Annual Bicycle Count Report 2015

Policy and Governance Committee

04.15.2016

Background

- Citywide PM peak period bicycle counts gathered since 2006.

- Tracking counts and trends consistent with the SFMTA's Strategic Plan (Goal 2.3) and San Francisco's Transit First policy.

- Monitoring bicycling trends is important given projections for 190,000 new jobs and 100,000 new households by 2040.

Key Questions

- How many?

- Where?

- When?

San Francisco Bicycle Count Report 2015

SFMTA.COM

DRAFT
March 2016

SFMTA
Municipal
Transportation
Agency

2015 Bicycle Count

Three data sources:

1. Automated Bicycle Counters
   - 25 active counters, 15 utilized in report
   - Provide 24/7/365 counts
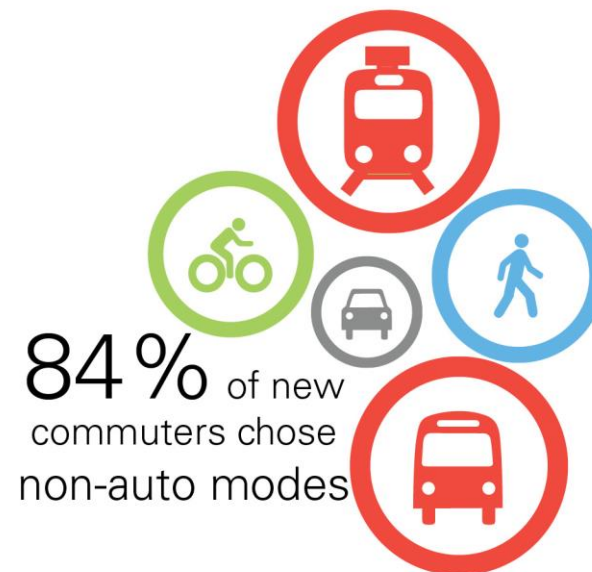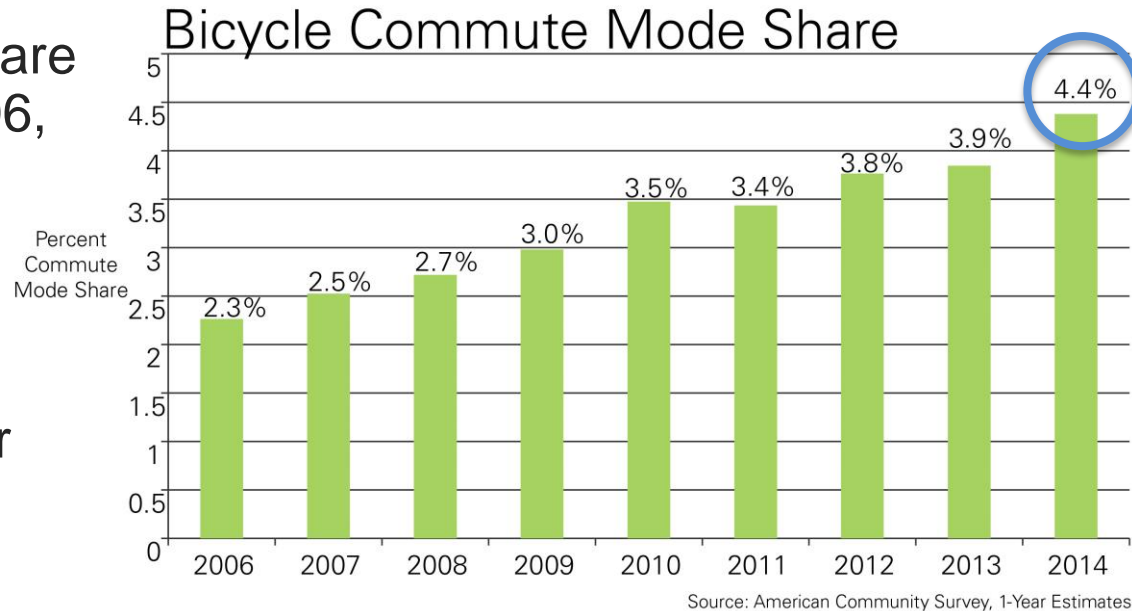
2. American Community Survey
   - Survey data from 2005 to 2014 by U.S. Census Bureau

3. Manual Counts
   - 80 locations
   - Same video technology used as 2014 Report
   - Collected 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. in September 2015
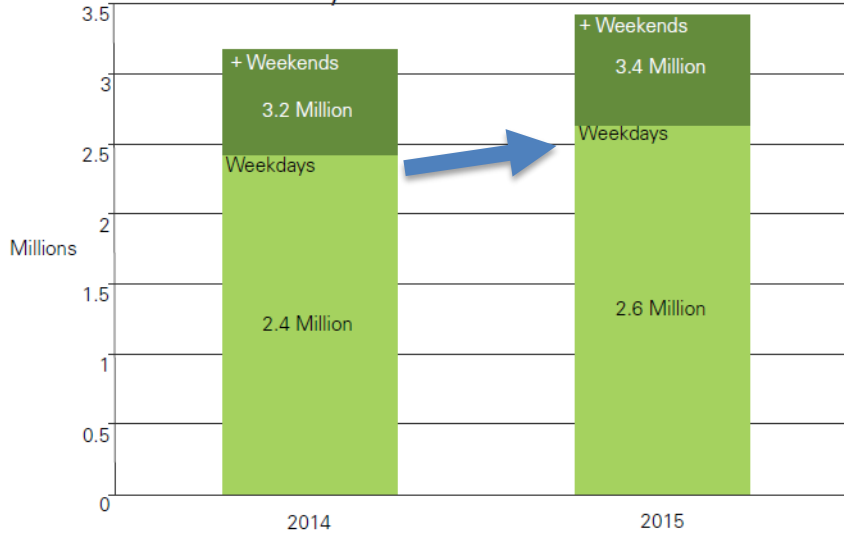
How Many People Are Biking?

- Bicycle commute mode share steadily growing since 2006, reaching citywide **4.4%** in 2014*

- San Francisco gained over **86,000 new commuters** between 2006-2014
  - **84% of new commuters chose a non-auto mode** to commute to work, suggesting the majority of growth is occuring in locations conducive to commuting with non-auto modes.

Bicycle Commute Mode Share

Percent Commute Mode Share

2.3% (2006), 2.5% (2007), 2.7% (2008), 3.0% (2009), 3.5% (2010), 3.4% (2011), 3.8% (2012), 3.9% (2013), 4.4% (2014)

Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

84% of new commuters chose non-auto modes

*The most recently available ACS data is from 2014.

How Many People Are Biking?

Automated Bicycle Counts at 15 Locations

2014: + Weekends 3.2 Million; Weekdays 2.4 Million

2015: + Weekends 3.4 Million; Weekdays 2.6 Million

8.5% growth

observed for weekday counts at 15* automated bicycle counter locations from 2014 - 2015.

*15 of 25 automated counters had comprehensive data to provide equal comparison.

Market Street

Market Street Barometer reached record

# 1 million counts

on December 1, 2015!

Market Street Barometer 2015

Winter   Spring   Summer   Fall

December
November
October
September
August
July
June
May
April
March
February
January

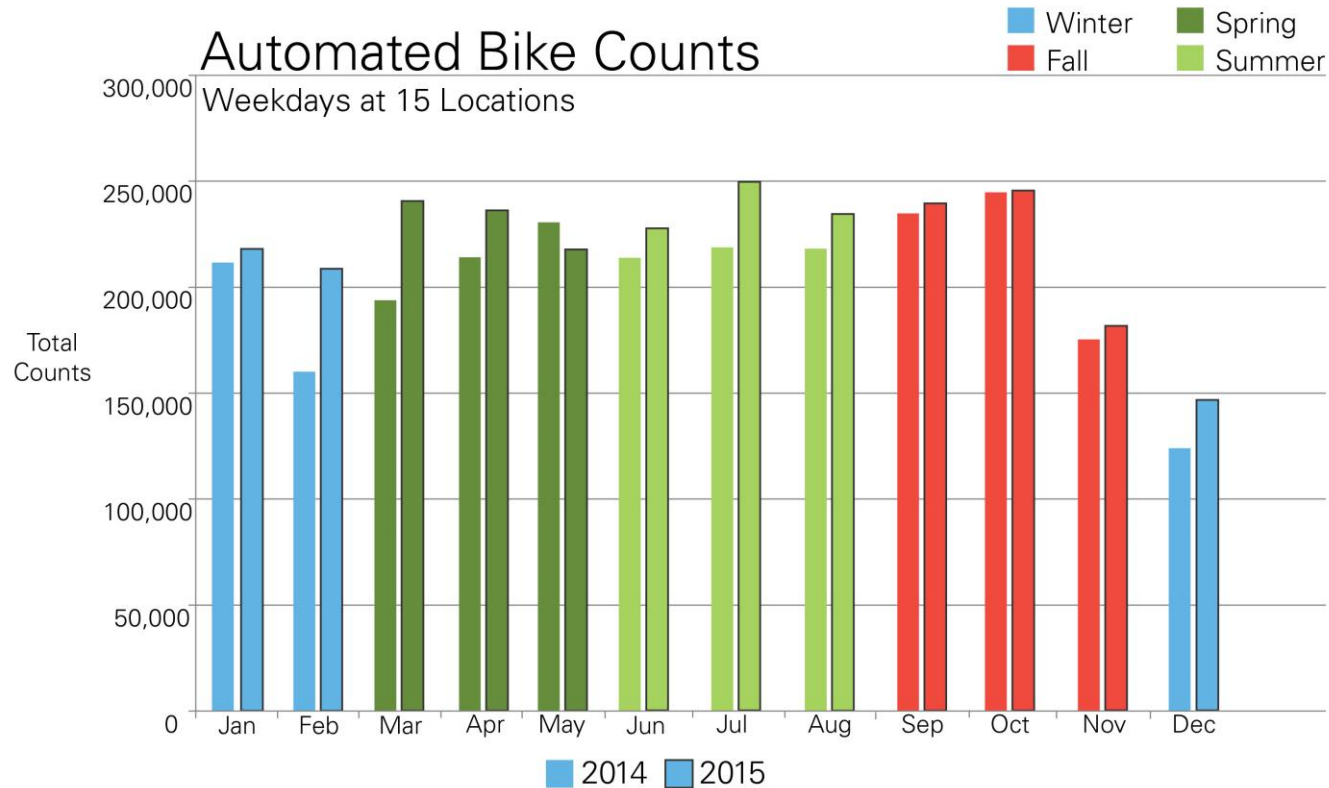*Counts account for every day of the week in 2015.

Where Are People Biking?

<u>Our network investments are working:</u>

- 85% of bike network improvements implemented 2010 – 2014 are in census tracts with bike commute mode share higher than citywide average.
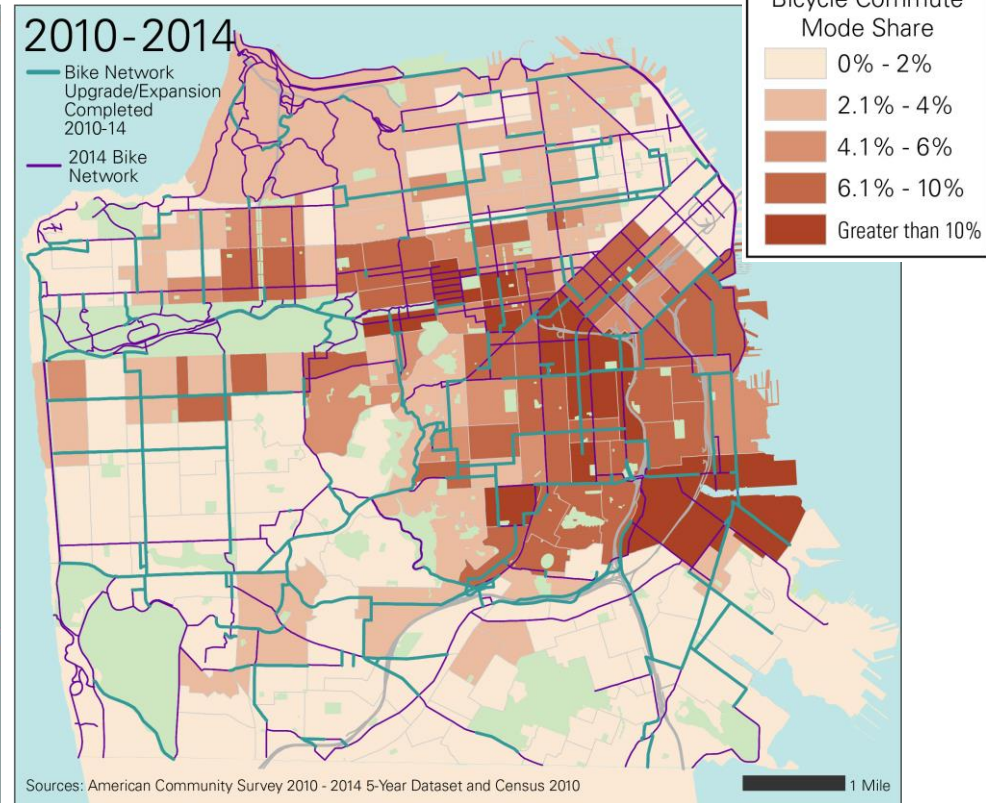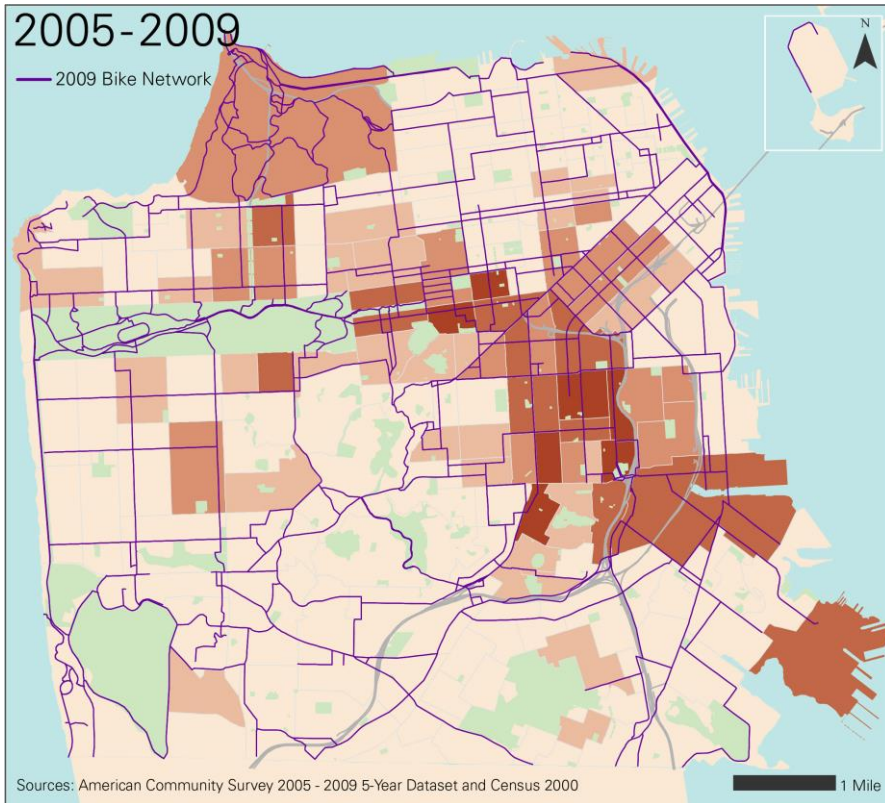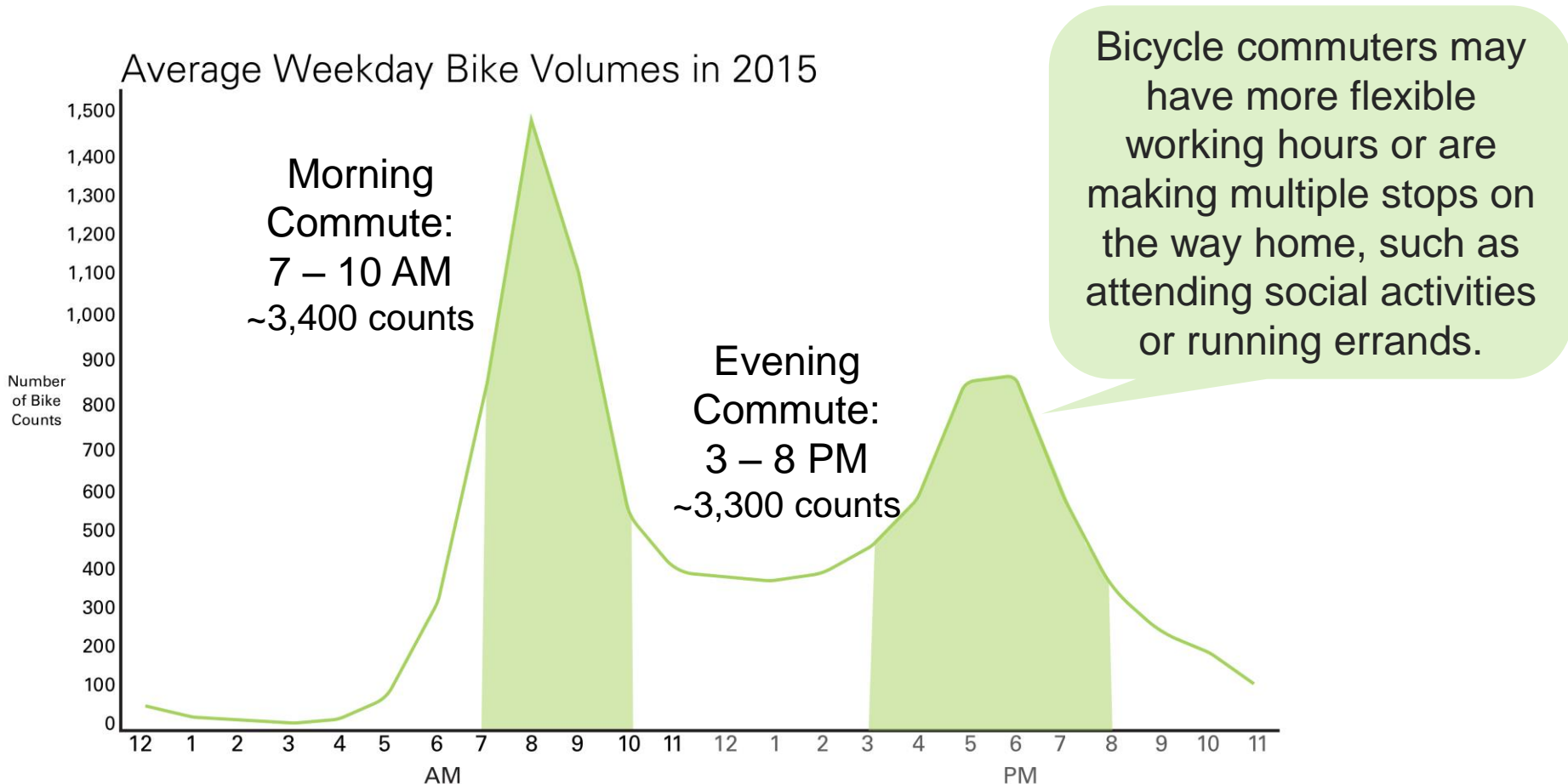
When Are People Biking?

- Winter season (December - February) observed the lowest activity (21%).
- Summer season (June - August) observed the highest activity (27%).
- October is the highest month (320,861 in 2014 and 321,803 2015).
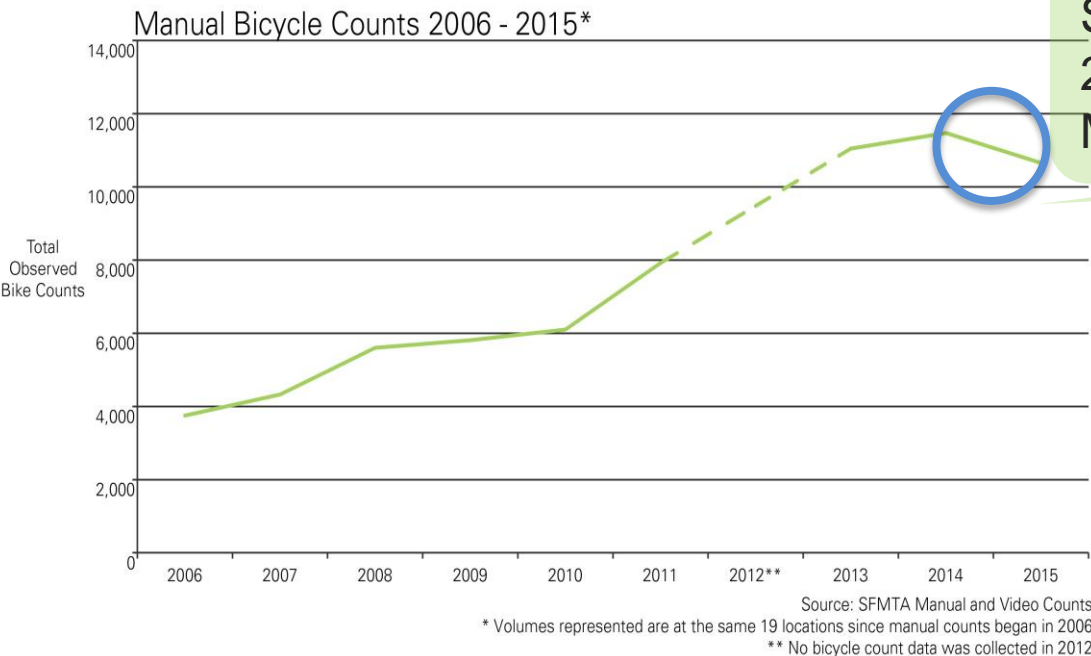
When Are People Biking?

Distribution of bicycle counts on an average weekday in 2015:

Average Weekday Bike Volumes in 2015

Morning Commute:
7 – 10 AM
~3,400 counts

Evening Commute:
3 – 8 PM
~3,300 counts

Bicycle commuters may have more flexible working hours or are making multiple stops on the way home, such as attending social activities or running errands.
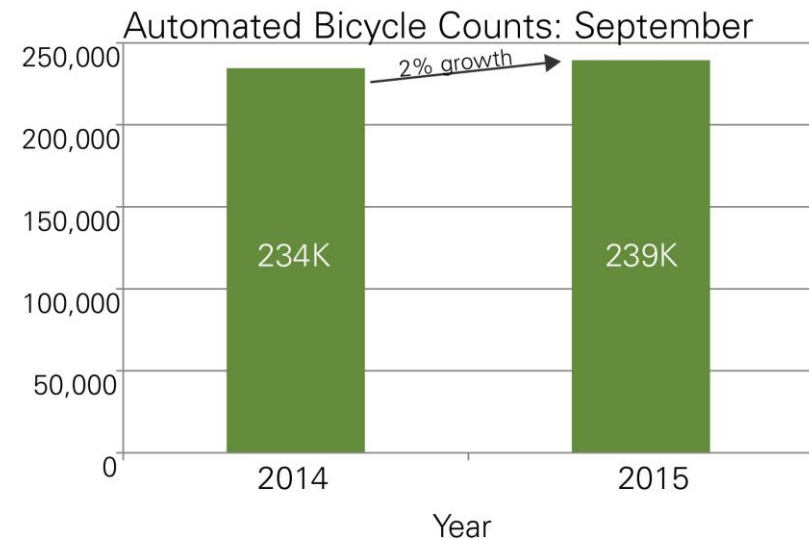
In Conclusion

Moving to Better Data Collection

- SFMTA continually applies best practice to count bicycles.

- The automated counter network provides a more complete picture of ridership and accounts for the variability in time of day and monthly analysis.

Manual Bicycle Counts 2006 - 2015*

Source: SFMTA Manual and Video Counts
* Volumes represented are at the same 19 locations since manual counts began in 2006
** No bicycle count data was collected in 2012

September 2014-2015:
2-Hour data shows 7% decrease
Month-to-month shows 2% increase

Automated Bicycle Counts: September

2% growth

234K

239K

Year

In Conclusion

Recommendations and Next Steps

- Triple the automated counter network over the next year.

- Leverage automated bike counter data for future analysis.

- Report completed bike projects and trends more frequently.

- Continue investments in better bikeways for the city's residents, workers and visitors.

Questions?

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