

## 5-6927-01: Implementation of Pedestrian and Bicyclist Count Database and Monitoring Process

### Background

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Research Project 0-6927 developed a statewide pedestrian and bicyclist count database (<https://mobility.tamu.edu/bikepeddata/>), as well as guidance and requirements for collecting and submitting additional count data to this statewide database. The results of this research project are summarized in the project summary report (<https://tti.tamu.edu/documents/0-6927-PSR.pdf>) and documented in full in the final project report (<https://tti.tamu.edu/documents/0-6927-R1.pdf>). Training on pedestrian and bicyclist data collection and analysis is needed to effectively disseminate this information to TxDOT district and regional/local agency staff, resulting in this implementation project.

### What the Researchers Did

This implementation project focused on three components of implementation:

1. **Short overview webinars** to convey basic concepts and generate interest for in-depth training.
2. **In-depth training workshops** to address technical details related to three main topic areas:
  - Data collection and equipment.
  - Data summary and analysis.
  - Using data for decisions.
3. **An online resource page** to highlight various online documents and resources.

### Short Overview Webinars

Short overview webinars were held online on February 6 and 11, 2020. These webinars were intended to convey basic concepts at a summary level and were designed to last a maximum of 90 minutes. Both overview webinars had the same content but were offered on two different weekdays to ensure maximum participation. The webinars were recorded for later viewing (<https://tti-tamu.webex.com/recordingservice/sites/tti-tamu/recording/play/b3020c23499f48788243c74cf6b0eee5>).

### In-Depth Training Workshops

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and concerns about in-person training, the in-depth training workshops were provided online in three separate three-hour training events. Each of the three-hour workshops covered a different topic:

- Data collection and equipment.
- Data summary and analysis.
- Using data for decisions.

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All training events were recorded for online access afterward:

- Module 1: Data Collection and Equipment: <https://youtu.be/kL5Bs617BPw>.
- Module 2: Data Summary and Analysis: [https://youtu.be/Y8\\_wlzKHiM](https://youtu.be/Y8_wlzKHiM).
- Module 3: Using Data for Decisions: <https://youtu.be/LonLva61ufg>.

### Online Resource Page

The third implementation component was an online resource page to be hosted on TxDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program webpage (<https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/public-transportation/bicycle-pedestrian.html>). This resource page highlights key online resources, including the previous research reports and the training material developed in this implementation project.

### What They Found

Despite complications from the COVID-19 pandemic, there was very high interest in the training offered in this implementation project. Originally, the in-depth training was planned for in-person sessions at four locations around Texas. After the first in-person training was held in person in the Pharr District in early March, the remaining three training sessions were converted to an online format as described previously.

The participation in the online training events exceeded expectations and, in several cases, involved almost 100 participants:

- February 6 Overview Webinar: 82 online participants.
- February 11 Overview Webinar: 53 online participants.
- March 6 In-Person Training (Pharr District): 26 in-person participants.
- July 23 Online Module 1: Data Collection and Equipment: 85 online participants.
- July 29 Online Module 2: Data Summary and Analysis: 66 online participants.
- August 4 Online Module 3: Using Data for Decisions: 64 online participants.

Instructors would have found having this many participants at an in-person training event very challenging.

### What This Means

The participation in the online training events indicates a high level of interest in pedestrian and bicyclist count data. However, many of the participants were from regional and local agencies, like cities and metropolitan planning organizations. This high rate of participation by regional and local agencies is reflected in the large amount of count data submitted by regional and local agencies in the statewide pedestrian and bicyclist count database. Therefore, it is critical for TxDOT to maintain ongoing communication and coordination with regional and local agencies that are collecting and using pedestrian and bicyclist count data for a variety of decisions.

### For More Information

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Technical reports when published are available at <http://library.ctr.utexas.edu>.

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