	294			
N Glebe Rd. at Carlin Springs Rd. (entire "T" intersection in Ballston)	B5	*	10	529	20	772	5	394	
N Glebe Rd. at Lee Highway (N side of Lee, E of Glebe)	B6	*							counter did not show on Sat.
Columbia Pike at George Mason Dr. (N side of Col Pike, E of G Mason)	B7	*	9	116	19	247	14	146	Was 3/13 count done on 3/14?
S Eads St. at 23rd St. S (N side of 23rd, W of Eads)	B8	*	14	235					
Crystal Dr at 18th St. S (W side of Crystal, S of 18th, sidewalk w bike lane)	B9	*	62	1461			4	211	
S. Hayes St. at 12th St. S sidewalk w bike lane (E side of Hayes, S of 12th. @ Pentagon City Metro)	B10		1	531					
Bike lanes									
N Quincy St. at 14th St. N (nr. Wash-Lee HS)	C1		18				2		
Wilson / Clarendon Blvds. at Veitch St. N (count both directions from one spot)	C2	*	54		70		8		
Williamsburg Blvd. at Little Falls Rd. (entire three-way intersection)	C3	*	24		12		0		

FINAL RESULTS -- March 2010

How #2: Automatic counting equipment

- Tube counters
- Inductive loops
- Passive infrared detection
- Piezo counters

Tubes ...



First tube counter results ...

Vehicle Flow

VehicleFlow-85 (Non metric) **Site:**Mile35 Custis Trail.0.0EW

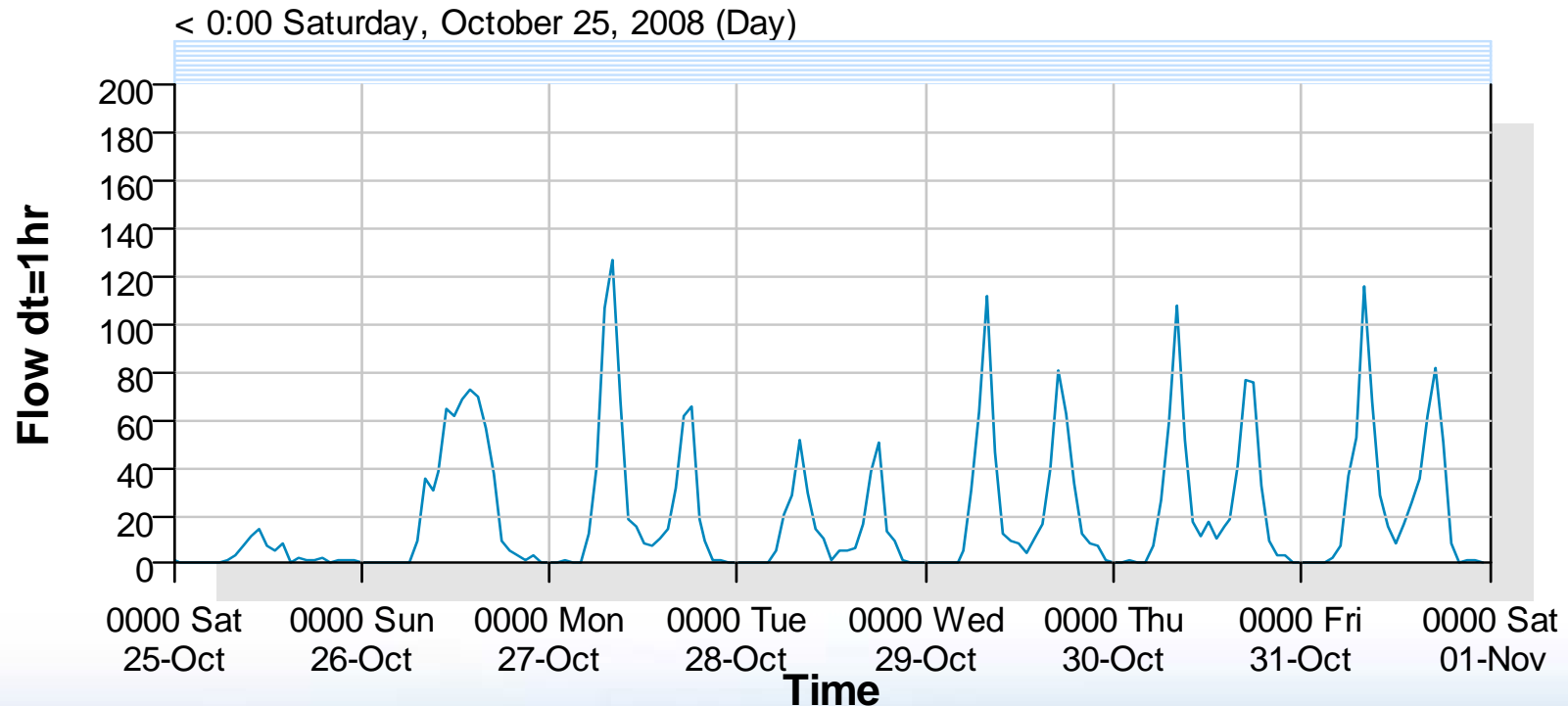
Description: Bike count

Filter time: 0:00 Saturday, October 25, 2008 => 0:00 Saturday, November 01, 2008

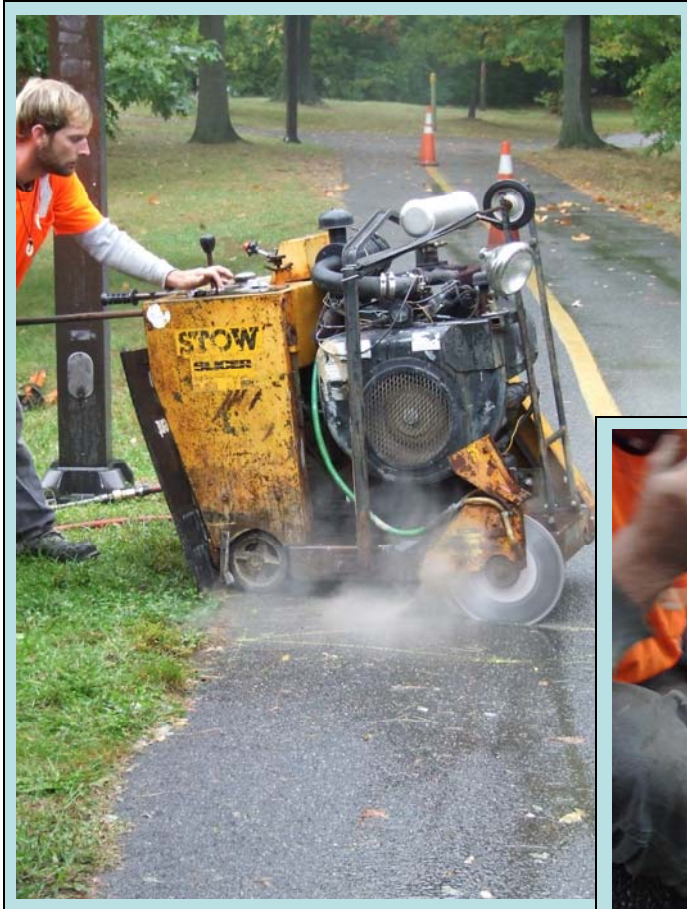
Filter: Cls(1 2 3 4) Dir(NESW) Sp(1,100) Headway(>0)

Scheme: Vehicle classification (5720 Cycle)

Profile



Inductive loops + passive infrared ...

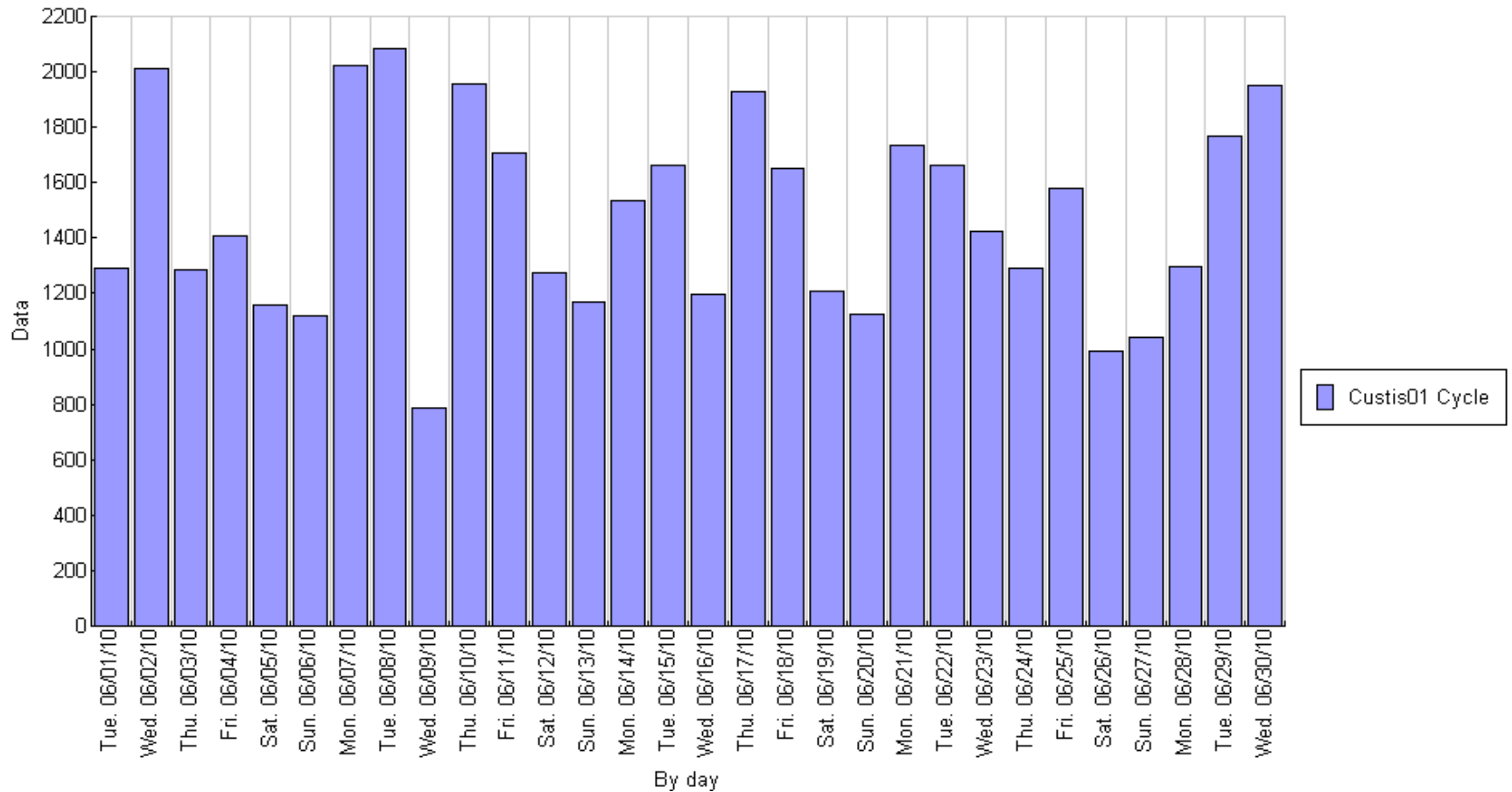


Installation details ...

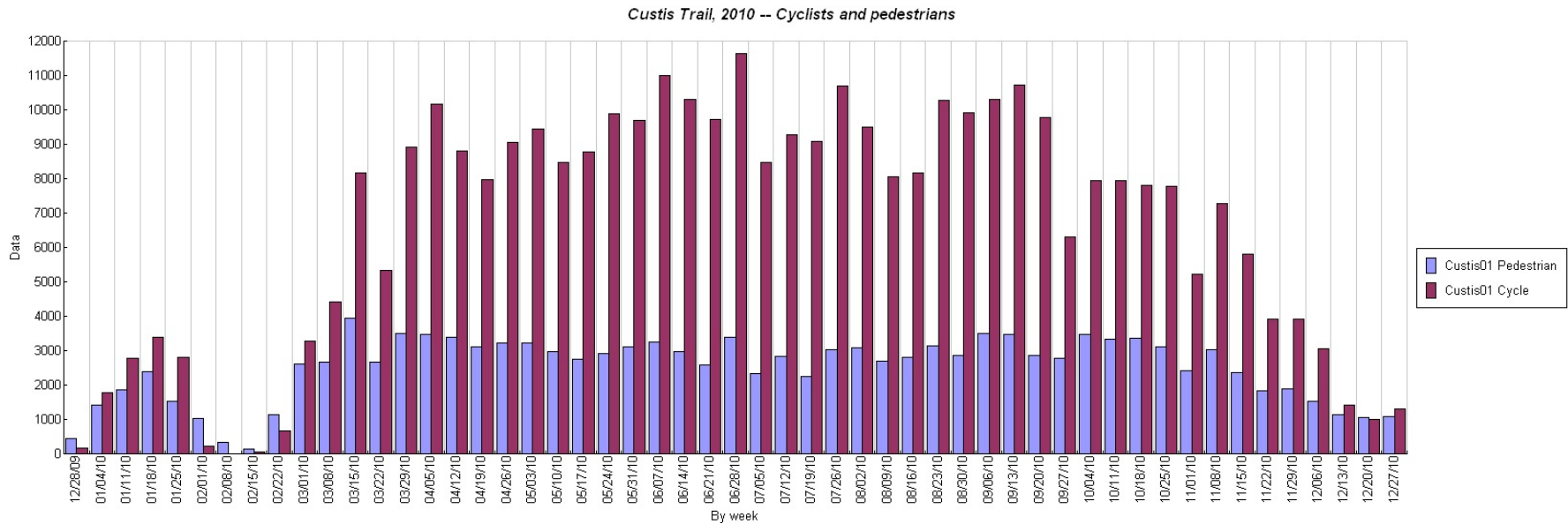


Sample data ...

June 2010 on the Custis Trail -- bicycles only



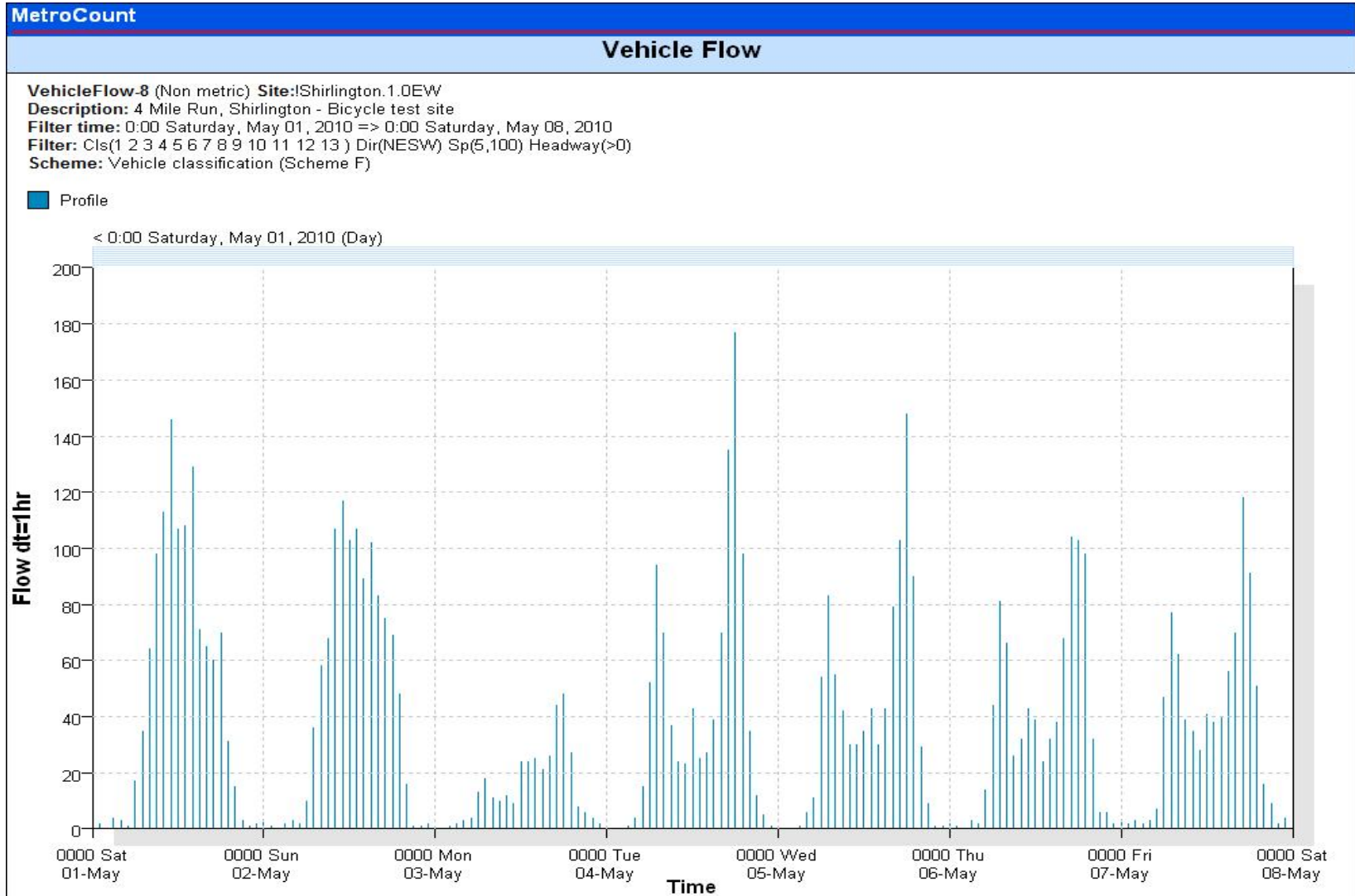
A year's worth of data – Custis Trail ...



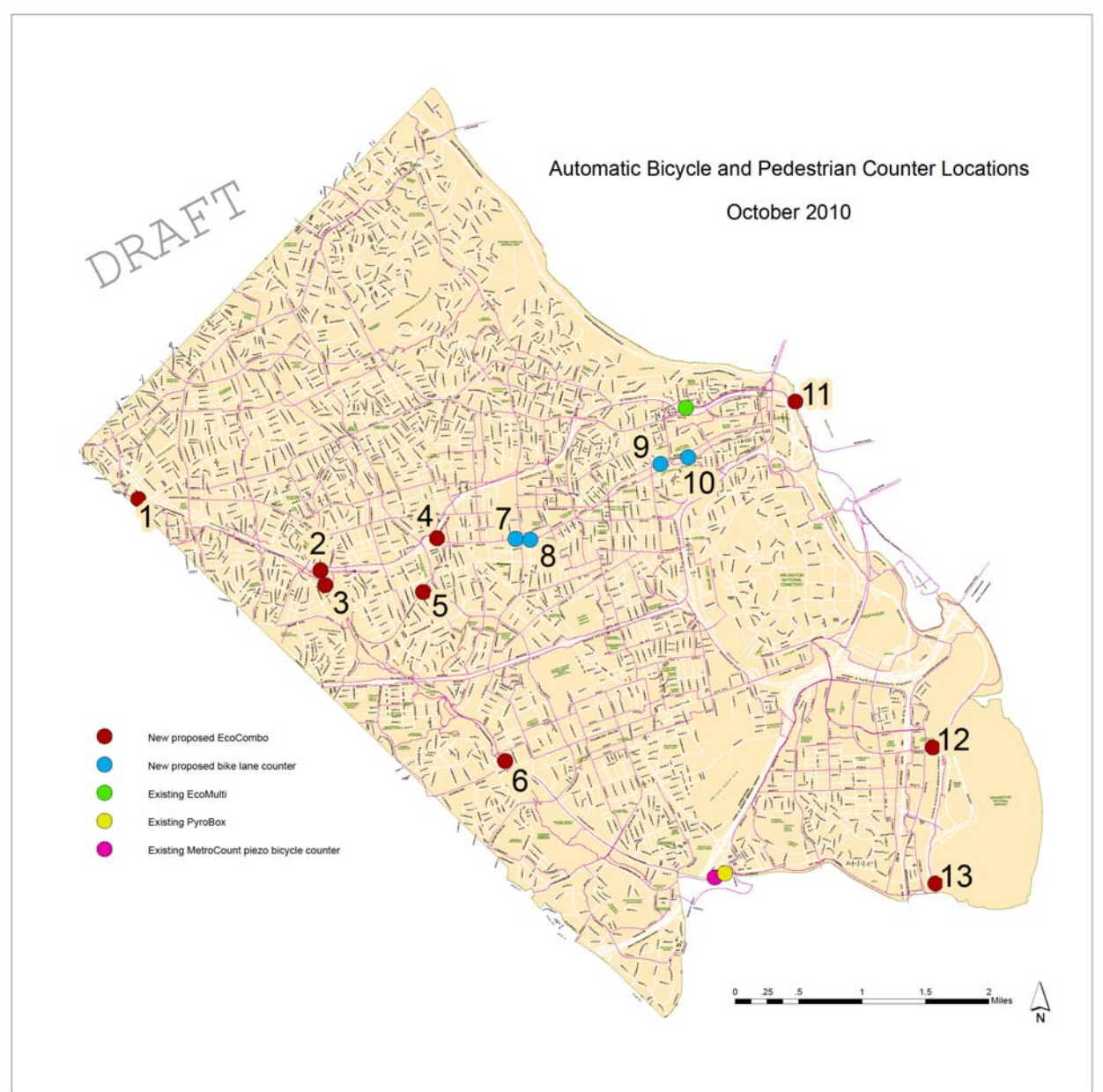
Piezo counting ... bicycles only



Piezo data ...



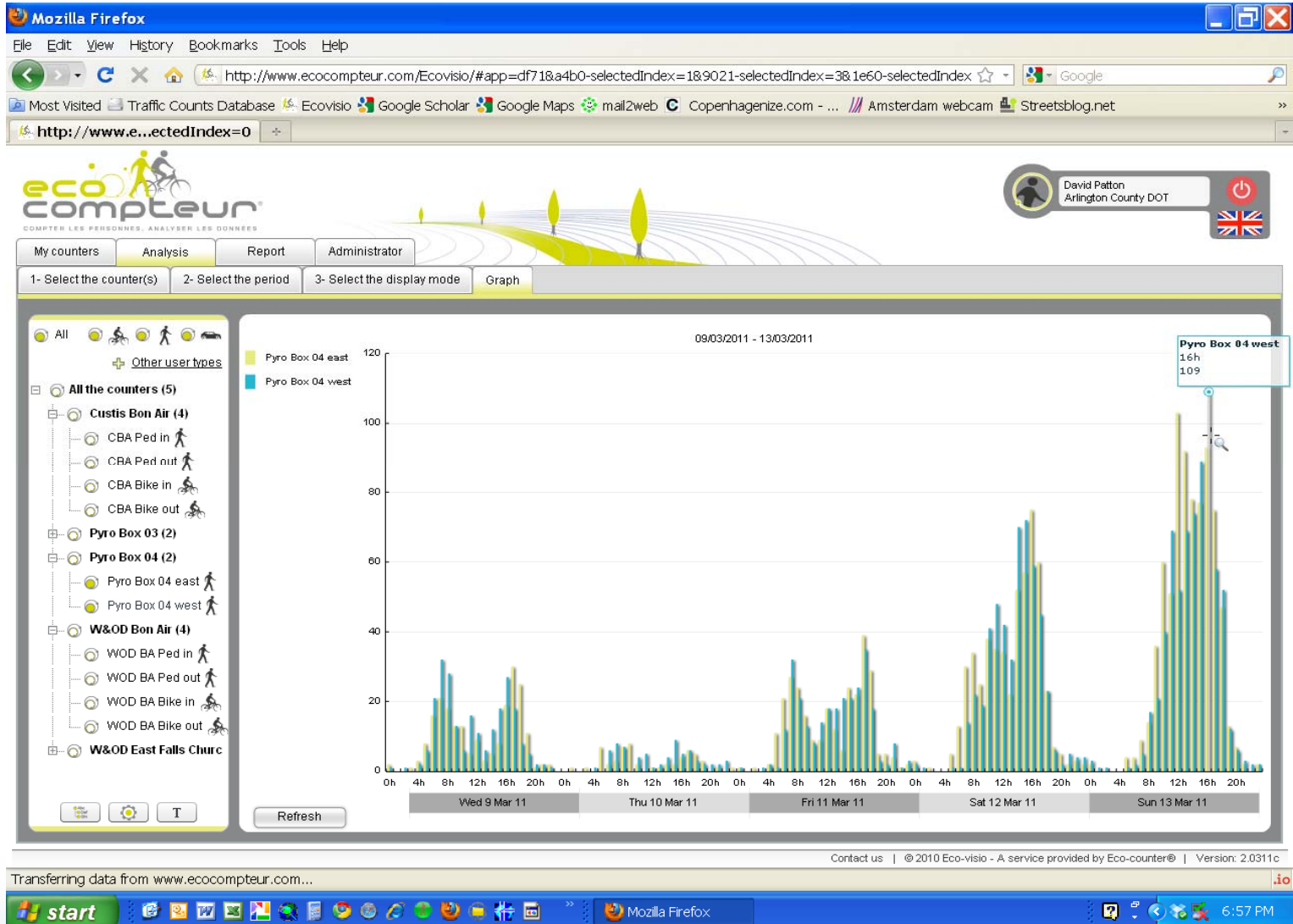
More auto-counters ...



A few glitches ...



Live demo ... screen shot for back-up



Snow what?

Cyclists and pedestrians make up more than 0% of commuters.
They deserve more than 0% of the plowing resources.

Greater Greater Washington

The Washington, DC area is great. But it could be **greater**.

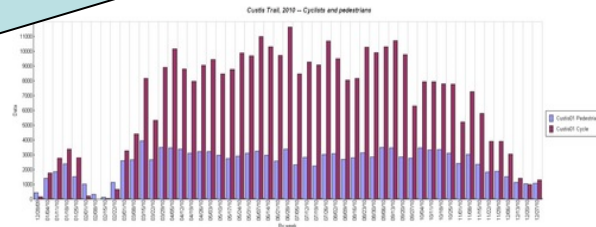
BICYCLING

Cold weather, lack of plowing affects bike commuting

by David C. • January 21, 2011 8:19 am

Automated trail counters have provided an accurate count of cyclists and pedestrians on the Custis Trail 2010 — Cyclists and pedestrians

center located at the Custis Trail on the top of the hill, just west of Rosslyn:



There are three interesting things this chart shows.

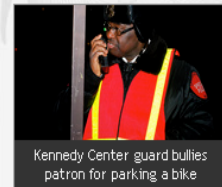
The winter effect: Winter does cause a sizable drop off in cycling. It's around 70%, as I eyeball it. It's impossible to say if these are evenly dispersed among commuters and recreational cyclists or if the people left in the winter are dedicated commuters, but

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- Don't let scandal outrage lead to bad policy
- Capital Bikeshare introduces new 5-day pass
- Renovated Safeway at Seven Corners dismisses pedestrians

TRANSIT

- Contest: Design a better Metro map
- SmarTrip improvements on tap for summer 2011
- Google Transit still "very close"

EDUCATION & SAFETY

- AU students need more, quality on-campus housing
- National teachers' union being constructive on performance
- DC needs school choice, not vouchers

PUBLIC SPACE

- Wall at Brookland Metro serves as a canvas for a memorial
- Discovery's "secret garden" should be reopened to public
- Wheaton town square should belong to the public

SAFE STREETS

- Capital Bikeshare introduces new 5-day pass

Where to?

Informs wayfinding ...

TooleDesignGroup



August 17, 2010

Mr. David Goodman - RA, AICP
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301.927.1900
301.927.2800 fax
www.tooledesign.com

RE: Request for Cost Proposal for Arlington County Bicycle and Pedestrian Wayfinding Study
On-Call Contract # 404-09-1

Dear Mr. Goodman and Members of the Selection Committee:

Toole Design Group, LLC is pleased to submit this proposal for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Wayfinding Study. We're excited to further the County's desire to build upon the existing wayfinding system which has evolved over the years. We have reviewed your request for proposals and have assembled a scope of work tailored to meet Arlington County's needs for this study.

TDG is a full-service planning and design firm with a national reputation and expertise in bicycle and pedestrian facility design, traffic calming, transit accessibility, and safe routes to school planning. We have extensive experience working on bicycle/pedestrian planning and design projects in the Washington, D.C. area.

Our team will be managed by Daniel Biggs, RLA, who has led several projects to improve wayfinding for bicycle and pedestrian facilities in urban areas, including the Anacostia River Trail and BWI Trail wayfinding systems. In addition, prior to joining TDG, Dan was involved in the planning and design of a wayfinding system for Downtown Ocean City, Maryland as well as assisted with the development of Arlington County's vehicular wayfinding guidelines and concept plans for signs along five major arterials within the County.

Dan will be supported by two key individuals on this project including Bob Patten, Senior Planner and Megan Tymesko, ASLA Landscape Designer. Bob has been integral to several bicycle planning projects in Metro D.C. area including the bicycle element of Arlington's Master Transportation Plan and the District of Columbia Bike Plan, which includes wayfinding planning. Bob and Megan have also been key to the completion of the design of the Anacostia River Trail and BWI wayfinding systems.

In conclusion, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit this proposal to Arlington County. We are confident in our ability to commit our staff and resources for the duration of this project. If you have any questions about this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. I can be reached by phone at 301-927-1900, extension 103, or email at jtoole@tooledesign.com. Thank you for your consideration of our team.

Sincerely,

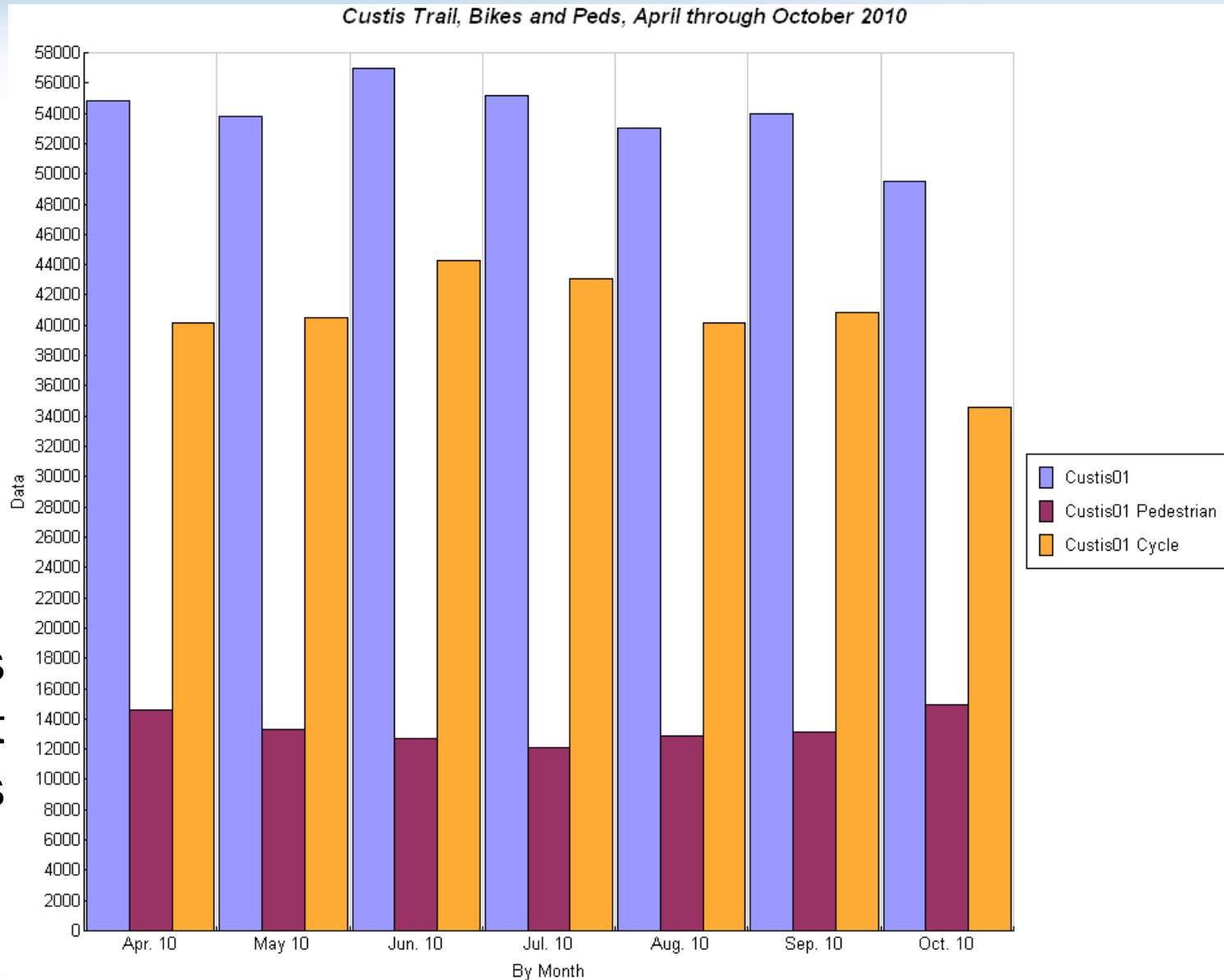
Toole Design Group

Jennifer Toole, AICP, ASLA
President

Toole Design Group is a 100% Woman Owned Business and is recognized as a Bicycle-Friendly Business by the League of American Bicyclists

How many?

Supports grant requests



Questions?

David Patton

Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner

Arlington County Division of Transportation

dpatton@arlingtonva.us

703.228.3633