

## Cordon count 2025

To: Wellington City Council

Date: 19 April 2025

Re: Cordon Count 2025

Quality Assurance Statement	
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	Project Number: 1135-09
	Version: 2 (focus on methodology)

### 1 Objective

The main objective of the cordon count is to count the number of people entering Wellington's central city on bikes and scooters. This is a continuation of cordon counts that has been running for more than a decade. This year the count included gender and location on the road (path, cycle lane, traffic lane).

### 2 Organising and conducting the count

ViaStrada recruited surveyors through advertising on student job search and word of mouth. Those who indicated interest in surveying were kept informed via email, phone and a webpage with count details. Two online half-hour briefing presentations were given to surveyors on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of February.

The survey was scheduled for between 7 and 9 am on all weekdays from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of March, with postponement dates the following week in the case of significant rain. The surveys were conducted on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2025 due to relatively poor weather. Only the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March was a typical warm and dry March day as in most years of the cordon count – all other days were cooler than normal.

Surveyors counted people on bikes and other wheeled devices in 15-minute periods. Three ViaStrada staff conducted active management and monitoring, providing support for the surveyors. Figure 2-1 shows a surveyor working. Appendix A shows a sample of the survey form.



Figure 2-1: a surveyor counting at site 12



### 3 Cordon sites

Figure 3-1 shows the cordon and locations of all 28 count sites.

Each count site is numbered, and Appendix B provides more detail on the location of each count site.

These locations were based on details from past surveys and local knowledge provided by Wellington City Council.

Based on this information, screen lines were identified at each location past which all micromobility traffic was counted.

A GIS map of sites and screen lines is publicly available ([link](#)) to make any future counts easier to keep consistent.



Figure 3-1: cordon sites map

## 4 Data compilation

Data from the paper forms and the past ten years of counts (2015–2023) were compiled into a master results spreadsheet and reformatted for uniformity.

Results were checked against past values and anomalies noted are discussed in Appendix C. This check did pick up one instance where the entering and exiting results were clearly switched in the source spreadsheet (site 2, 2019). This was fixed in the master spreadsheet but all other anomalies were left unchanged for Wellington City Council to determine whether and how to smooth or clean the data.<sup>1</sup>

It is highly likely that the 2020 and 2021 were significantly impacted by changes in travel patterns due to COVID, 2022 had no count, and 2023 was a partial count. Therefore it is recommended that a trend analysis take into account factors that may include weather, general (motor traffic) volumes, bus patronage and system changes, and employment data.

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<sup>1</sup> If filling in or corrections are to be made, it is recommended to follow data cleaning guidance from the US Federal Highways Administration Traffic Monitoring Guide 2022 (updated 2024) available here: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policyinformation/tmguid/>



Appendix A      Sample count form

Site 2 address: 7 Majoribanks Street



Active Modes Count Form (Site 2, 7 Majoribanks Street)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Start date: \_\_\_\_\_

End date: \_\_\_\_\_

Be on site at 6:45 am - Text your name and site number at 6:45 am to 021 548 972

- Count for two hours in 15-minute increments starting at 7:00 am (set a repeating timer)
- Count bike riders, e-scooter riders and whether they're using the footpath or road/cycle-lane
- Count the number of people on the bike/scooter (e.g., parent and child on 1 bike counts as 2)
- Mobility aids column includes wheelchairs, mobility scooters, and any other mobility aids (record exact mobility aid if you have time).
- Other column includes people using skateboards and rollerblades etc (anything with wheels).
- Email photos of your forms to: [luca@viastrada.nz](mailto:luca@viastrada.nz)
- **Stay on site after the fifth (or your last) day count** and wait for us to pick up your paper forms – this should take no more than 10 minutes.
- Remember to complete your included invoice on the last day you will be working.

Notes:



1







Remember to stay on site after the fifth (last) day count so we can pick up paper forms

Figure App A-1: example of a count form (site 2 - page 1)



Site 2 address: 7 Majoribanks Street

Date:    /    /25







						 	Other
		Male	Female	Unsure or other			
 7:00-7:15	Entering City	Road / Cycle Lane					
		Footpath					
	Exiting City	Road / Cycle Lane					
		Footpath					
 7:15-7:30	Entering City	Road / Cycle Lane					
		Footpath					
	Exiting City	Road / Cycle Lane					
		Footpath					

2

Remember to stay on site after the fifth (last) day count so we can pick up paper forms

Site 2 address: 7 Majoribanks Street

Date:    /    /25

						 	Other
		Male	Female	Unsure or other			
 7:30-7:45	Entering City	Road / Cycle Lane					
		Footpath					
	Exiting City	Road / Cycle Lane					
		Footpath					
 7:45-8:00	Entering City	Road / Cycle Lane					
		Footpath					
	Exiting City	Road / Cycle Lane					
		Footpath					

3

Remember to stay on site after the fifth (last) day count so we can pick up forms

Figure App A-2: example of a count form (site 2 - page 2)



## Appendix B Site numbers and locations

*Table App B-1: cordon count sites 2025 (based off previous count sites)*

#	Site	Location	Location notes
1	Oriental Parade	North of Herd Street	Opposite 88 Oriental Parade
2	Majoribanks Street	East of Kent Terrace	7 Majoribanks Street
3	Elizabeth Street	East of Kent Terrace	1 Elizabeth Street
4	Pirie Street	East of Kent Terrace	15 Pirie Street
5	Cambridge Terrace	North of Buckle Street	In the centre opposite 71 Kent Terrace
6	Commonwealth shared path	North of Buckle Street	North of Buckle St, opposite main stand of Basin reserve
7	Tasman Street	South of Buckle Street	1 Tasman Street
8	Taranaki Street	South of Buckle Street	Opposite 224 Taranaki Street
9	Cuba Street	North of Webb Street	307 Cuba Street
10	Victoria Street	North of Webb Street	251 Victoria Street
11	Willis Street	North of Webb Street	314 Willis Street
12	Aro Street	West of Willis Street	20 Aro Street
13	Abel Smith Street	West of Willis Street	On the corner of State Highway 1 and Abel Smith Street
14	Vivian Street	West of Willis Street	25 Buller Street
15	Ghuznee Street	West of Willis Street	Opposite 115 Ghuznee Street
16	Dixon Street	West of Willis Street	Opposite 124 Dixon Street
17	The Terrace	North of Salamanca Road	227 The Terrace
18	Everton Terrace	West of The Terrace	On bridge, side opposite apartment block
19	Boulcott Street	At The Terrace	On the corner of the Boulcott Street and Kumutoto Lane
20	Aurora Terrace	West of The Terrace	22 Aurora Terrace
21	Bolton Street	West of The Terrace	On Bolton Street outside 22 The Terrace
22	Bowen Street	West of The Terrace	Opposite 36 Bowen St
23	Hill Street	At overbridge	54 Hill Street
24	Hawkestone Street	West of Molesworth Street	15 Hawkestone Street
25	Murphy Street /Molesworth Street	At motorway overbridge (For CBD Cordon)	At overbridge on the same side as the Ministry of Health
26	Hobson Street	At overbridge	100 Hobson Street
27	Thorndon Quay	South of Tinakori Road	Opposite 268 Thorndon Quay
28	Aotea Quay	At Hinemoa Street	Southeast corner of intersection of Hinemoa and Waterloo

## Appendix C Data anomalies

Some anomalies are of low volume sites and not likely to have affected the overall count.

**Table App C-1: Data anomalies and reasons behind these (grey shading: reason has not been identified)**

Address	Site	Anomaly Yr	Movement	Avg <sup>2</sup>	Change	Theory	Recommendation
Majoribanks Street	2	2019	Entering	523	-89%	Entering and exiting entered backwards	Switched entering and exiting
			Exiting	47	1192%		
Elizabeth Street	3	2025	Entering	328	-50%	Demand moving to cycle facilities nearby	N/A
Pirie Street	4	2020	Entering	165	-73%	Site missed Wed, Thurs and Fri	
Cambridge Terrace	5	2020	Exiting	207	-100%	No exiting count done	
Tasman Street	7	2018	Exiting	165	98%	Weds numbers high	
Taranaki Street	8	2020	Exiting	45	539%	Missed Mon, high	
Willis Street	11	2020	Exiting	94	162%	Exiting Weds a duplicate of entering (too high)	Recommend replacement with average exiting
Vivian Street	14	2018	Entering	22	477%	Weds, Thurs, Fri missed, entering Mon high	
Ghuznee Street	15	2019	Exiting	60	93%	Mon exiting value wrong	Recommend replacement with average exiting
The Terrace	17	2021	Exiting	41	307%	Exiting counts high	
Aurora Terrace	20	2019	Exiting	124	157%	No significant variation, just changes in travel patterns	N/A
		2021	Entering	48	1064%	Location may have changed to capture bikes entering parking facility	
Bolton Street	21	2018	Entering	78	283%	Weds count missed, Mon and Tues entering values high	
Bowen Street	22	2018	Entering	618	-86%	Weds count missed, Mon and Tues unusually low	
		2025	Entering	618	38%	New facilities (separated cycleway)	N/A
			Exiting	73	452%	Change to location? meaning those going to sig nearby employers classified as exiting	
Hobson Street	26	2021	Entering	41	171%	Unsure	
			Exiting	10	616%		

<sup>2</sup> Excluding year of anomaly

## Appendix D Data gaps from previous years

*Table App D-1: data missing from previous counts (shown by black squares, dark grey squares show partially complete data sets)*

Site	2018					2019					2020 (COVID)					2021 (COVID)				
	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F
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