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OVER 500 VOLUNTEERS TALLY NUMBER OF PEOPLE WALKING AND BIKING
IN FOURTH LOS ANGELES BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN COUNT

LOS ANGELES, Calif. –

Today, volunteer counters across the City of Los Angeles are tallying the number of people walking and biking at 180 unique locations. Since 2009, the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition (LACBC) has spearheaded an all-volunteer effort to track the growth of walking and biking over time. The 2015 L.A. Bike + Ped Count, presented by AARP California, is produced in collaboration with Los Angeles Walks, the UCLA Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies, and local partner organizations throughout the city. Data from the biennial count is used to measure the effectiveness of bicycle and pedestrian improvements, as well as to help the City of Los Angeles apply for competitive transportation grants.

"An accurate count of the number of people who already walk and bike in our neighborhoods will help us continue planning for the future of Los Angeles," said Councilmember Mike Bonin, who chairs the Council's Transportation Committee and serves on the Metro Board of Directors. "For too long, car-centric counts have skewed how people see our streets. I am enormously excited by the work that LACBC does every two years to better capture reliable data, and I am tremendously appreciative of the volunteers who make this count possible."

Findings from the biennial count have already impacted City policy. Past count data has shown a strong correlation between new bicycle infrastructure and ridership growth, particularly among women, supporting L.A.’s focus on growing its bike network and prioritizing protected bike lanes on major streets. Previous counts have also documented high rates of biking on streets in low-income communities of color that lack bicycle infrastructure, such as Central Avenue in South Los Angeles and North Figueroa Street in Highland Park.

“From past counts, we know that Los Angeles is generally on the right path toward making its streets safer and more welcoming for people biking and walking," said LACBC Planning & Policy Director Eric Bruins. “We look to the City to use this data to make informed decisions and to challenge the notion that only people in cars count. Angelenos are increasingly choosing to bike and walk around their neighborhoods, and those choices should also be measured. At the same time, we cannot afford to neglect those residents without the privilege of choice. These counts show us where people are already riding and need safe bike lanes.”

This year, additional count locations were coordinated with Mayor Eric Garcetti’s new Vision Zero Initiative to end all traffic deaths by 2025. As part of this effort, volunteers are counting pedestrians and bicyclists on streets with a history of collisions, known as the “High Injury Network.” Volunteers
also record the number of pedestrians in wheelchairs or with special mobility needs to ensure the needs of people of all ages and abilities are taken into account.

“AARP works with organizations such as the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition and Los Angeles Walks to help cities and communities become great places for people of all ages. Understanding the numbers of people that walk and bike on Los Angeles streets will help make the case for further investment in our communities,” said Adriana Mendoza, AARP California’s Manager of Volunteer Support & State Operations.

“These counts are essential to Los Angeles Walks and to the City of Los Angeles as they let us know where and when people are walking across the city and how volumes increase or decrease over time,” said Deborah Murphy, Executive Director of Los Angeles Walks. “The counts provide vital data for public agencies and nonprofits like Los Angeles Walks to apply for active transportation funding to support physical improvements to public rights-of-way and education and enforcement programs to assure that we have safe, accessible, and equitable streets. Funding agencies all require pedestrian and bike count data so that they can prioritize where their investments can have the most impact. We are proud to continue our support of the 2015 count.”

Volunteers will be counting at locations citywide from 7 AM to 9 AM and 4 PM to 6 PM today, and again from 11 AM to 1 PM on Saturday.

Councilmember Mike Bonin will be assisting with the count and available for media interviews on Saturday at 11 AM at the count location on Lincoln Boulevard at Bluff Creek Drive in Playa Vista.

Founded in 1998, The Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition is a membership-based, volunteer-driven nonprofit organization that works to make all communities in Los Angeles County into healthy, safe and fun places to ride a bike. Through advocacy, education and outreach, LACBC brings together the diverse bicycling community in a united mission to improve the bicycling environment and quality of life for the entire region. Since 2009, LACBC has been the primary organization conducting regular bicycle and pedestrian counts throughout the City and County of Los Angeles.

Los Angeles Walks is a pedestrian advocacy group that makes walking safe, accessible, fun and equitable for all Angelenos. Los Angeles Walks just published the latest issue of its “Footnotes” newsletter, an annual report on the state of walking in Los Angeles, titled “Where We Walk,” which highlights data from the 2013 Ped + Bike Count and includes short narratives about key intersections from that count.
The UCLA Lewis Center created and maintains [bikecounts.luskin.ucla.edu](http://bikecounts.luskin.ucla.edu), an open regional database of bicycle and pedestrian counts. The UCLA Lewis Center is also currently conducting research on bicycle crashes in Los Angeles County, which will draw upon bicycle count data collected in the region. Funding for that research and UCLA’s participation in the 2015 Los Angeles Bike and Ped Count comes from the University of California Center on Economic Competitiveness in Transportation.

AARP California works to help the state’s 3.1 million members reach their goals and dreams and make the most of life after 50. AARP California partners with volunteers and community organizations to work on issues that matter to baby boomers and people 50+. AARP is the presenting sponsor for the 2015 L.A. Bike + Ped Count.

For more information, go to [http://la-bike.org/bikepedcount15](http://la-bike.org/bikepedcount15).

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