



Cycling in the City:

An Update on NYC Cycling Counts

March 2013





Introduction

Over the last six years, City of New York has worked closely with neighborhoods across the city to plan and implement an unprecedented expansion of the bike network, as called for in PlaNYC, the City's sustainability plan for 2030, and NYCDOT's Sustainable Streets Strategic Plan. Expansion of the bike network and related initiatives to encourage cycling and improve safety are key elements working toward the overall goals of providing New Yorkers with a robust set of transportation options, improving road safety, promoting economic development and accommodating growth in population and jobs.

The accomplishments over this period are unprecedented in pace and scale: over 300 miles of new and enhanced bicycle routes, pioneering protected bicycle lane street designs, over 8,000 new bike racks, indoor bicycle parking legislation, over 75,000 free bicycle helmets and 1.8 million free bicycle maps distributed, and coming later this year - the largest bike sharing system in North America. The private sector responded as well, with over 70 new bike shops opening during this period bringing the citywide total to over 170.

As a result of these efforts, cycling for everyday transportation has skyrocketed. This report looks at the most recently collected cycling data. It shows that bike riding is at record highs, cycling is increasingly a year-round activity and that cycling has consistently increased when the bicycle network has expanded. The report also includes a new indicator of off-season, winter cycling. Five years ago, NYCDOT began counting cyclists in winter months and off-season cycling has seen significant growth - indicating that more and more New Yorkers are cycling year round as part of their transportation routine.

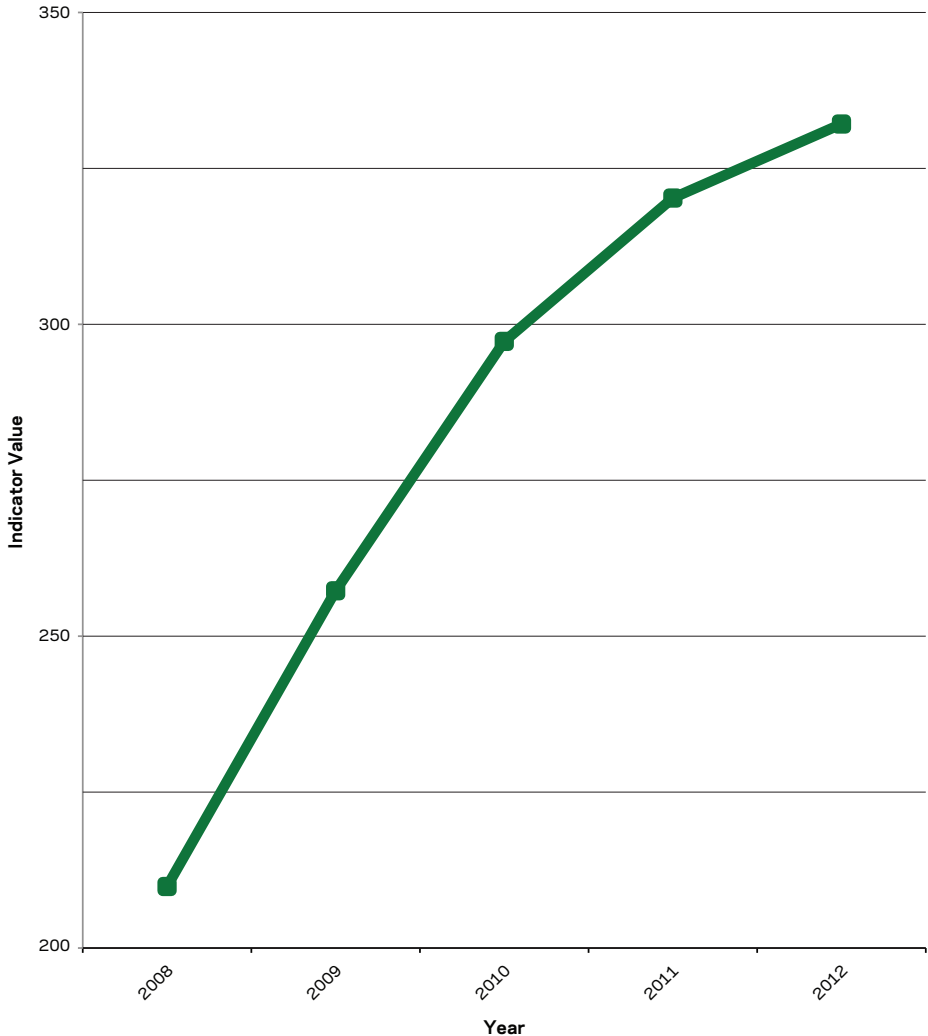


Cycling at All Time Highs

All-year Cycling volumes in 2012 were 58% greater than in 2008

NYC All-Year Cycling Indicator

Based on Counts at Selected Commuter Locations
Indexed to 4,829 Cyclists Counted = 100



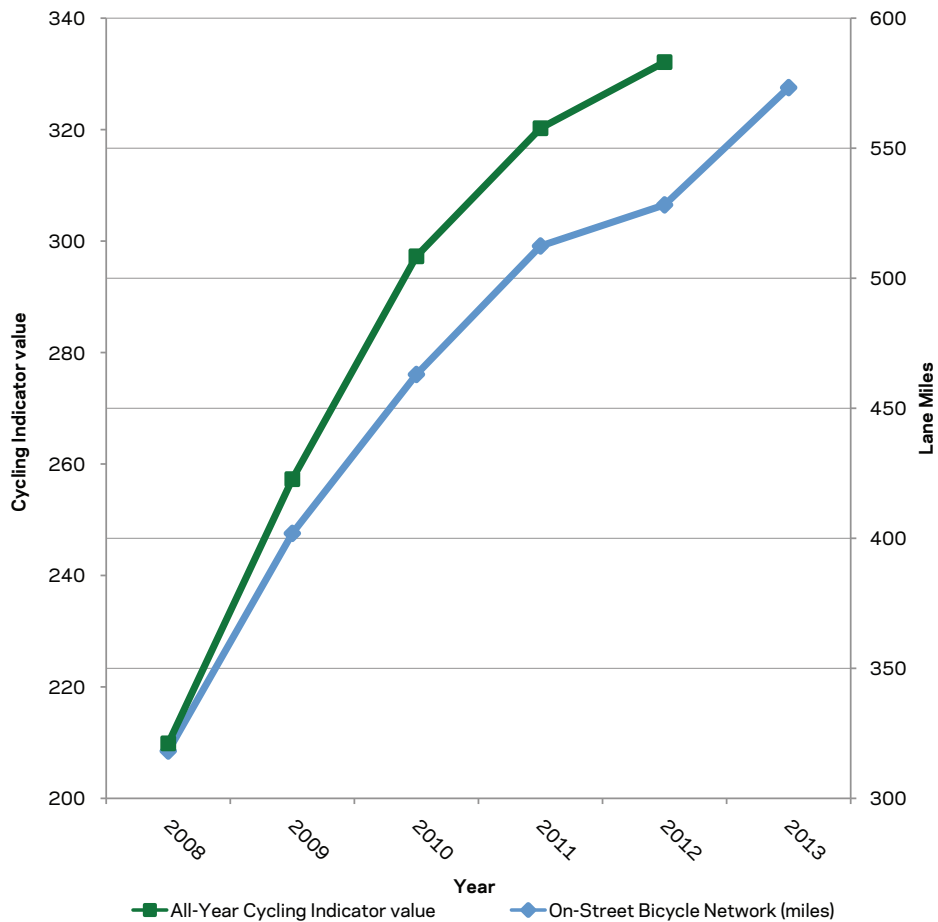
Note: Value for Indicator is derived from weekday 12 hour (7am-7pm) counts at the four East River Bridges, Staten Island Ferry & Hudson River Greenway at 50th Street during the traditional cycling season and winter months.

Cycling Responds to Network Enhancement

Expansion of the bicycle network translates into similar magnitude of cycling growth in the following year

NYC Bicycle Network & Ridership

Size of On-Street Bicycle Network & All-Year Cycling Indicator



Notes: 1) Value for On-Street Bicycle Network is existing lane miles at **beginning** of cycling season. 2) Value for All-Year Cycling indicator is derived from weekday 12 hour (7am-7pm) counts at the four East River Bridges, Staten Island Ferry & Hudson River Greenway at 50th Street during the traditional cycling season and winter months.





Individual 2011 Projects Generated Cycling Growth in 2012

Weekday Bike Count (12-hour) 7am-7pm

Street	Before	After	% Change
W. 29th Street	258	371	44%
W. 30th Street	260	339	30%
First Avenue	583	1072	84%
Second Avenue	842	1286	53%

Notes:

1. W 29 St; project limits: 8 to 12 Aves; counts: before Oct 14 ,2010, after October 16, 2012
2. W 30 St; project limits: 12 to 8 Aves; counts: before Oct 14 ,2010, after October 16, 2012
3. 1 Ave; project limits: E 34 to E 56 Sts; counts: before May 11, 2010, after May 17, 2012, Aug 14, 2012, Sept 20, 2012 (Average)
4. 2 Ave ; project limits: E 58 to E 34 Sts; counts: before May 11, 2010, after May 17, 2012, Aug 14, 2012, Sept 20, 2012 (Average)

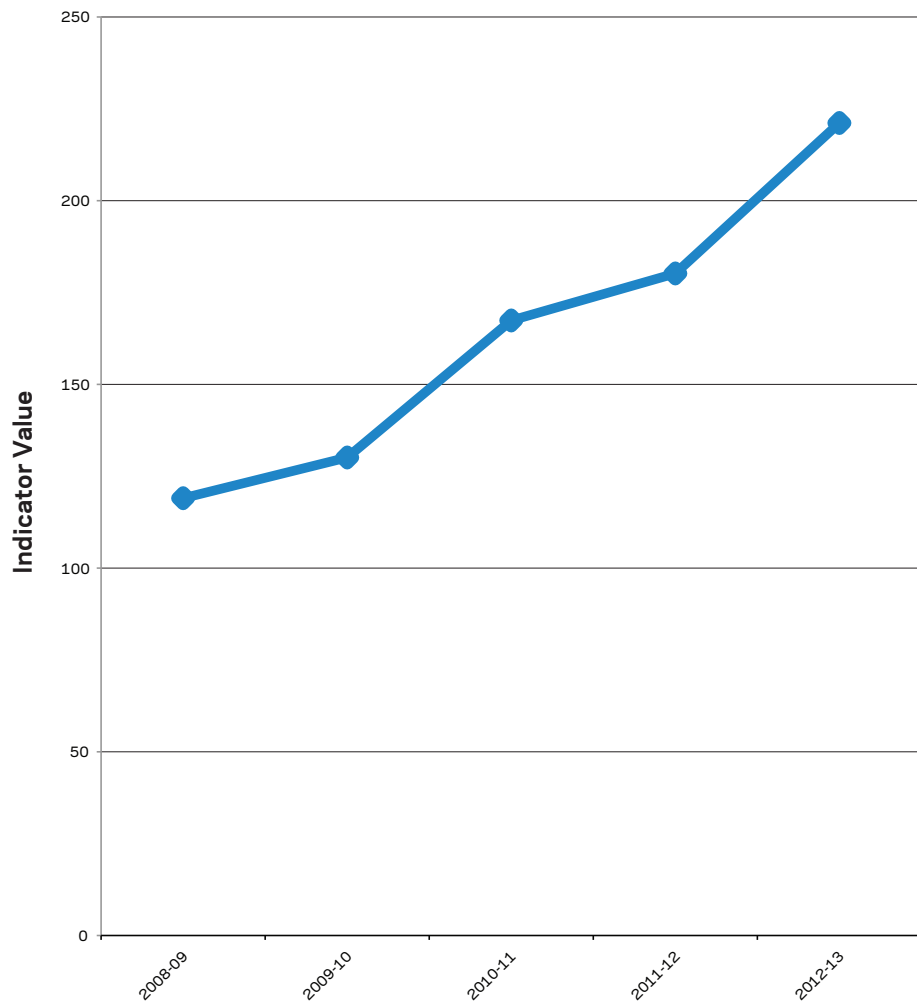
Winter Cycling Increasing

Off-season cycling up 86% since 2008-09

Recent growth could be attributed to solid bicycle network expansion during 2012 and high ridership in cold days immediately after Hurricane Sandy

NYC Winter Cycling Indicator

Based on Counts at Selected Commuter Locations
Indexed to 4,829 Cyclists Counted = 100



Appendix



NYC All-Year Cycling Indicator

Based on Counts at Selected Commuter Locations
Indexed to 4,829 Cyclists Counted = 100

Year	Value for Indicator	Index of Value for Indicator: 100 for 4,829 cyclists	Year to Year Growth (% Change)
2008	10,135	210	n/a
2009	12,424	257	23%
2010	14,355	297	16%
2011	15,465	320	8%
2012	16,038	332	4%

New York City Cyclist Counts At Selected Commuter Locations Weekday Counts, 7am to 7pm

Count	Staten Island Ferry	Brooklyn Bridge	Manhattan Bridge	Williamsburg Bridge	Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge	Hudson River Greenway at 50th St.	Grand Total
2008							
In-Season (Avg)	235	1,688	2,210	2,903	1,891	3,400	12,328
April	153	1,325	2,058	2,855	1,538	2,795	10,724
May	194	1,776	2,960	2,840	2,116	1,880	11,766
May	188	1,728	2,609	2,743	2,001	2,384	11,653
June	132	1,638	2,557	2,931	1,704	3,276	12,238
July	212	1,594	1,955	2,884	2,194	3,666	12,505
August	318	1,642	2,073	3,021	2,116	4,185	13,355
August	373	1,781	2,127	2,864	1,836	4,581	13,562
September	269	1,991	2,302	3,081	2,092	4,040	13,775
September	312	1,892	1,960	3,397	1,377	3,597	12,535
October	203	1,512	1,497	2,416	1,940	3,599	11,167
Winter (Avg)	166	894	1,335	1,444	816	1,093	5,748
December	145	919	1,494	1,228	820	977	5,583
January (2009)	170	801	1,197	1,457	764	1,118	5,507
February (2009)	184	962	1,314	1,646	863	1,184	6,153
Weighted Avg	212	1,423	1,918	2,417	1,533	2,631	10,135

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New York City Cyclist Counts At Selected Commuter Locations

Weekday Counts, 7am to 7pm

Count	Staten Island Ferry	Brooklyn Bridge	Manhattan Bridge	Williamsburg Bridge	Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge	Hudson River Greenway at 50th St.	Grand Total
2009							
In-Season (Avg)	256	2,294	2,606	3,823	2,225	4,289	15,495
April	185	1,585	1,828	3,202	1,660	2,309	10,769
May	209	2,601	2,371	3,420	1,751	3,840	14,192
May	143	1,845	2,385	3,423	1,676	3,287	12,759
June	161	2,504	2,245	3,802	2,396	4,426	15,534
July	339	2,943	2,624	4,200	2,963	4,329	17,398
August	309	2,376	2,365	3,966	2,423	5,520	16,959
August	345	2,505	3,821	3,941	2,641	4,970	18,223
September	332	2,172	2,683	4,330	2,556	5,440	17,513
September	272	1,930	2,778	4,038	2,016	4,419	15,453
October	268	2,479	2,962	3,911	2,172	4,354	16,146
Winter (Avg)	197	742	1,200	1,762	1,095	1,287	6,283
December	180	1,138	1,329	2,259	1,160	1,438	7,504
January (2010)	205	874	1,182	1,270	1,051	1,064	5,646
February (2010)	206	213	1,090	1,756	1,074	1,359	5,698
Weighted Avg	237	1,777	2,138	3,136	1,849	3,289	12,424

2010							
In-Season (Avg)	378	2,153	2,984	4,296	2,626	5,055	17,491
April	356	2,062	2,404	3,909	2,235	4,452	15,418
May	403	2,466	3,453	4,076	2,574	6,190	19,162
May	354	2,212	2,929	3,934	2,173	3,985	15,587
June	237	1,376	2,407	3,845	2,590	5,230	15,685
July	427	2,104	2,646	3,891	2,020	4,213	15,301
August	284	2,528	2,771	5,110	3,070	6,372	20,135
August	492	2,306	2,990	4,866	3,035	5,055	18,744
September	403	1,938	3,402	4,408	3,355	5,125	18,631
September	399	2,683	3,366	4,693	2,619	5,629	19,389
October	427	1,853	3,467	4,226	2,586	4,294	16,853
Winter (Avg)	270	1,186	1,406	2,055	1,161	2,005	8,084
December	286	1,467	1,682	2,501	1,201	1,766	8,903
January (2011)	276	1,021	1,304	1,667	1,016	990	6,274
February (2011)	249	1,070	1,233	1,996	1,267	3,259	9,074
Weighted Avg	342	1,831	2,458	3,549	2,138	4,038	14,355

2011							
In-Season (Avg)	368	2,322	3,617	4,515	2,904	5,120	18,846
April	436	2,630	2,714	4,612	2,443	5,161	17,996
May	295	2,463	4,207	4,215	2,528	5,262	18,970
May	365	2,668	4,286	4,264	2,164	5,267	19,014
June	418	2,145	3,954	4,709	2,467	5,561	19,254
July	445	2,104	3,648	4,614	2,624	4,876	18,311
August	381	2,755	3,696	5,007	3,558	6,032	21,429
August	346	2,514	3,067	4,479	3,433	5,486	19,325
September	308	2,217	3,326	4,402	3,311	4,300	17,864
September	386	1,896	3,849	4,235	3,333	5,676	19,375
October	296	1,830	3,425	4,614	3,182	3,578	16,925
Winter (Avg)	192	1,136	1,631	2,638	1,357	1,747	8,702
December	179	1,636	2,156	2,796	1,589	1,669	10,025
January (2012)	188	793	1,168	2,575	1,070	1,375	7,169
February (2012)	210	979	1,570	2,542	1,412	2,198	8,911
Weighted Avg	309	1,927	2,955	3,889	2,389	3,996	15,465

2012							
2012 (avg.)	250	2,297	3,770	4,488	2,638	5,273	18,717
April*	146	1,573	3,017	3,546	2,199	5,573	16,054
May	134	2,111	4,215	4,089	2,397	4,747	17,693
May	162	2,150	3,851	4,817	2,311	6,191	19,482
June	355	2,768	3,955	3,688	2,693	5,272	18,731
July	325	2,760	4,182	5,176	2,744	4,879	20,066
August	379	2,852	3,993	5,091	3,330	6,231	21,876
August	384	2,568	3,749	4,745	3,416	6,170	21,032
September	219	1,931	3,730	5,157	2,687	5,452	19,176
September	174	2,022	3,837	4,560	2,535	4,622	17,750
October	226	2,239	3,174	4,006	2,071	3,596	15,312
Winter (Avg)	236	1,411	2,379	3,235	1,583	1,835	10,679
December	262	1,541	2,750	3,672	1,928	1,918	12,071
January (2013)	251	1,651	2,679	3,410	1,325	1,750	11,066
February (2013)	195	1,042	1,709	2,624	1,495	1,836	8,901
Weighted Avg	246	2,002	3,307	4,070	2,286	4,127	16,038

Notes:

Value for Indicator is derived from weekday 12 hour (7am-7pm) counts at 6 key NYC locations. It is made up of in-season and winter cycling counts. There are 10 in-season counts taken (April to October) and three winter counts (one each in December, January and February). The value for the all-year cycling indicator is a weighted average of these two counts. The average of the in-year counts is given a two-thirds weight and the winter cycling counts are weighted by one-third. NYCDOT began the winter cycling counts in the winter of 2008-09. The winter cycling data is aggregated for a contiguous winter, thus the 2008 data includes data from the 2009-09 winter (December 2008, and January and February 2009). The 2012 count incorporates data from Winter 2012-12 (December 2012 and January and February 2013). November and March are excluded due to weather volatility (each can be winter like or in-season like)

Appendix continued

On-Street Bicycling Network

Year	Network size (in miles)
2008	318
2009	402
2010	463
2011	512
2012	528
2013	573

As of March 1st of each year

NYC Winter Cycling Indicator

Based on Counts at Selected Commuter Locations
Indexed to 4,829 Cyclists Counted = 100

Season	Value for Indicator	Index of Value for Indicator: 100 for 4,829 cyclists	Year to Year Growth (% Change)	Year to Year Growth (Cyclists Counted)
2008-09	5,748	119	n/a	n/a
2009-10	6,283	130	9%	535
2010-11	8,084	167	29%	1,801
2011-12	8,702	180	8%	618
2012-13	10,679	221	23%	1,978

Notes:

1. Indexing is to the NYC Commuter Cycling Indicator year 2000 count (4,829 cyclists) to allow relative comparisons
2. Value for Indicator comes from three individual weekday 12 hour (7am-7pm) counts taken once during December, January and February at 6 key NYC locations