



"... meeting community needs ... enhancing quality of life."

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Engineering Division – Traffic Section
2625 E. Glendale Avenue
Appleton, WI 54911
TEL (920) 832-5580
FAX (920) 832-5570

To: Municipal Services Committee
From: Eric Lom, City Traffic Engineer
Date: September 11, 2014
Re: Funding Reallocation Request – Bicycle Counters

The Traffic Section's 2014 budget (account 17022.6408 – "contracted services") includes \$45,000 for bike lane pavement markings. However, as a result of the Municipal Services Committee's recent action to postpone the Capitol Drive bike lane retrofit project, we anticipate that approximately \$15,500 of these funds will remain at the end of 2014.

The bike lane retrofit projects included in Resolution 18-R-14 were held until May, 2015, in part to allow time to gather baseline bike counts.

Therefore, the Traffic Section is requesting to reallocate \$12,200 of this funding toward the purchase of four automated bicycle counters. These counters would be used to collect bicycle data throughout our system, and would serve as a very important decision-making tool. Specifically, we propose to purchase:

(2) Portable Counters (\$2900/each) – These counters utilize rubber tubes and are designed to discriminate between bicycles and cars. They can be moved from location to location fairly easily, but they are not designed to be left out for more than a couple weeks. Additionally, they cannot be used during winter months. Data output would include:

- total bikes per day
- hourly bike distribution (this would tell us what time of day bicyclists are using the facility)
- weekly bike distribution (this would allow us to compare different days of the week)

(2) Permanent Counters (\$3200/each) – These counters utilize inductive loops that are permanently installed directly in the pavement. They are designed to discriminate between bicycles and cars. Data collected is automatically uploaded on a nightly basis. Data output would include:

- total bikes per day
- hourly bike distribution
- weekly bike distribution
- seasonal distribution (this would allow us to see seasonal variation in bike use)
- year-over-year (this would allow us to see variation from year to year)