## PORTLAND BICYCLE COUNT REPORT 2009

## Introduction

Each year since the early 1990s, the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) has counted bicycle trips at various locations throughout the city. For the most part these counts have been manual counts, with volunteer counters and city staff standing at street corners and on bridges during the two-hour rush ("peak period") counting each bicyclist that passes. In addition to the overall number of trips, PBOT also records the gender of each bicyclist and whether that cyclist is wearing a helmet. Most counts are still conducted in this manner, though in the early 2000s PBOT added a number of 24-hour automated "hose" counts (pressure-sensitive pneumatic hoses) on some bridges and trails. These counts, while they do not record gender or helmet use, provide a more complete picture of the ebb and flow of bicycle traffic over 24-hour periods.

## Summary of the 2009 Bicycle Count:

- For the first time since 1995, the number of bicycle trips counted decreased in Portland.
- Bicycle traffic on Portland's four bicycle-friendly bridges (Broadway, Steel, Burnside and Hawthorne bridges) and at 101 non-bridge locations showed a one-year decrease of 6 percent and 5 percent respectively. The total number of bicycle trips in Portland (combined bridge and non-bridge) decreased 5 percent compared with 2008.
- Although the number of bike trips on the four bridges were down, so was the number of trips made by drivers and transit riders. Because of this overall trend, bicyclists still represented approximately 13 percent of all vehicles crossing those bridges - the same percentage as in 2008.
- Bicycles represent 21 percent of all vehicles on the Hawthorne Bridge, up one percentage point from 2008. Bicycles represented 12 percent, 18 percent and 5 percent of all vehicles on the Broadway, Steel and Burnside bridges, respectively, compared to 14 percent, 15 percent and 5 percent in 2008.
- Adjusted for the 2009 decrease, the overall trend in bicycle traffic is up, increasing 180 percent since the 2000/2001 counts.
- Helmet use decreased from 80 percent of all bicyclists in 2008 to 77 percent in 2009. Helmet use in 2009 continues to be more prevalent among female riders ( 82 percent) than male riders ( 74 percent).
- Female riders represented 31 percent of bicyclists citywide, a one percentage point decrease from 2008.

Prior to 2008 the majority of counts were concentrated in close-in neighborhoods and the Central City. In 2008, an emphasis was placed on increasing the total number of counts citywide, with a particular focus on locations in Southwest and East Portland east of I-205.This year, PBOT expanded its counts from the 121 sites counted in 2008 to 139 locations in 2009. PBOT compiled data from 134 of these locations based on manual two-hour peak period counts. These two-hour peak period counts are multiplied by five to provide an estimate of total daily bicycle traffic at each counted location ${ }^{1}$.

[^0]Annual bicycle counts constitute one of the City's three principal means of assessing progress in its efforts to make the bicycle an integral part of daily life in Portland. ${ }^{2}$ This report identifies the key findings from the latest round of bicycle counts conducted between June 23 and October 30, 2009. ${ }^{3}$ The report also provides graphical representation of the data and includes a staff analysis.

The most significant finding of the 2009 count is that there has was a decrease in the numbers of trips compared to the previous year for the first time since 1995. Other indicators trended negatively, as well, including the percent of cyclists who are female and helmet usage.

Of 105 locations that were counted in both 2008 and 2007 (including the four bicycle-friendly Willamette River Bridges and trails) 68 locations showed a decrease compared to 2008 while 37 locations showed an increase. Overall, bicycle use declined approximately five percent compared to 2008. Helmet use showed a decrease of approximately three percent compared to 2008 , though overall helmet use remains relatively high at 77 percent. The ratio of male to female cyclists increased slightly from 2.125:1 in 2008 to 2.25:1 in 2009. Citywide, 69 percent of cyclists counted in 2009 were male, compared to 68 percent in 2008.

All the data discussed in this portion of the report is displayed graphically in the appendix.

## Bicycle-Friendly Willamette River Bridge Counts

An important gauge for measuring bicycle use in Portland is the number of bicycle trips across the four bicyclefriendly bridges over the Willamette River (Hawthorne, Burnside, Steel, and Broadway bridges). The number of bicyclists crossing these four bridges has grown rapidly in recent years. However, in 2009 bicycle trips across these bridges decreased six percent, representing the first drop in ridership since 1995. In 2009 Portlanders took an average of nearly 15,750 daily trips across the Willamette River to travel between Portland's east and west sides (compared to approximately 16,700 in 2008).

Bicycle trips make up a significant proportion of all vehicular trips across the Willamette River. In 2009, despite the one-year drop in ridership, bicycle trips accounted for 13 percent of the combined 117,609 daily bicycle and auto trips on the four bicycle-friendly bridges, which was essentially the same as in $2008^{4}$. The proportion held constant because, as with bicycle trips, auto trips across the bridges dropped in $2009^{5}$. For contrast, in 2000 bicycles represented only five percent of all vehicles on these bridges. The proportion of bikes in relation to cars has nearly tripled since 2000.

[^1]
## Non-Bridge Counts

A decrease in bicycle traffic on the bridges is consistent with similar declines in citywide ridership. Comparisons at 101 non-bridge locations citywide show a five percent decrease in bicycle use compared to the previous year. Compared to 2000/2001, ridership citywide has increased 190 percent, based on a comparison at 30 non-bridge locations.

$$
2009 \text { Non-Bridge Bicycle Counts Compared with Prior Years }
$$

## Citywide Manual Counts

Since 2000 or 2001, every district in the City has seen consistent and significant growth in bicycle use. The largest gains have been made in Southeast Portland, which saw a 243 percent increase at seven locations. The next highest percentages of growth since 2000/2001 were in the

| DISTRICT/ <br> LOCATION | \% CHANGE <br> SINCE 2000/01 | BASED ON \# <br> LOCATIONS | \% CHANGE <br> SINCE 2008 | BASED ON \# <br> LOCATIONS |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Citywide Total | $\mathbf{1 9 0 \%}$ | 30 | $-4.6 \%$ | 101 |
| Central City <br> (west side) | $212 \%$ | 6 | $1.5 \%$ | 8 |
| North | $183 \%$ | 4 | $-8 \%$ | 12 |
| Northeast | $138 \%$ | 5 | $-7 \%$ | 14 |
| Southeast | $243 \%$ | 7 | $-2 \%$ | 21 |
| East | na | na | $3.5 \%$ | 16 |
| Northwest | $81 \%$ | 4 | $-8.5 \%$ | 9 |
| Southwest | $161 \%$ | 4 | $-11.5 \%$ | 21 | Central City and in North

Portland, which experienced 212 and 183 percent increases respectively. Comparing 2009 count data from 101 non-bridge locations to 2008 counts, however, reveals a break in the long-term trend of across-the-board growth.

In 2009, the only districts that experienced growth in ridership were the Central City ( 1.5 percent) and East Portland ( 3.5 percent). All other districts showed declines in ridership of two to 11.5 percent, with the largest drops in Southwest Portland (11.5 percent, excluding the Central City) and Northwest Portland ( 8.5 percent).

## Gender Split

Because cities with high bicycle

Percentage of Bicyclists Identified as Female

| DISTRICT/ LOCATION | \% 2008 | \% 2009 | CHANGE IN <br> \% POINTS |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Citywide Total | $32.0 \%$ | $31.0 \%$ | -1.0 |
| Central City (west side) | $28.5 \%$ | $31.3 \%$ | 2.8 |
| North | $35.4 \%$ | $32.9 \%$ | -2.5 |
| Northeast | $35.1 \%$ | $35.7 \%$ | 0.6 |
| Southeast | $32.1 \%$ | $32.8 \%$ | 0.7 |
| East | $18.7 \%$ | $18.6 \%$ | -0.1 |
| Northwest | $29.6 \%$ | $27.7 \%$ | -1.1 |
| Southwest | (excluding Central City) | $28.1 \%$ | $25.8 \%$ | mode shares typically achieve a balance between male and female ridership, gender parity is often considered an important indicator of success in creating safe, comfortable and attractive conditions for bicycling. Women represented 31 percent of all bicyclists counted during Portland's summer 2009 counts. This gender split represents a slight decline in the proportion of female bicyclists compared to 2008, when women accounted for 32 percent of all bicyclists counted.

Depending on the area of the City, the proportion of women riders fluctuated between 19 percent (East Portland) and 36 percent (Inner NE) of all bicyclists. The highest proportion of female bicyclists was in Inner Northeast Portland, where they represented 36 percent of all bicyclists counted, and the lowest was in East Portland, where
they represented 19 percent of riders. The Central City saw the largest one-year increase in the percentage of female riders, where their numbers grew three percentage points from last year. Areas of Portland experiencing the largest decreases in percentage of female riders were North Portland and Southwest Portland (excluding the Central City), where women as a percentage of all bicyclists declined 2.5 and 2.8 percentage points respectively.

## Helmet Use

Helmet use in Portland has been trending steadily upward since the early 1990s. In 1992 only 44 percent of Portland cyclists used a helmet. In 2009 approximately 77 percent did. The year of highest helmet use was 2008, during which approximately 80 percent of Portlanders wore a helmet while riding a bicycle.

Helmet use is highest in Southwest Portland, where approximately 88 percent of riders wear helmets. It is

2009 Compared with 2008: Helmet Use

| DISTRICT/ LOCATION | \% 2008 | \% 2009 | CHANGE IN <br> \% POINTS |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Citywide Total | $80 \%$ | $77 \%$ | $-3 \%$ |
| Central City (west side) | $83 \%$ | $81.5 \%$ | $-1.5 \%$ |
| North | $84.5 \%$ | $82 \%$ | $-2.5 \%$ |
| Northeast | $77 \%$ | $78 \%$ | $1 \%$ |
| Southeast | $77 \%$ | $73 \%$ | $-4 \%$ |
| East | $63 \%$ | $60 \%$ | $-3 \%$ |
| Northwest | $29.6 \%$ | $27.7 \%$ | $-1.1 \%$ |
| Southwest |  |  |  |
| (excluding Central City) | $87 \%$ | $88 \%$ | $1 \%$ | lowest in East Portland where only 60 percent of riders were observed wearing them. Only in Northeast and Southwest Portland did helmet use grow, by approximately one percentage point.

As has been the case in every year since 1992, women wear helmets at a higher rate than do men. In 2009 approximately 82 percent of female riders wore helmets while 74 percent of men wore them. In both cases, this represents a decrease of four percent and three percent respectively from 2008.

## Analysis

Because the city's bicycle count data is a well-recognized and widely discussed index of Portland's bicycle use it seems reasonable to provide some analysis as to the factors that may have contributed to the first decline in citywide ridership since 1995. There seem to be three principal factors at play. First is the economy in recession, and the resulting high unemployment. Second is that the high bicycle use in 2008, though following a trend of several years, may have been higher than normal in response to that years' spike in gasoline prices. A third factor may be that most of the pool of Portlanders willing to ride on standard bicycle lanes is already riding and that there are few additional gains to be made. Each of these will be further explored, below.

The Recession. 2009 is a recessionary year with high unemployment. Under such conditions all travel behavior is depressed, which is seen as a decrease in the number of trips taken using transit, automobiles and bicycles. Portland does not annually monitor automobile volumes at the same locations. However, we do have data from 26 locations where automobiles were counted in 2009 that were also counted in 2008, 2007 or 2006. These 26 locations show an overall seven percent decrease in automobile traffic in 2009 compared to previous years. Only seven locations show an increase in traffic while 19 showed decreases ranging from one percent to 41 percent,
with 17 percent being the average decline in traffic volume at those locations showing decreases. Most traffic models predict slight annual increases in automobile volumes over time.

In addition to this city count data, the Oregon Department of Transportation monitors travel behavior on Oregon highways. This data is analyzed by transportation researchers at Portland State University's Center for Transportation Studies. A comparison of data from I-5 northbound and southbound for the same months (March through October) in 2008 and 2009 shows a drop in automobile volumes of five percent for northbound travel on I-5 and eight percent for southbound travel. This data was collected between the Oregon state line and Wilsonville.

Similarly, Tri-Met reports an overall decrease in transit ridership between 2008 and 2009. It is likely that, as

| Automobile Counts 2009 Compared to 2006-2008 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Year |  |  |  | $\begin{gathered} \% \\ \text { change } \end{gathered}$ |
| Location | 2006 | 2007 |  | 2009 |  |
| SE Barbara Welch S of 144th |  | 646 |  | 1,355 | 110\% |
| SE Barbara Welch E of 152nd |  | 545 |  | 813 | 49\% |
| SE Barbard Welch E of 152nd | 622 |  |  | 813 | 31\% |
| N Overlook N of Colonial | 293 |  |  | 362 | 24\% |
| SW Bancroft W of Condor | 475 |  |  | 582 | 23\% |
| Hawthorne Bridge Ramp E of Jefferson/Naito |  | 4,865 |  | 5,934 | 22\% |
| SW Condor Av E of Condor Ln | 1,630 |  |  | 1,881 | 15\% |
| SW 6th Dr N of Bancroft |  |  | 3,192 | 3,165 | -1\% |
| SW Spring Garden W of 17th |  | 7,944 |  | 7,814 | -2\% |
| NW Glisan E of 23rd | 4,849 |  |  | 4,716 | -3\% |
| SE Madison E of Grand |  | 10,369 |  | 9,955 | -4\% |
| SE Belmont E of 42nd |  | 9,276 |  | 8,839 | -5\% |
| NW Naito N of Everett |  | 8,155 |  | 7,694 | -6\% |
| N San Rafael E of 119th | 2,200 |  |  | 2,054 | -7\% |
| SE Tacoma W of 6th |  | 29,341 |  | 26,999 | -8\% |
| SW View Point Ter N of Bancroft |  | 513 |  | 462 | -10\% |
| NE 37th N of Simpson |  |  | 958 | 857 | -11\% |
| Hawthorne Bridge E of SE Hawthorne Bridge |  | 23,575 |  | 20,195 | -14\% |
| N Woolsey N of Kilpatrick |  | 1,973 |  | 1,529 | -23\% |
| SW Hamilton W of Hamilton Ter | 862 |  |  | 653 | -24\% |
| N Woolsey S of Winchell |  | 2,425 |  | 1,769 | -27\% |
| N Russett W of Hurst |  | 940 |  | 676 | -28\% |
| N Winchell E of Wayland |  | 711 |  | 477 | -33\% |
| SE 41st S of Harold |  | 2,407 |  | 1,501 | -38\% |
| NE 13th N of Faloma |  | 1,396 |  | 853 | -39\% |
| NE 13th N of Meadow |  | 1,383 |  | 815 | -41\% |
| Overall Change |  |  |  |  | -7\% | with bicycle riderhip, some of that decrease is a response to lower gasoline prices in 2009 as well as due to decreased economic activity due to the recession.


| Changes in Automotive Use on I-5: 2009 compared to 2008 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | I-5 Northbound |  |  | I-5 Southbound |  |  |
|  | 2008 | 2009 | Percent Change | 2008 | 2009 | Percent Change |
| Total Volume over all Count Stations | 583,397,146 | 556,422,297 | -5\% | 480,622,553 | 442,801,940 | -8\% |
| Average Daily Volume | 123,288 | 117,587 | -5\% | 136,231 | 125,511 | -8\% |

Higher Gas Prices in 2008. Though annual bicycle ridership began climbing exponentially in 2005, the almost 30 percent growth between 2007 and 2008 may have been aided by the nationwide spike in gasoline prices during summer 2008. With gas prices approaching four dollars per gallon then, both bicycle and transit ridership showed
dramatic increases over 2007. With the return to lower gas prices, it is reasonable to expect that some who rode in 2008 may have returned to driving.

| Transit Boardings 2008 and 2009 |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ridership | Summer <br> 2008 | Summer <br> 2009 | \% change |
| Average Weekday | 330,500 | 308,200 | $-7 \%$ |
| Weekday Peak (AM and PM) | 105,100 | 92,800 | $-12 \%$ |

The "Interested but Concerned". The majority of Portland's bikeway network in 2009 consisted of bicycle lanes on busy streets (accounting for 62 percent of Portland's 281 developed bikeway miles). The Bureau of Transportation recognizes that only a relatively small percentage of Portlanders - perhaps ranging from ten to 15 percent - will be attracted to riding in such facilities. The majority of people, referred to as the "interested but concerned," will not use a bicycle for regular transportation until safer and more comfortable conditions are created for bicycle transportation. These groups are captured in the City's analysis of the "Four Types of Transportation Cyclists," which is represented graphically in the following chart.

## Four Types of Transportation Cyclists in Portland By Proportion of Population

|  | Interested but Concerned <br> $60 \%$ | No Way No How |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $33 \%$ |  |  |

Strong \& Fearless will ride regardless of facilities; trip distance is not such an issue

Enthused \& Confident comfortable in traffic with appropriate facilities; prefer shorter trip distances

Interested but Concerned Not attracted by bicycle lanes; Not comfortable in traffic; Will ride in lowvolume, low-speed conditions (boulevards, off-street)

No Way No How not interested in using a bicycle for transportation

While Portland has seen rapid growth in bicycle ridership in the past decade, without the development of worldclass bicycle facilities this growth will logically end at some point. It is possible that in addition to the economy and lower gasoline prices, another factor contributing to this year's decrease in ridership is that the pool of people willing to use a bicycle for transportation is almost exhausted given the appeal of the city's current bicycle transportation infrastructure.

## Conclusion

There seem understandable and reasonable explanations to describe this first decline in bicycle ridership since 1995. However, it is important to note two points. First is that the overall trend of bicycle use has risen first
steadily and then dramatically over the past decade. Second is that a one-year count does not a trend make. To demonstrate this second point it is useful to look at a graph of bicycle counts over time in a city whose bicycle ridership Portland hopes to emulate. As the adjacent graph demonstrates Copenhagen, Denmark experienced many annual up and down spikes in both its long-term steady increase in bicycle use and steady decline in automotive use. What the graph reveals is that the overall trend is revealed only over time.


Copenhagen Traffic Counts (source: presentation by Andreas Rohl, Copenhagen Bicycle Coordinator).

## Appendix: Graphs and Charts

## Graphs

Average Daily Bicycle Traffic 4 Willamette River Bridges
Combined Bicycle Traffic Over Four Main Portland Bicycle Bridges Juxtaposed with Bikeway Miles
Combined 2008 Bicycle Traffic Over Four Main Portland Bicycle Bridges
Juxtaposed with Crash Rate
Bicycle Traffic at City Count Locations (Bridge and Non-Bridge Traffic)
Change in Bicycle Traffic (Bridge, Non-Bridge, and Combined Locations 2009)
Daily Bicycle Counts by Section of City
SE Portland
North Portland
East Portland
NE Portland
West Portland (Central City)
Southwest Portland (not including Central City)
Northwest Portland (not including Central City)
City of Portland Bicycle Counts by Year by Gender
City of Portland Bicycle Counts by Sector 2009 by Gender
City of Portland Bicycle Counts by Year by Helmet Use
City of Portland Bicycle Counts by Sector 2009 by Helmet Use

## Charts

City of Portland Bicycle Counts by Year (Gender and Helmet Use)
Citywide
North Portland
Northwest Portland
Southwest Portland
East Portland
Inner NE Portland
Inner SE Portland
Bicycle and Auto Counts on the Four Main Bicycle-Friendly Downtown Bridges
1991-2009

# Average Daily Bicycle Traffic 4 Main Willamette River Bicycle Bridges 



## Bicycle Traffic across Four Main Portland Bicycle Bridges Juxtaposed with Bikeway Miles

Cyclists per Day
Bikeway Miles


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


"Crash Rate" represents an indexing of annual reported crashes to daily bicycle trips across the four main bicycle bridges.
*2008 Reported Bicycle Crashes data not yet available

## Bicycle Traffic at City Count Locations Bridge and Non-Bridge Traffic



Changes in Bicycle Traffic Bridge and Non-Bridge Locations 2009



## Daily Bicycle Traffic: North Portland 2009 Counts Compared to Previous Years

Daily Bicycle Trips


## Daily Bicycle Traffic East Portland 2009 Counts Compared to Previous Years

Daily Bicycle Trips


## Daily Bicycle Traffic: Inner NE Portland 2009 Counts Compared to Previous Years

Daily Bicycle Trips


## Daily Bicycle Traffic: West Portland (Central City) 2009 Counts Compared to Previous Years



## Daily Bicycle Traffic: Southwest Portland (not incl. Central City) 2009 Counts Compared to Previous Years



## Daily Bicycle Traffic: Northwest Portland (not incl. Central City) 2009 Counts Compared to Previous Years



## City of Portland Bicycle Counts by Year By Gender

Percentage of all Cyclists


## City of Portland Bicycle Counts by Sector 2009 By Gender

Percentage of all Cyclists


## City of Portland Bicycle Counts by Year By Helmet Use <br> Percentage of all Cyclists



## City of Portland Bicycle Counts by Sector 2009 By Helmet Use

Percentage of all Cyclists


## City of Portland Bicycle Counts by Year Gender and Helmet Use

Citywide

|  | Male Cyclists $\mathrm{w} /$ helmets w/o helmets |  | Total | Female Cyclists w/ helmets w/o helmets |  | Total | Percentages |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Male Cyclists as \% of all cyclists |  | Female Cyclists as \% of all cyclists |  | Based on |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Male Cyclistsw/ helmets w/o helmets |  |  | Total | w/ helmets | emale Cyclist w/o helmets | Total | $$ | yclists w/o helmets |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1992 | 153 | 205 |  | 358 | 46 |  | 47 | 93 | 43\% | 57\% | 79\% | 49\% | 51\% | 21\% | 44\% | 56\% | 34\% | 45\% | 10\% | 10\% | 451 cyclists |
| 1993 | 229 | 211 | 440 | 101 | 55 | 156 | 52\% | 48\% | 74\% | 65\% | 35\% | 26\% | 55\% | 45\% | 38\% | 35\% | 17\% | 9\% | 596 cyclists |
| 1994 | 75 | 54 | 129 | 28 | 15 | 43 | 58\% | 42\% | 75\% | 65\% | 35\% | 25\% | 60\% | 40\% | 44\% | 31\% | 16\% | 9\% | 172 cyclists |
| 1995 | 842 | 401 | 1,243 | 320 | 162 | 482 | 68\% | 32\% | 72\% | 66\% | 34\% | 28\% | 67\% | 33\% | 49\% | 23\% | 19\% | 9\% | 1,725 cyclists |
| 1996 | 904 | 548 | 1,452 | 335 | 135 | 470 | 62\% | 38\% | 76\% | 71\% | 29\% | 24\% | 64\% | 36\% | 47\% | 29\% | 17\% | 7\% | 1,922 cyclists |
| 1997 | 2,126 | 1,428 | 3,554 | 900 | 337 | 1,237 | 60\% | 40\% | 74\% | 73\% | 27\% | 26\% | 63\% | 37\% | 44\% | 30\% | 19\% | 7\% | 4,791 cyclists |
| 1998 | 2,229 | 1,518 | 3,747 | 901 | 395 | 1,296 | 59\% | 41\% | 74\% | 70\% | 30\% | 26\% | 62\% | 38\% | 44\% | 30\% | 18\% | 8\% | 5,043 cyclists |
| 1999 | 1,978 | 1,109 | 3,087 | 764 | 264 | 1,028 | 64\% | 36\% | 75\% | 74\% | 26\% | 25\% | 67\% | 33\% | 48\% | 27\% | 19\% | 6\% | 4,115 cyclists |
| 2000 | 2,364 | 1,111 | 3,475 | 899 | 301 | 1,200 | 68\% | 32\% | 74\% | 75\% | 25\% | 26\% | 70\% | 30\% | 51\% | 24\% | 19\% | 6\% | 4,675 cyclists |
| 2001 | 3,734 | 1,618 | 5,352 | 1,632 | 457 | 2,089 | 70\% | 30\% | 72\% | 78\% | 22\% | 28\% | 72\% | 28\% | 50\% | 22\% | 22\% | 6\% | 7,441 cyclists |
| 2002 | 363 | 126 | 489 | 138 | 40 | 178 | 74\% | 26\% | 73\% | 78\% | 22\% | 27\% | 75\% | 25\% | 54\% | 19\% | 21\% | 6\% | 667 cyclists |
| 2003 | 1,854 | 891 | 2,745 | 910 | 322 | 1,232 | 68\% | 32\% | 69\% | 74\% | 26\% | 31\% | 69\% | 31\% | 47\% | 22\% | 23\% | 8\% | 3,977 cyclists |
| 2004 | 1,401 | 637 | 2,038 | 674 | 216 | 890 | 69\% | 31\% | 70\% | 76\% | 24\% | 30\% | 71\% | 29\% | 48\% | 22\% | 23\% | 7\% | 2,928 cyclists |
| 2005 | 1,064 | 393 | 1,457 | 528 | 136 | 664 | 73\% | 27\% | 69\% | 80\% | 20\% | 31\% | 75\% | 25\% | 50\% | 19\% | 25\% | 6\% | 2,121 cyclists |
| 2006 | 4,316 | 1,703 | 6,019 | 2,048 | 502 | 2,550 | 72\% | 28\% | 70\% | 80\% | 20\% | 30\% | 74\% | 26\% | 50\% | 20\% | 24\% | 6\% | 8,569 cyclists |
| 2007 | 6,649 | 2,366 | 9,015 | 3,369 | 724 | 4,093 | 74\% | 26\% | 69\% | 82\% | 18\% | 31\% | 76\% | 24\% | 51\% | 18\% | 26\% | 6\% | 13,108 cyclists |
| 2008 | 12,944 | 3,784 | 16,728 | 6,754 | 1,108 | 7,862 | 77\% | 23\% | 68\% | 86\% | 14\% | 32\% | 80\% | 20\% | 53\% | 15\% | 27\% | 5\% | 24,590 cyclists |
| 2009 | 11,340 | 3,887 | 15,227 | 5,619 | 1,219 | 6,838 | 74\% | 26\% | 69\% | 82\% | 18\% | 31\% | 77\% | 23\% | 51\% | 18\% | 25\% | 6\% | 22,065 cyclists |
|  | 54,565 | 21,990 | 76,555 | 25,966 | 6,435 | 32,401 | 71\% | 29\% | 70\% | 80\% | 20\% | $30 \%$ | 74\% | 26\% | 50\% | 20\% | 24\% | 6\% | 108,956 cyclists |

## City of Portland Bicycle Counts by Year Gender and Helmet Use

North Portland

|  | Male Cyclists w/ helmets w/o helmets |  | Total | Female Cyclists $\mathrm{w} /$ helmets $\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{o}$ helmets |  | Total | Percentages |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Male Cyclists as \% of all cyclists w/ helmets w/o helmets |  | Female Cyclists as \% of all cyclists $\mathrm{w} /$ helmets $\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{o}$ helmets |  | Based on |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Male Cyclistsw/ helmets w/o helmets |  | Total |  | Female Cyclists |  |  | All Cyclistsw/ helmets w/o helmets |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | $\mathrm{w} /$ helmets |  |  |  |  | w/o helmets | Total |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1992 | 62 | 45 |  |  |  |  | 107 | 16 | 6 | 22 | 58\% | 42\% | 83\% | 73\% | 27\% | 17\% | 60\% | 40\% | 48\% | 35\% | 12\% | 5\% | 129 cyclists |
| 1993 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0 cyclists |
| 1994 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0 cyclists |
| 1995 | 40 | 19 | 59 | 19 | 2 | 21 | 68\% | 32\% | 74\% | 90\% | 10\% | 26\% | 74\% | 26\% | 50\% | 24\% | 24\% | 3\% | 80 cyclists |
| 1996 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0 cyclists |
| 1997 | 156 | 146 | 302 | 71 | 29 | 100 | 52\% | 48\% | 75\% | 71\% | 29\% | 25\% | 56\% | 44\% | 39\% | 36\% | 18\% | 7\% | 402 cyclists |
| 1998 | 197 | 119 | 316 | 92 | 40 | 132 | 62\% | 38\% | 71\% | 70\% | 30\% | 29\% | 65\% | 35\% | 44\% | 27\% | 21\% | 9\% | 448 cyclists |
| 1999 | 170 | 128 | 298 | 60 | 28 | 88 | 57\% | 43\% | 77\% | 68\% | 32\% | 23\% | 60\% | 40\% | 44\% | 33\% | 16\% | 7\% | 386 cyclists |
| 2000 | 403 | 133 | 536 | 159 | 41 | 200 | 75\% | 25\% | 73\% | 80\% | 21\% | 27\% | 76\% | 24\% | 55\% | 18\% | 22\% | 6\% | 736 cyclists |
| 2001 | 821 | 375 | 1,196 | 359 | 91 | 450 | 69\% | 31\% | 73\% | 80\% | 20\% | 27\% | 72\% | 28\% | 50\% | 23\% | 22\% | 6\% | 1,646 cyclists |
| 2002 | 88 | 28 | 116 | 63 | 10 | 73 | 76\% | 24\% | 61\% | 86\% | 14\% | 39\% | 80\% | 20\% | 47\% | 15\% | 33\% | 5\% | 189 cyclists |
| 2003 | 301 | 161 | 462 | 153 | 42 | 195 | 65\% | 35\% | 70\% | 78\% | 22\% | 30\% | 69\% | 31\% | 46\% | 25\% | 23\% | 6\% | 657 cyclists |
| 2004 | 148 | 65 | 213 | 69 | 32 | 101 | 69\% | 31\% | 68\% | 68\% | 32\% | 32\% | 69\% | 31\% | 47\% | 21\% | 22\% | 10\% | 314 cyclists |
| 2005 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0 cyclists |
| 2006 | 1,197 | 349 | 1,546 | 694 | 112 | 806 | 77\% | 23\% | 66\% | 86\% | 14\% | 34\% | 80\% | 20\% | 51\% | 15\% | 30\% | 5\% | 2,352 cyclists |
| 2007 | 1,058 | 361 | 1,419 | 543 | 95 | 638 | 75\% | 25\% | 69\% | 85\% | 15\% | 31\% | 78\% | 22\% | 51\% | 18\% | 26\% | 5\% | 2,057 cyclists |
| 2008 | 3,762 | 822 | 4,584 | 2,238 | 272 | 2,510 | 82\% | 18\% | 65\% | 89\% | 11\% | 35\% | 85\% | 15\% | 53\% | 12\% | 32\% | 4\% | 7,094 cyclists |
| 2009 | 1,615 | 411 | 2,026 | 873 | 119 | 992 | 80\% | 20\% | 67\% | 88\% | 12\% | 33\% | 82\% | 18\% | 54\% | 14\% | 29\% | 4\% | 3,018 cyclists |
| Total | 10,018 | 3,162 | 13,180 | 5,409 | 919 | 6,328 | 76\% | 24\% | 68\% | 85\% | 15\% | 32\% | 79\% | 21\% | 51\% | 16\% | 28\% | 5\% | 19,508 cyclists |

Northwest Portland

|  | Male Cyclists |  |  | Female Cyclists |  |  | Percentages |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Male Cyclists as \% of all cyclists |  | Female Cyclists as \% of all cyclists |  | Based on |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | Male Cyclists | Female Cyclists |  |  | All Cyclists |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | w/ helmets |  | Total |  |  |  | w/ helmets | w/o helmets | Total | w/ helmets | w/o helmets | Total | w/ helmets | w/o helmets |  |  | Total | w/ helmets |  | w/o helmets |  |  |
| 1992 | 4 | 18 | 22 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 18\% | 82\% | 71\% | 44\% | 56\% | 29\% | 26\% | 74\% | 13\% | 58\% | 13\% | 16\% | 31 cyclists |
| 1993 | 52 | 40 | 92 | 22 | 14 | 36 | 57\% | 43\% | 72\% | 61\% | 39\% | 28\% | 58\% | 42\% | 41\% | 31\% | 17\% | 11\% | 128 cyclists |
| 1994 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0 cyclists |
| 1995 | 59 | 63 | 122 | 15 | 11 | 26 | 48\% | 52\% | 82\% | 58\% | 42\% | 18\% | 50\% | 50\% | 40\% | 43\% | 10\% | 7\% | 148 cyclists |
| 1996 | 19 | 28 | 47 | 12 | 7 | 19 | 40\% | 60\% | 71\% | 63\% | 37\% | 29\% | 47\% | 53\% | 29\% | 42\% | 18\% | 11\% | 66 cyclists |
| 1997 | 231 | 233 | 464 | 82 | 43 | 125 | 50\% | 50\% | 79\% | 66\% | 34\% | 21\% | 53\% | 47\% | 39\% | 40\% | 14\% | 7\% | 589 cyclists |
| 1998 | 180 | 173 | 353 | 63 | 39 | 102 | 51\% | 49\% | 78\% | 62\% | 38\% | 22\% | 53\% | 47\% | 40\% | 38\% | 14\% | 9\% | 455 cyclists |
| 1999 | 200 | 161 | 361 | 75 | 33 | 108 | 55\% | 45\% | 77\% | 69\% | 31\% | 23\% | 59\% | 41\% | 43\% | 34\% | 16\% | 7\% | 469 cyclists |
| 2000 | 270 | 207 | 477 | 84 | 72 | 156 | 57\% | 43\% | 75\% | 54\% | 46\% | 25\% | 56\% | 44\% | 43\% | 33\% | 13\% | 11\% | 633 cyclists |
| 2001 | 304 | 140 | 444 | 133 | 40 | 173 | 68\% | 32\% | 72\% | 77\% | 23\% | 28\% | 71\% | 29\% | 49\% | 23\% | 22\% | 6\% | 617 cyclists |
| 2002 | 150 | 80 | 230 | 54 | 29 | 83 | 65\% | 35\% | 73\% | 65\% | 35\% | 27\% | 65\% | 35\% | 48\% | 26\% | 17\% | 9\% | 313 cyclists |
| 2003 | 18 | 9 | 27 | 9 | 4 | 13 | 67\% | 33\% | 68\% | 69\% | 31\% | 33\% | 68\% | 33\% | 45\% | 23\% | 23\% | 10\% | 40 cyclists |
| 2004 | 66 | 52 | 118 | 16 | 8 | 24 | 56\% | 44\% | 83\% | 67\% | 33\% | 17\% | 58\% | 42\% | 46\% | 37\% | 11\% | 6\% | 142 cyclists |
| 2005 | 35 | 29 | 64 | 22 | 2 | 24 | 55\% | 45\% | 73\% | 92\% | 8\% | 27\% | 65\% | 35\% | 40\% | 33\% | 25\% | 2\% | 88 cyclists |
| 2006 | 87 | 53 | 140 | 31 | 26 | 57 | 62\% | 38\% | 71\% | 54\% | 46\% | 29\% | 60\% | 40\% | 44\% | 27\% | 16\% | 13\% | 197 cyclists |
| 2007 | 322 | 133 | 455 | 150 | 51 | 201 | 71\% | 29\% | 69\% | 75\% | 25\% | 31\% | 72\% | 28\% | 49\% | 20\% | 23\% | 8\% | 656 cyclists |
| 2008 | 867 | 257 | 1,124 | 387 | 86 | 473 | 77\% | 23\% | 70\% | 82\% | 18\% | 30\% | 79\% | 21\% | 54\% | 16\% | 24\% | 5\% | 1,597 cyclists |
| 2009 | 870 | 324 | 1,194 | 381 | 77 | 458 | 73\% | 27\% | 72\% | 83\% | 17\% | 28\% | 76\% | 24\% | 53\% | 20\% | 23\% | 5\% | 1,652 cyclists |
|  | 3,734 | 2,000 | 5,734 | 1,540 | 547 | 2,087 | 65\% | 35\% | 73\% | 74\% | 26\% | 27\% | 67\% | 33\% | 48\% | 26\% | 20\% | 7\% | 7,821 cyclists |

## City of Portland Bicycle Counts by Year Gender and Helmet Use

## Southwest Portland



East Portland


## City of Portland Bicycle Counts by Year Gender and Helmet Use

Inner NE Portland

|  | Male Cyclists $\mathrm{w} /$ helmets w/o helmets |  | Total | Female Cyclists $\mathrm{w} /$ helmets w/o helmets |  |  | Percentages |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Male Cyclists as \% of } \\ \text { all cyclists } \\ \text { w/ helmets w/o heimets } \end{gathered}$ |  | Female Cyclists as \% of all cyclists <br> $\mathrm{w} /$ helmets $\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{o}$ helmets |  | Based on |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Total |  |  | $\mathrm{w} /$ helmets | Male Cyclists w/o helmets | Total | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Fe } \\ & \text { w/ helmets } \end{aligned}$ | male Cyclists w/o helmets | Total | All Cy | clists <br> w/o helmets |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1992 | 70 | 71 |  | 141 | 17 | 16 | 33 | 50\% | 50\% | 81\% | 52\% | 48\% | 19\% | 50\% | 50\% | 40\% | 41\% | 10\% | 9\% | 174 cyclists |
| 1993 | 177 | 171 | 348 | 79 | 41 | 120 | 51\% | 49\% | 74\% | 66\% | 34\% | 26\% | 55\% | 45\% | 38\% | 37\% | 17\% | 9\% | 468 cyclists |
| 1994 | 67 | 38 | 105 | 24 | 9 | 33 | 64\% | 36\% | 76\% | 73\% | 27\% | 24\% | 66\% | 34\% | 49\% | 28\% | 17\% | 7\% | 138 cyclists |
| 1995 | 311 | 110 | 421 | 124 | 66 | 190 | 74\% | 26\% | 69\% | 65\% | 35\% | 31\% | 71\% | 29\% | 51\% | 18\% | 20\% | 11\% | 611 cyclists |
| 1996 | 412 | 301 | 713 | 128 | 79 | 207 | 58\% | 42\% | 78\% | 62\% | 38\% | 23\% | 59\% | 41\% | 45\% | 33\% | 14\% | 9\% | 920 cyclists |
| 1997 | 736 | 517 | 1,253 | 335 | 124 | 459 | 59\% | 41\% | 73\% | 73\% | 27\% | 27\% | 63\% | 37\% | 43\% | 30\% | 20\% | 7\% | 1,712 cyclists |
| 1998 | 929 | 770 | 1,699 | 393 | 180 | 573 | 55\% | 45\% | 75\% | 69\% | 31\% | 25\% | 58\% | 42\% | 41\% | 34\% | 17\% | 8\% | 2,272 cyclists |
| 1999 | 656 | 367 | 1,023 | 254 | 97 | 351 | 64\% | 36\% | 74\% | 72\% | 28\% | 26\% | 66\% | 34\% | 48\% | 27\% | 18\% | 7\% | 1,374 cyclists |
| 2000 | 627 | 367 | 994 | 262 | 86 | 348 | 63\% | 37\% | 74\% | 75\% | 25\% | 26\% | 66\% | 34\% | 47\% | 27\% | 20\% | 6\% | 1,342 cyclists |
| 2001 | 1,416 | 690 | 2,106 | 615 | 177 | 792 | 67\% | 33\% | 73\% | 78\% | 22\% | 27\% | 70\% | 30\% | 49\% | 24\% | 21\% | 6\% | 2,898 cyclists |
| 2002 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0 cyclists |
| 2003 | 402 | 272 | 674 | 233 | 126 | 359 | 60\% | 40\% | 65\% | 65\% | 35\% | 35\% | 61\% | 39\% | 39\% | 26\% | 23\% | 12\% | 1,033 cyclists |
| 2004 | 246 | 134 | 380 | 116 | 47 | 163 | 65\% | 35\% | 70\% | 71\% | 29\% | 30\% | 67\% | 33\% | 45\% | 25\% | 21\% | 9\% | 543 cyclists |
| 2005 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0 cyclists |
| 2006 | 927 | 494 | 1,421 | 464 | 140 | 604 | 65\% | 35\% | 70\% | 77\% | 23\% | 30\% | 69\% | 31\% | 46\% | 24\% | 23\% | 7\% | 2,025 cyclists |
| 2007 | 985 | 362 | 1,347 | 540 | 134 | 674 | 73\% | 27\% | 67\% | 80\% | 20\% | 33\% | 75\% | 25\% | 49\% | 18\% | 27\% | 7\% | 2,021 cyclists |
| 2008 | 1,408 | 480 | 1,888 | 839 | 181 | 1,020 | 75\% | 25\% | 65\% | 82\% | 18\% | 35\% | 77\% | 23\% | 48\% | 17\% | 29\% | 6\% | 2,908 cyclists |
| 2009 | 1,452 | 469 | 1,921 | 878 | 190 | 1,068 | 76\% | 24\% | 64\% | 82\% | 18\% | 36\% | 78\% | 22\% | 48.58\% | 15.69\% | 29.37\% | 6.36\% | 2,989 cyclists |
|  | 10,821 | 5,613 | 16,434 | 5,301 | 1,693 | 6,994 | 66\% | $34 \%$ | 70\% | 76\% | 24\% | 30\% | 69\% | 31\% | 46\% | 24\% | 23\% | 7\% | 23,428 cyclists |

Inner SE Portland


## Bicycle And Auto Counts on the Four Main Bicycle-Friendly Downtown Bridges

1991-2009



[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ This is a standard traffic engineering rule of thumb. Its accuracy is borne out by our 24 -hour automated counts.

[^1]:    ${ }^{2}$ The other two means include data from the US Department of Commerce (either the annual American Community Survey or the decennial US Census), and the annual resident survey conducted by the City Auditor's Office.
    ${ }^{3}$ Difficulties associated with procuring, installing, and calibrating new pneumatic hoses forced PBOT to extend the count period for hose count locations to October 30, 2009.
    ${ }^{4}$ Bicycle traffic represented $13.4 \%$ of vehicles on the four bridges in 2009 and $12.9 \%$ in 2008 . Rounding brings both values to $13 \%$.
    ${ }^{5}$ Annual automobile counts are not typically conducted on the four bridges. However, in 2009 PBOT did conduct counts on the four bicycle-friendly bridges. Those counts showed an overall ten percent decrease from 2005, when the last counts were taken on all but the Steel Bridge. For more detail, see the appropriate chart in the Appendix.

