

Conducting Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts: Volunteer Training

*Adapted from a presentation by Mn/DOT
Bicycle and Pedestrian
Counting Initiative*

Defining Bicyclists and Pedestrians



Bicycles:

All pedal powered vehicles:
tandems, recumbents, 3
wheelers, tag-alongs, trailers



Pedestrians:

Walkers: people on foot
Assisted: skaters, segways,
wheelchairs, strollers,
crutches, scooters, children
being carried, individuals
walking a bicycle, and people
using other assistive devices

How to Use the Count Form

City of Saint Paul Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Form

Name: _____ Date: _____

Screen Line Location (see attached map): _____

Start time: _____ End time: _____

Weather (temperature/conditions): _____

Instructions:

- Count all bicyclists and pedestrians crossing your screen line.
- A person crossing both screen lines is counted once on each sheet. A person passing through an intersection without crossing a screen line is not counted.
- Use tally marks in groups of 5 to indicate each bicyclist or pedestrian (4 = ||||, 5 = |||||).
- Count the number of people bicycling, rather than the number of bicycles.
- If issues arise (distractions, traffic) and you lose track, make a note on the back of this sheet.

Time	Bicyclists			Pedestrians	
	Street	Trail	Sidewalk	Walking	Assisted ¹
4:00 - 4:15					
4:15 - 4:30					
4:30 - 4:45					
4:45 - 5:00					
5:00 - 5:15					
5:15 - 5:30					
5:30 - 5:45					
5:45 - 6:00					
Total					

¹Includes individuals using wheelchairs, skateboards, roller blades or other devices. **Someone riding a bicycle is a bicyclist, someone walking a bicycle is a pedestrian.**

Questions?

Please call Luke Hanson at 651-266-6146

- ▶ Complete all of the fields on the form.
- ▶ Count all bicyclists and pedestrians crossing the screen line(s) under the appropriate categories. *Make only one tally mark for each person.*
- ▶ Count for two hours in 15 minute increments.
- ▶ Count the number of people on the bicycle, not the number of bicycles.

How to Use the Count Form

- ▶ A person crossing both screen lines is counted once on each sheet.
- ▶ A person passing through an intersection without crossing a screen line is not counted.
- ▶ Pedestrians include all people not on bicycles. Record pedestrians in wheelchairs, on skates, on scooters, or using other assistive devices as 'assisted.'
- ▶ Do your best when traffic volumes are high or people talk to you. It is easy to lose count. Do your best, but make a note if you lose track.

City of Saint Paul Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Form

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Screen Line Location (see attached map): _____

Start time: _____ End time: _____

Weather (temperature/conditions): _____

Instructions:

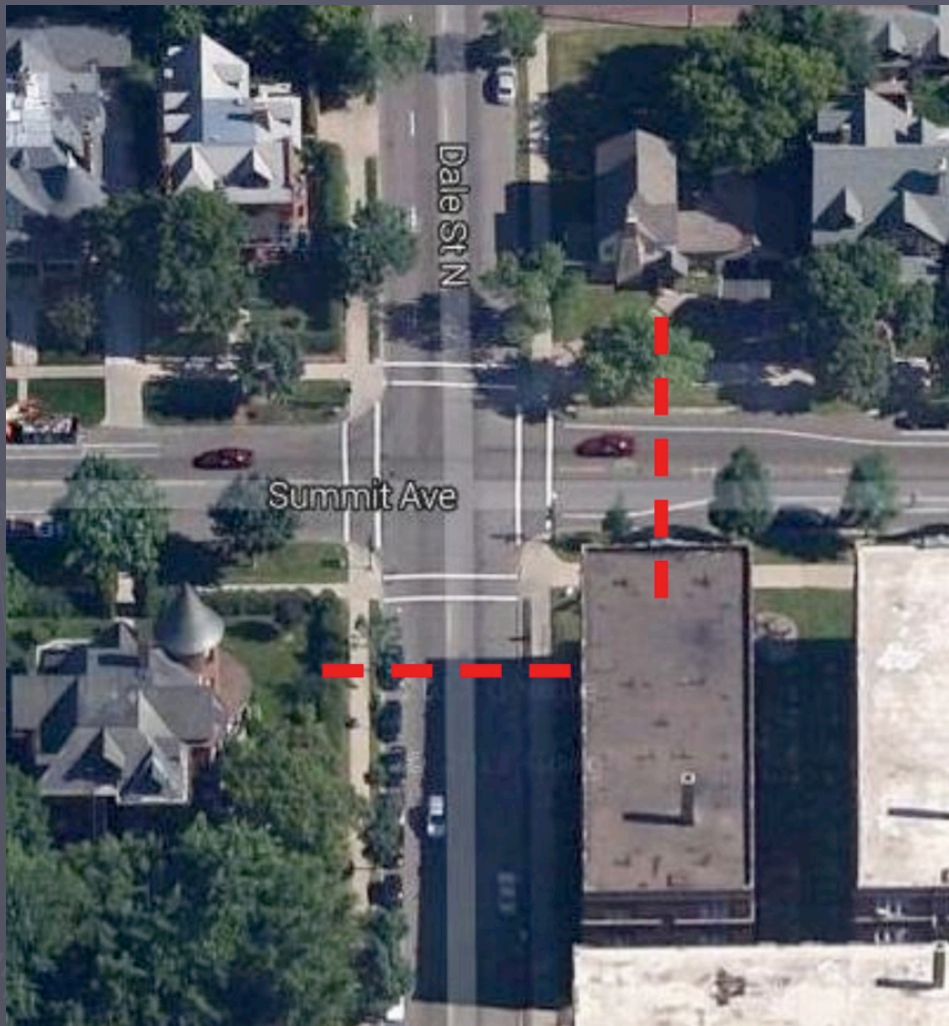
- Count all bicyclists and pedestrians crossing your screen line.
- A person crossing both screen lines is counted once on each sheet. A person passing through an intersection without crossing a screen line is not counted.
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5:00 - 5:15					
5:15 - 5:30					
5:30 - 5:45					
5:45 - 6:00					
Total					

¹Includes individuals using wheelchairs, skateboards, roller blades or other devices. **Someone riding a bicycle is a bicyclist, someone walking a bicycle is a pedestrian.**

Questions?
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What is a Screen line?



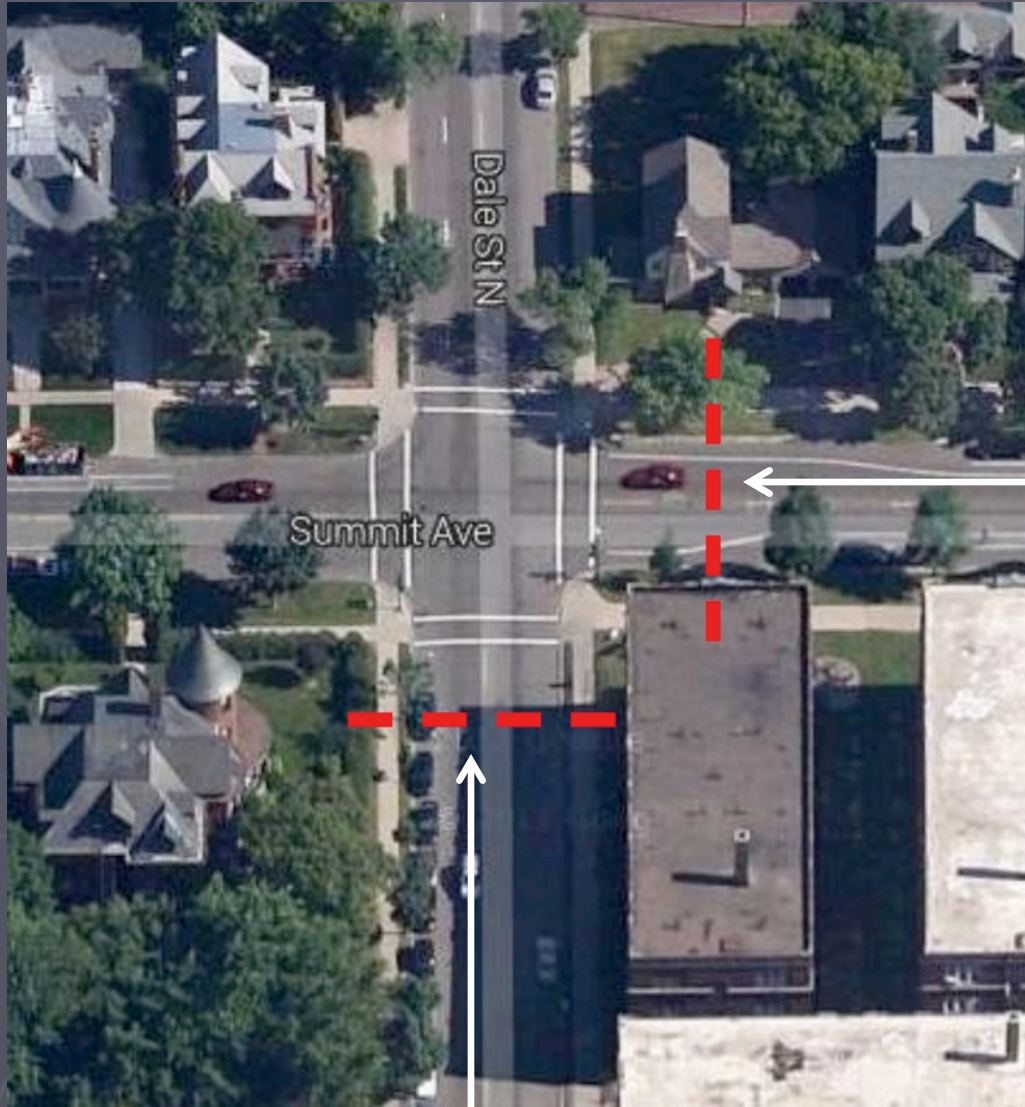
Imaginary line perpendicular to street crossing sidewalks, street and trails

All persons who cross screen line biking or walking are counted

Use safe, consistent location for observation where all screen lines can be seen

Keep one count sheet per screen line (two screen lines in the example shown = two sheets)

Screen line Naming Format

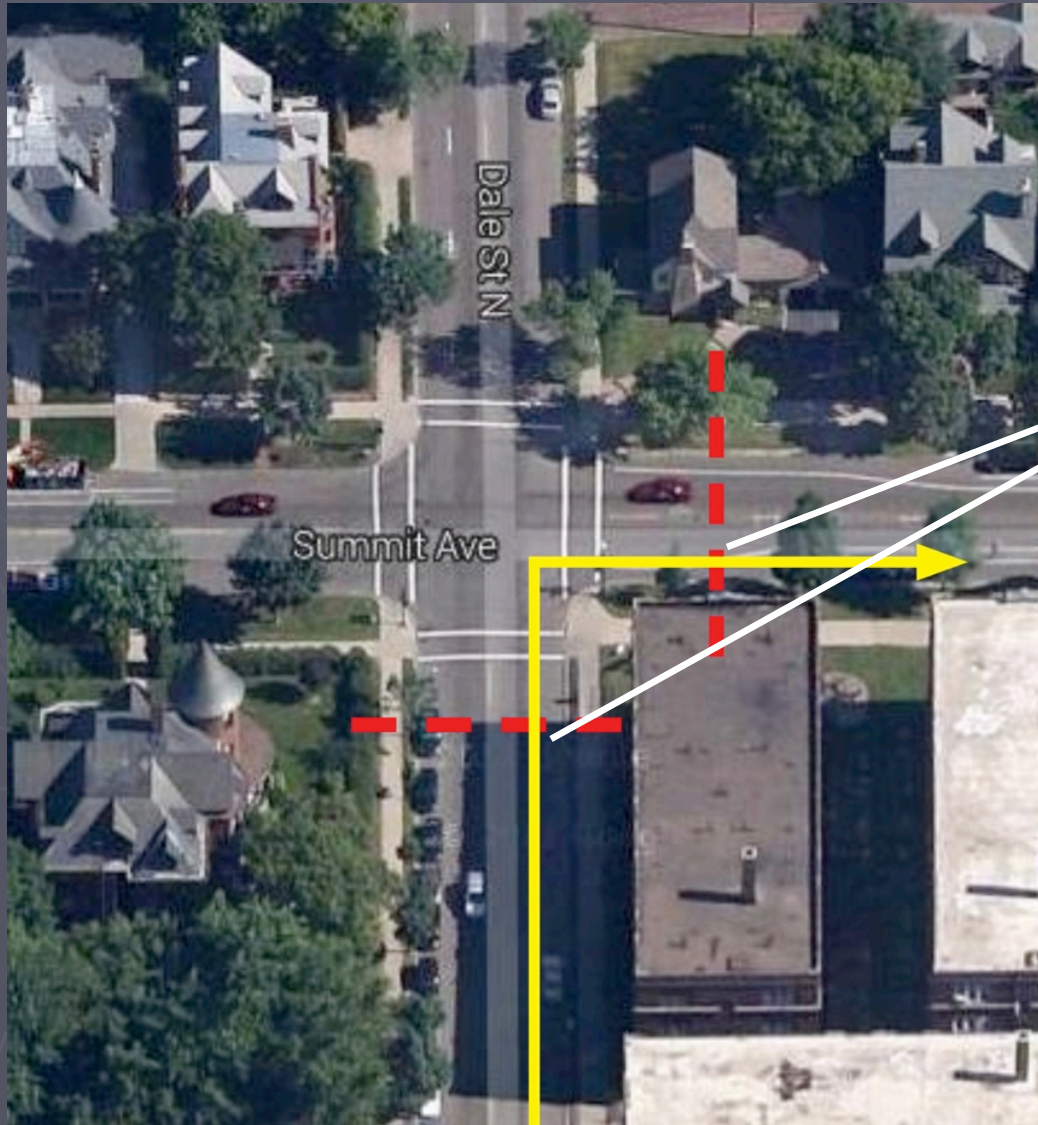


**Location ID #3:
Summit Ave and Dale Street
(2 screen lines)**

Summit Ave east of Dale St

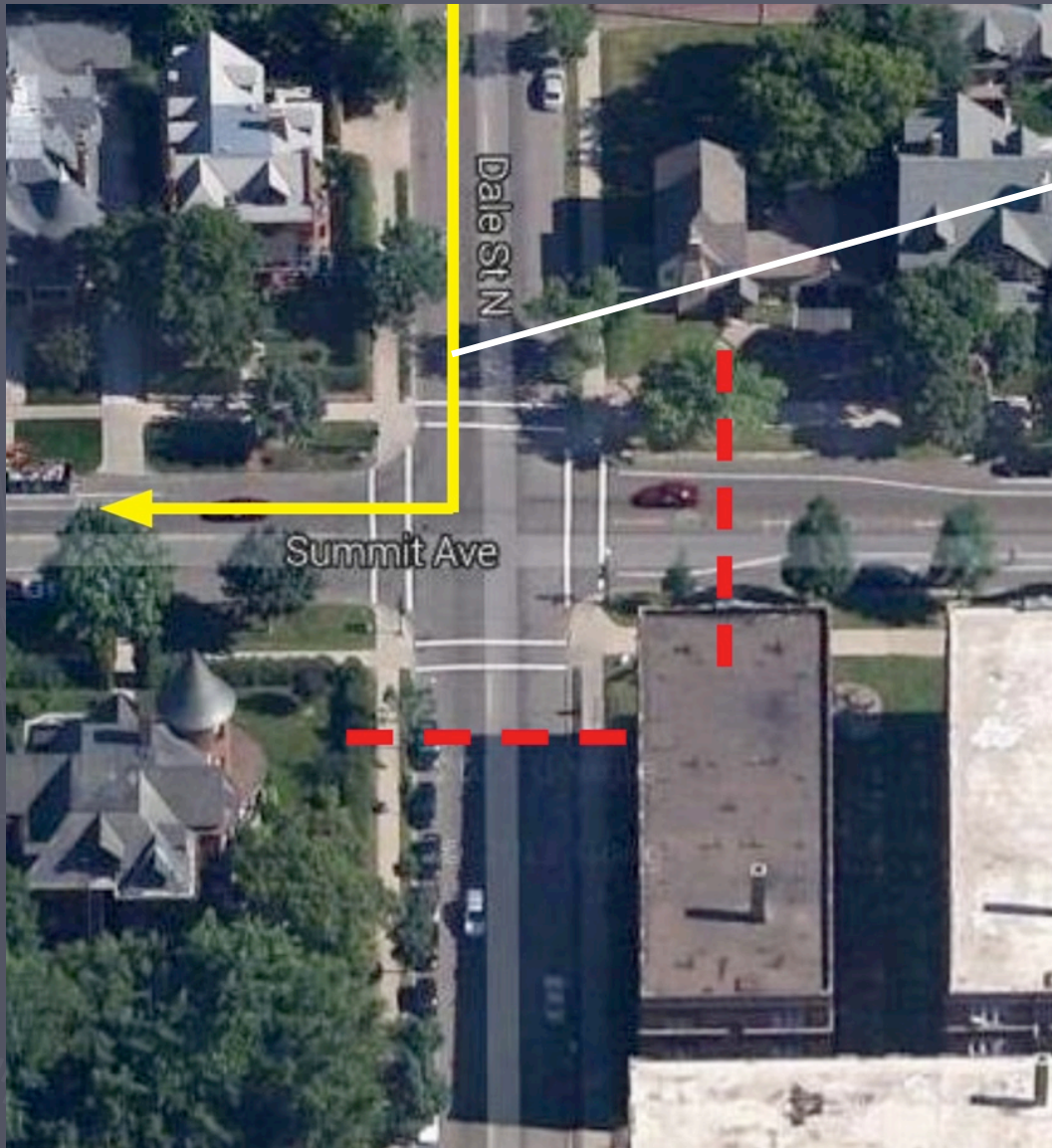
Dale St south of Summit Ave

Counting Across Screen Lines



A person crossing both screen lines is counted once on each sheet

Counting Across Screen Lines



A person passing through an intersection without crossing a screen line is not counted

Example of Count Tallies



Example 1



One bicyclist riding in the street

Time	Bicyclists			Pedestrians	
	Street	Trail	Sidewalk	Walking	Assisted ¹
4:00 - 4:15	1				
4:15 - 4:30					

Example 2

One using an assistive device (wheelchair)



Two Pedestrians

Two pedestrians, one assisted

Time	Bicyclists			Pedestrians	
	Street	Trail	Sidewalk	Walking	Assisted ¹
4:00 - 4:15					
4:15 - 4:30					

Example 3



Two using assistive devices (strollers)

Four pedestrians

Four pedestrians, two assisted

Time	Bicyclists			Pedestrians	
	Street	Trail	Sidewalk	Walking	Assisted ¹
4:00 - 4:15					
4:15 - 4:30					

Example 4



Five bicyclists riding on the sidewalk

Time	Bicyclists			Pedestrians	
	Street	Trail	Sidewalk	Walking	Assisted ¹
4:00 - 4:15					
4:15 - 4:30					

Example 5



Four pedestrians and two bicyclists

Time	Bicyclists			Pedestrians	
	Street	Trail	Sidewalk	Walking	Assisted ¹
4:00 - 4:15					
4:15 - 4:30					

Safety

- ▶ Your counting locations represents a “transportation work zone”
- ▶ Safety is your primary concern - do not take risks
- ▶ Wear high visibility colors
- ▶ Do not interfere with traffic flow
- ▶ Contact count manager with questions

How to Interact with the Public

▶ Counter must

- Maintain focus on counting
- Explain politely what he or she is doing and reasons for count
- Note if count interrupted
- Provide person interrupting with print information about count (see example)

What to do if there is bad weather or an emergency

- ▶ If bad weather – hard rain, thunderstorms and lightning, or tornado warnings or watches – stop count, note time on form, and go to safe place; report to manager as soon as possible.
- ▶ If emergency – call 911 as appropriate, and contact count manager as soon as possible. Document emergency on forms.

Questions?

Contact:

Luke Hanson

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Thank you for volunteering!