

Volume Change from October 2012 to January 2013

As the seasons change, cyclist volume tends to rise and fall as weather and shorter days lead to lower numbers. Until the January 2013 counts, there was no robust dataset that put numbers to this story. Unsurprisingly, cyclist volumes fell 50% from October 2012 to January 2013, although the drop varied throughout the region and by types of facility, from fully separated trails to bikeways and bike lanes to no bicycle-specific facilities.

PM volumes decreased further than AM

Although the overall drop was just over 50%, morning counts retained a higher percentage of their October volume than those in the afternoon. This difference is possibly explained by people who either changed mode or chose not to travel at all. The difference varied by location, from less than a 5% difference in the Core to a 15-20% difference in West Shore and Peninsula locations.

West Shore and Peninsula locations decreased further

Just as the afternoon saw a sharper drop, locations in the West Shore dropped 60% while Peninsula dropped 80% from October to January. In contrast, the average fall at Core locations was 50%.

Better weather enticed more cyclists

Even in January, some cyclists made the choice to ride, depending on the weather that day. Of the three count stations counted on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the improving weather increased the number of cyclists out each day. Overall, there was a 55% rise from the rainy Tuesday and the clear but cold Thursday.

Regional trails stay busy even in January

Demonstrating the effect of the right type of facility, the regional trail system stayed busier, even on the wettest days in January, than any non-trail location in in October. Even high volume on-street locations such as the UVic south gate or Government St. and Belleville St. were less busy than the trails.

Cyclist Volumes Comparison - October 2012 to January 2013

PM Peak (3-6pm)

