

FACT SHEET: Bikeometer

April 2014



Bikeometer

The “Bikeometer” is Arlington’s name for the Eco-TOTEM, a state-of-the-art bicycle display counter made by Montreal-based Eco-Counter. This Bikeometer is the first of its kind on the East Coast, counting passing cyclists in real time and displaying cumulative daily, monthly and year-to-date counts. The counter provides a highly visible, engaging and fun view of bike traffic.

Located on the popular Custis Trail in Rosslyn, counts taken by the Bikeometer will provide key data about the approximately 500,000 cyclists that pass through the Lee Highway and North Lynn Street intersection. Many of these cyclists are commuters on their way to and from the District of Columbia.

Data gathered by the Bikeometer and other counters throughout the County help inform Arlington’s efforts to improve conditions for cyclists and pedestrians.



Bike and pedestrian data collection in Arlington

Arlington’s Master Transportation Plan calls for counting pedestrians and cyclists to gain an understanding of how our trails and other non-motorized transportation networks are used. Arlington’s first counters were installed in 2009. Now, Arlington has 30 counters operating 24 hours a day at various locations along trails and bike lanes. The data gathered by these counters identifies trends such as where and when people are traveling, and helps planners anticipate needed improvements. This data also supports other efforts that benefit from accurate measurements of how people are getting around and through our community.

One key example of the use of Arlington’s counter data is a future widening of the Custis Trail along Lee Highway in Rosslyn that was supported in part by data that showed heavy commuter traffic on the trail—counting 6,000 cyclists on some weekdays.

Arlington’s bicycle and pedestrian counter program is considered the most extensive and comprehensive on the East Coast and has established Arlington as a leader in this field.

The counter system

Arlington’s collection of automatic counters is funded by a portion of the decal fee collected on all vehicles registered in the County. This part of the decal fee (approximately 18 percent) is dedicated for projects that improve bicycle and pedestrian access and safety. The completed, operating Bikeometer cost \$32,000 to buy and install. This includes \$23,000 for all the hardware and equipment, plus \$9,000 for installation services and setup, such as building a foundation, mounting hardware and installing electrical and data conduits.



Information and updates

Visit www.bikearlington.com and search “counters” for more information and to access an interactive counter map.