



# **CITY OF OMAHA**

## **2011 BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN COUNTS**

**Draft Report - 2011**  
**Prepared by David Nelson and Stephen Osberg for Carlos Morales**



## Executive Summary

In July of 2011, the City of Omaha conducted its first bicycle and pedestrian counts. The purpose of this report is to obtain baseline data of current activity taking place through non-motorized transportation. The counts were taken throughout the Downtown Omaha area and took place at 27 distinct locations. Each location was selected based on the following metrics: proximity to destinations, bicycle or pedestrian infrastructure and potential for future infrastructure changes. With the help of over 50 volunteers the counters were able to record pedestrian activity and bicycle volumes, rider demographics, and bicyclist behavior.



David Nelson showing volunteers screen line counts

Omaha's 2011 bicycle/pedestrian count was conducted in the month of July on a weekday pm peak hour and a weekend day. Count times were based on estimated peak travel times for Omaha, NE. Omaha's weekend peak took place during the 12:00PM to 2:00 PM, but shifted the weekday PM peak travel between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM.

**Table 1: Count Dates, Time Periods, and Weather Conditions**

Count Date	Count Period	Temperature	Humidity	Wind Speed	Cloud Cover	Precipitation
<b>Saturday July 9th</b>	12:00AM-2:00PM	84°F	67%	17mph	90%	None
<b>Saturday July 16th</b>	12:00AM-2:00PM	90°F	63%	16mph	50%	None
<b>Tuesday July 19th</b>	4:00PM-6:00PM	97°F	47%	18mph	0%	None
<b>Thursday July 21st</b>	4:00PM-6:00PM	83°F	77%	10mph	50%	None

The counts are a continued effort to collect data of bicycle and pedestrian activity within the City of Omaha. Nationwide, cities are increasingly promoting active transportation modes such as walking and cycling in order to increase access to jobs, public health, transportation choice, and economic activity. The counts were based on the nationally recognized Alta National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project (NBPD). The NBPD aims to establish a consistent methodology for counting and surveying bicyclists and pedestrians, and develop a national database of bicycle and pedestrian activity.

In 2011 there were a combined total of 614 bicyclists and 4,309 pedestrians counted on the weekday pm peak and weekend day peak throughout the 27 different locations.

Top bicycle count locations (combined 2 hour counts for weekday and weekend):

1. Burt Street and US-75 (45)
2. Field Club Trail and Pacific Street (41)
3. Happy Hollow Boulevard and Howard Street (40)
4. 33rd Street and California Street (39)
5. 16th Street and Capitol Avenue (34)

It is important to note that the locations with the highest volumes of bicyclists have bicycle facilities such as bike lanes, sharrows or shared use paths or are adjacent to bicycle related uses. The bicycle volumes collected indicate that 86% of the riders are male bicyclists and 14% are female bicyclists. This is important to note as cities with high modes of bicycle share tend to have a balance between female and male riders, gender parity is considered to be an indicator of safe, comfortable and attractive conditions to bicycling. Less than half of all riders were wearing helmets with 41% of the bicyclists counted.

<b>Total Cyclists</b>	<b>614</b>
Percentage of Cyclists Who Were Female	14.0%
Percentage of Cyclists Wearing a Helmet	41.0%
Percentage of Cyclists Riding on a Sidewalk	36.5%
Percentage of Cyclists Riding the Wrong Way	3.9%

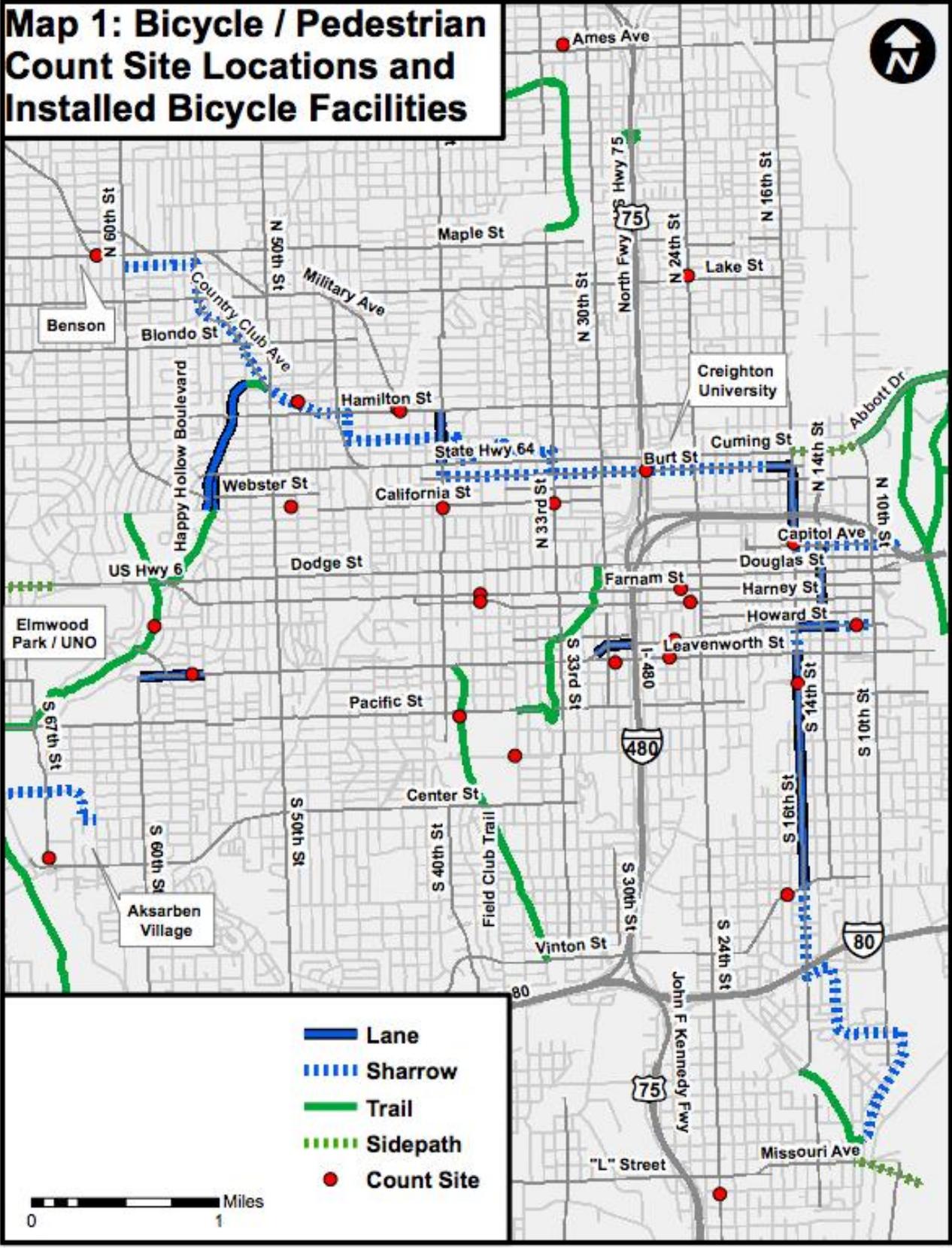
Top pedestrian count locations (combined 2 hour counts for weekday and weekend):

1. Jackson Street and 11th Street (956)
2. 24th Street and M Street (735)
3. 67th Street and Mercy Road (451)
4. 16th Street and Capitol Avenue (374)
5. 33rd Street and California Street (246)

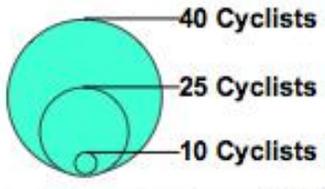
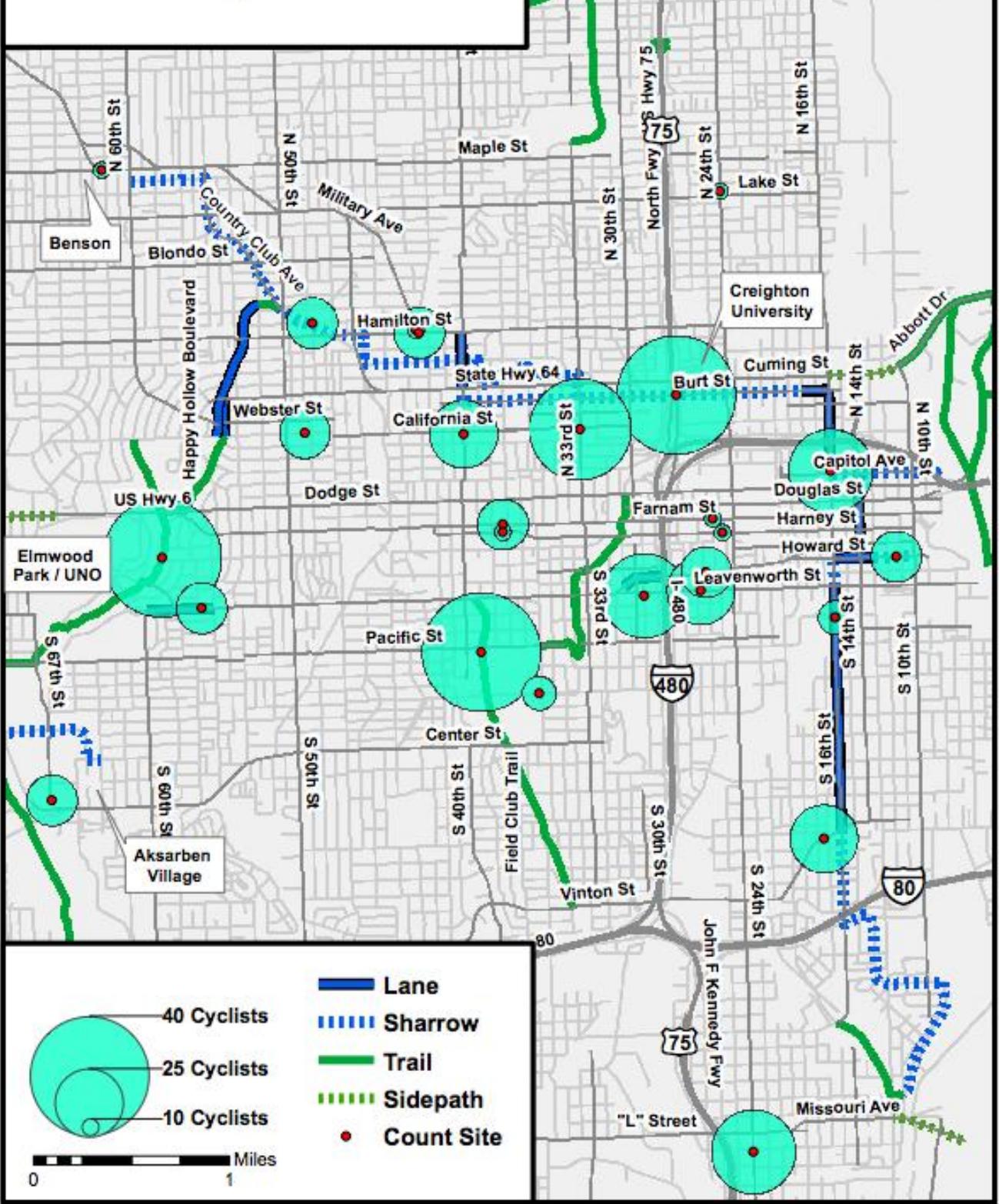
The locations that had the highest pedestrian counts were also areas that were frequented by bicyclists including streets that have bicycle infrastructure such as Jackson Street and 11<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Capitol Avenue.

<b>Total Pedestrians</b>	<b>4309</b>
Total Other non-Automotive Street Users	5
Total Other non-Automotive Sidewalk Users	14

# Map 1: Bicycle / Pedestrian Count Site Locations and Installed Bicycle Facilities



# Map 2: Total Cyclists and Installed Bicycle Facilities



- Lane
- - - Sharrow
- Trail
- - - Sidepath
- Count Site



**Map 6: Total Pedestrians and Census Estimated Pedestrian Commuters by Census Tract**

