Cascade Mobility Team: bicycle and pedestrian counts

AT A GLANCE
UI Extension collaborated with the Cascade Mobility Team and completed a bicycle and pedestrian count. This study serves the City of Cascade in making bicycle and pedestrian accessibility decisions.

The Situation
Community development projects respond to trends including the desire for residents to live, work and play in walkable and bikeable communities. The City of Cascade has an opportunity to increase multi-modal access to connect community assets including the lake, downtown and Kelly’s Whitewater Park. Cascade’s population consists of 55 percent of residents over the age of 55 and under the age of 18. These populations have an increased need for transportation options including walking and bicycling. The Cascade Mobility Team was formed in the fall of 2014 through an effort to secure a grant to focus on the improvement of bicycle and pedestrian pathways throughout the City of Cascade. The team came together to apply for funding from the Sonoran Institute to participate in the New Mobility West Planning Grant. Funding was received and a Cascade Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was completed by Chris Danely with Vitruvian Planning.

Our Response
The Cascade Mobility Team is a group of volunteers including citizens at large and those representing groups and governments such as the Horizons’ Lifestyle and Education Team, Cascade Chamber of Commerce, City of Cascade, Idaho State Parks and UI Extension. Upon the completion of the new mobility west bicycle and pedestrian planning process in 2015, the team completed a manual bicycle and pedestrian street count. UI Extension educator Melissa Hamilton took a leadership role in collaboration with other team members to “take a heartbeat” and accessed current non-motorized users utilizing the Cascade street system. The team took turns manually counting pedestrian activities at main intersections throughout town. They used the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project forms and a local data sheet to collect information.

This study has and will continue to help the city in 1) determining bicycle and pedestrian use of city streets and the sidewalk system, 2) securing possible grants or...
funding to create safe routes to school or increase pedestrian/bicycle friendly infrastructure to connect community assets, 3) increasing public awareness of a community effort to understand the interaction of motorized and non-motorized transportation throughout the City of Cascade, 4) understanding mobility behavior, 5) understanding return on investment for new infrastructure development and 6) gathering a baseline of data to understand user behavior now and in the future.

Program Outcomes
The results indicated that 91 percent of pedestrian traffic was walking, 5 percent on bicycle and 4 percent other. The intersections with the most traffic are Market and Main Street, and Pine and Main Street. Observations indicated that 96 percent of pedestrians took less than 10 seconds to cross the street. The hours observed with the most bike and pedestrian traffic was from 3-5 p.m.

Multi-modal Transportation Chart
The data of this study was used to secure Local Technical Assistance Program funding. Street improvements will be made to Pine Street in 2019, creating a safe route to school for the youth in Cascade. Information from this study will be utilized to access priority projects for enhanced bike and pedestrian corridors throughout Cascade.

The counts will help the City of Cascade establish routes and measures to help ensure that pedestrians can move easily, directly and safely throughout the city; mitigate areas of conflict with vehicular traffic; set priorities for needed control devices; and garner grant funding.

The Future
As improvements are made to the bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure throughout the city, the Cascade Mobility Team has plans to conduct the manual bicycle and pedestrian counts in five years (2021) and 10 years (2026). The counts will take place if there is support from volunteer leadership for this project and the city has interest in the results of this future study.

Cooperators and Co-Sponsors
Shauna Arnold, community coordinator, Horizon’s Lifestyle and Education Team, email shaunaarnold@hughes.net

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Melissa Hamilton, Extension Educator • University of Idaho Extension, Valley County • 208-382-7190 • mbhamilton@uidaho.edu