

Bridges, Underpasses and Major Arteries are Barriers for Commuter Cyclists

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Bike to the Future recently released a report on our spring counts of commuter cyclists from 2007-2011. Some of the findings are:

* **53% of the cyclists we counted in 2011 were riding on sidewalks.** This varied greatly according to location. On quieter residential streets 74% of cyclists rode in the street, but on major arteries almost half were on the sidewalks, and on bridges and underpasses almost 2 out of 3 cyclists rode on the sidewalk.

* **61% of commuter cyclists wear helmets.** Among cyclists riding in the road 79% wear helmets, compared to 53% of those riding on sidewalks. More women wear helmets (68%) than men (59%).

* **Commuter cycling counts increased by 20% between 2007 and 2011.** Our analysis shows that commuter cycling is highly dependent on weather conditions and has been up and down over the years. Our counts this year were down from 2010 due to the late spring and cool, wet weather.

* **Record counts were recorded at Sherbrook Bridge and several other locations.** 472 cyclists crossed the Sherbrook and Maryland bridges during a two hour period in June. Daily bicycle traffic at this location is estimated at **2,360** on that day. This is the highest two hour count we have recorded at any location so far.

* **It is estimated that there were 11,000 daily commuter cyclists in Winnipeg this spring, 5,600 of them traveling and and out of Winnipeg's downtown.**

These findings show that bicycle traffic is increasing in Winnipeg but that, in spite of recent improvements to many bike routes in Winnipeg there are major barriers to cycling, in the form of arteries, bridges and underpasses that lack separate bicycle lanes. As a result many cyclists do not feel safe at these locations and either ride illegally on sidewalks, or are discouraged from cycling altogether.

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Complete report available at: <http://biketothefuture.org/design-for-the-future/btbf-publications>.