



NEWS RELEASE

Suite 403, City County Building
400 Main Street
Knoxville, TN 37902
www.knoxmpc.org
(865) 215-2500 Fax (865) 215-2068

Contact: Kelley Segars
Phone: 215-3815

For Immediate Release
June 3, 2010

Bicycling Traffic Increases Downtown

The number of bicyclists seen in downtown Knoxville has nearly tripled in the past five years, according to counts conducted by the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization with assistance from University of Tennessee students.

During this year's bicycle and pedestrian counts, 108 bicyclists utilized the intersection of Summit Hill and Gay Street, a 125 percent increase from Spring 2007, when 48 bicyclists were counted. At the intersection of Clinch Avenue and Henley Street, 111 bicyclists were counted this year, a significant increase from 43 in 2007.

Additionally, 67 bicyclists were counted at the intersection of Gay Street and Hill Avenue, more than double the 29 counted in 2007.

Bicycle and pedestrian counts are conducted twice a year by the Knoxville Regional Bicycle Program, which works as part of the TPO to raise public awareness about the importance and value of biking, and its legitimate place in the transportation system. They are conducted manually at various locations in Knoxville and Blount County from 7-9 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. Locations near UT are extended an hour to account

for class schedules and counts at the intersection of Clinch/Henley Street are additionally conducted between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

This year, the spring counts took place at nine intersections and were conducted by Dr. Gene Fitzhugh's Exercise Science 350 class at UT.

All of the bicycle and pedestrian counts dating back to 2005 are available on the TPO website, www.knoxtrans.org.

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