

## 2020 Pedestrian/Bicycle Counts – Summary

### Data Collection

Volunteer Counts: This year, volunteers conducted **43 counts at 26 different locations**: 34 on screenlines (at 21 different locations), and 9 at intersections (at 5 different locations). We did not do volunteer counts on rail trails this year, since we have automated data for those locations. The Walkway over the Hudson also conducted 8 counts at 4 locations along the Walkway, for a grand total of **51 counts at 30 different locations!** Volunteer counts occurred in 14 municipalities, with the most counts taking place in the City of Poughkeepsie (15) and Town of Poughkeepsie (10), followed by the City of Beacon and Town of Hyde Park (each with 4).

Video & Tube Counts: A contractor for DCTC conducted pedestrian/bicycle video counts at three locations on the Dutchess and Harlem Valley rail trails and bicycle tube counts on two sections of the DRT. These counts were done in May.

### 2020 Results (Volunteer Counts)

**External factors:** Weather this year was good and did not seem to affect counts. However, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has affected activity in various ways. Some people are avoiding city and village centers and crowded trails, many people are working from home, and most college students are under orders not to leave campuses. On the other hand, many trails are seeing increased use as people seek a safe outdoors activity.

**High ped:** The highest pedestrian count was near the Route 9/Market St intersection in **Rhinebeck** on Saturday, with more than 1,200 pedestrians in two hours. This was followed by the **Walkway's east gate** on Saturday, with almost 1,100 pedestrians in two hours. The Walkway's west gate had more than 950 pedestrians on Saturday, and the two Main Street **Beacon** locations each had more than 900 pedestrians on Saturday.

The highest weekday counts were the Walkway's east gate, with almost 400 pedestrians, followed by the western portion of Beacon's Main Street, with 315 pedestrians.

For intersections, the Route 9/Market St intersection in the Village of Red Hook had more than 370 pedestrians on Saturday, and the Main/Market intersection in the City of Poughkeepsie had almost 270 pedestrians on a weekday.

**High bike:** The three highest bike counts were all on the Walkway on Saturday: the east gate (202 bikes), DRT trailhead (199), and west gate (187). The highest weekday bike counts were also on the Walkway.

The highest non-trail bike count was at Main St near Cherry St in the City of Poughkeepsie, with 67 bikes on a weekday, followed by Washington St in the City of Poughkeepsie and Main Street near Grand Ave in Poughkeepsie, both with 27 bikes on a weekday.

**Low ped:** The lowest pedestrian counts were on Annandale Road in Red Hook (3 pedestrians on a weekday) and East Market St in Hyde Park (4 pedestrians on Saturday).

**Low bike:** Two locations had no bicyclists counted at all: East Market St in Hyde Park on Saturday, and Main St in the Village of Fishkill on a weekday. Several other locations had between 1 and 4 bicyclists.

**High total:** The highest combined ped/bike volume was on the Walkway's east gate on Saturday, with almost 1,300 people. This was followed by the Village of Rhinebeck on Saturday, with more than 1,200 people, the Walkway's west gate on Saturday with close to 1,150 people, and the two Main St Beacon locations on Saturday, with between 900 and 970 people.

**Low total:** The lowest combined ped/bike volumes were on East Market St in Hyde Park (4 people on a Saturday), followed by Main St in Pleasant Valley (9 people on a Saturday), and Route 9 in Hyde Park (10 people on a Saturday).

**Attributes (non-Rail Trail locations only):**

**Gender:** On streets, 52% of people walking were female, but only 18% of bicyclists were female.

**Helmet use:** On streets, 33% of people bicycling wore a helmet. Women were more likely than men to wear a helmet: 41% of women wore helmets, while 31% of men wore helmets.

**Sidewalk Cycling:** Overall, 49% of bicyclists rode on the sidewalk. However, this varied widely by location. In Beacon, only 19% of cyclists rode on the sidewalk, while about 60% of cyclists in the Town of Poughkeepsie rode on the sidewalk and more than 70% of cyclists in the City of Poughkeepsie rode on the sidewalk.

**Comparison over Time:**

Of the 43 volunteer counts done this year, 32 have at least three years' worth of data to compare. Comparing the 2020 volumes for these 32 counts to the past years' average, overall pedestrian volumes fell 8%, overall bike volumes **increased** by 10%, and overall total volumes decreased by 6%. Excluding the Walkway and Rail Trail counts, overall total volumes decreased by 14%. **For the Walkway itself, pedestrian volumes were up 14%, bike volumes increased by 31%, and overall total volumes increased by 18%.**

Pedestrian volumes continued to increase on Main St in Beacon, but many other locations were slightly down from previous years, especially for people walking.

**Addendums:**

1. Summary table for the 2020 volunteer counts.
2. Table showing change over time for the locations counted this year with at least three years of data.
3. Series of charts showing change over time for the locations counted this year with at least three years of data.
4. Pre-COVID trail count comparison (2017 vs 2020 at select locations).