



# Nurturing Citizen Planners: The toolkit

Better Streets Week  
Oct. 26, 2015





How can **citizens** & government  
partner to make a **livable  
community?**

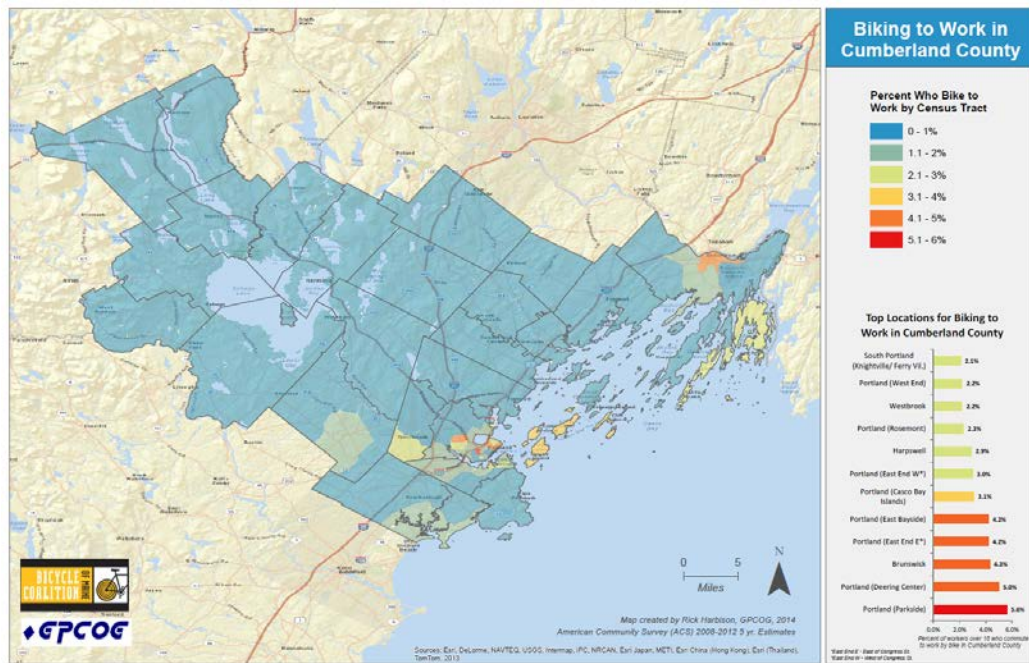


# Overview

- Everybody Counts
  - Strava
  - CounterPoint
  - Ride Report
- Messages Matter
  - Streetmix
  - Twitter
- Summary

# Where & How Much Bicycling? Government Approaches

Count technology has evolved to provide a range of options, but **limited funding affects the extent and frequency of counts** (Griffin et al. 2014).

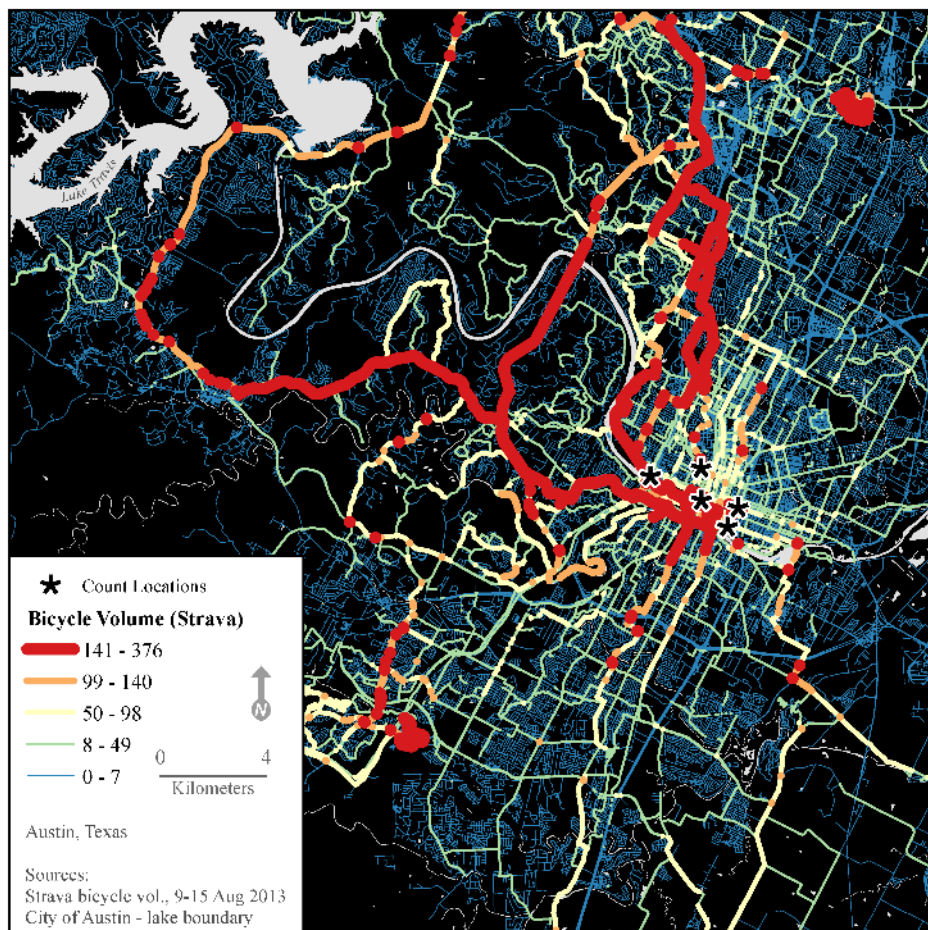




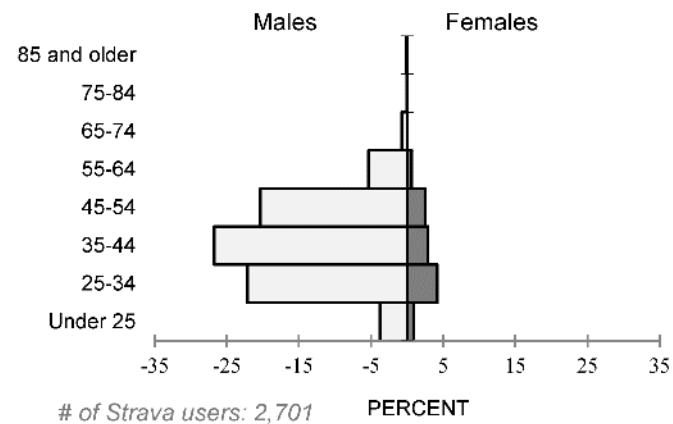
# Why Crowdsource Planning?

“The wisdom of crowds principle suggests that, **in some situations, groups of individuals** in the aggregate may **solve problems better** than individual experts or panels of experts negotiating solutions.” (Brabham et al, 2014)

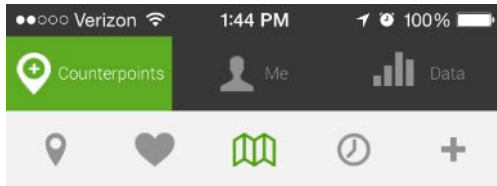
# Everybody Counts—Strava



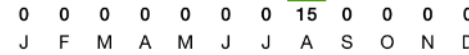
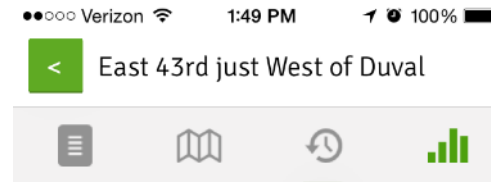
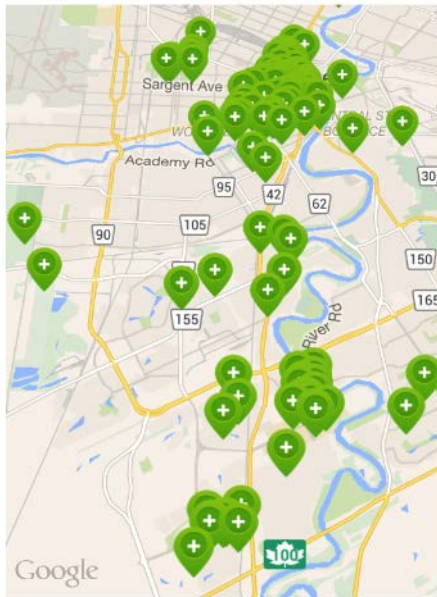
- An early test in Austin showed **Strava reflected ~5%** of path users at 5 sites, whereas a **major GPS study obtained <1%** (Griffin *in press*)



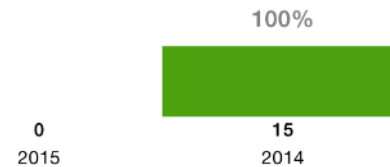
# Everybody Counts—Counterpoint



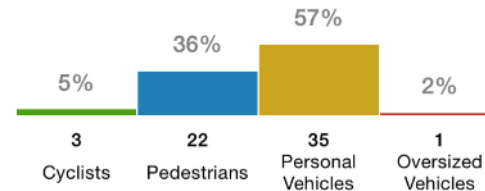
Use the map to find counterpoints



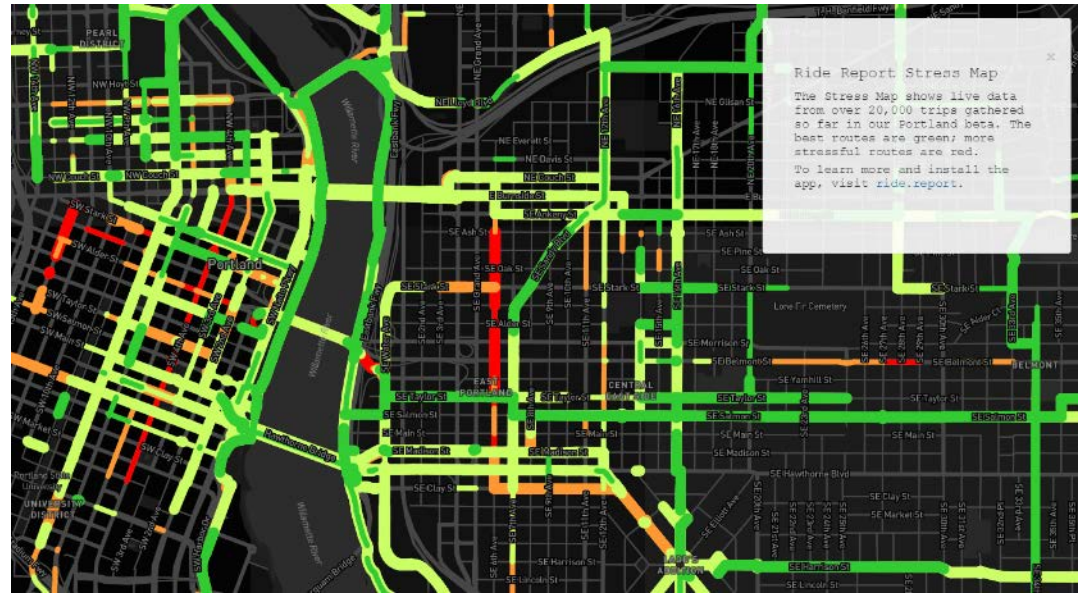
## Minutes Counted by Year



## All-Time Traffic Totals



# Everybody Counts—Ride Report



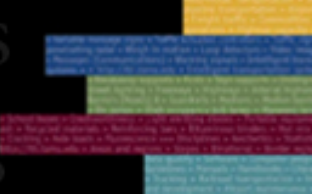
Only in Portland, OR currently. <https://ride.report/>





# Messages Matter

- Data is just that—how do citizens influence planning decisions?
  - Inside, and outside, the box.
- New media:
  - Streetmix
  - Twitter



# Messages Matter—Twitter

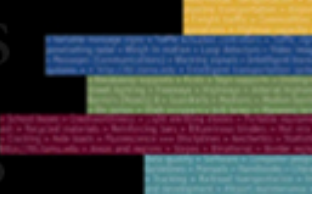
## Negative & Positive Sentiment

From tweets about transportation in Austin (Evans-Cowley & Griffin 2012).

“I miss the GW parkway bike path in DC. **Austin’s great, but nothing like an 18 mile paved, straight-ish, scenic, safe (no cars) bike path.**”

- “What’s the best surface to ride on? Does paving make a big difference to you in bike trail design?”

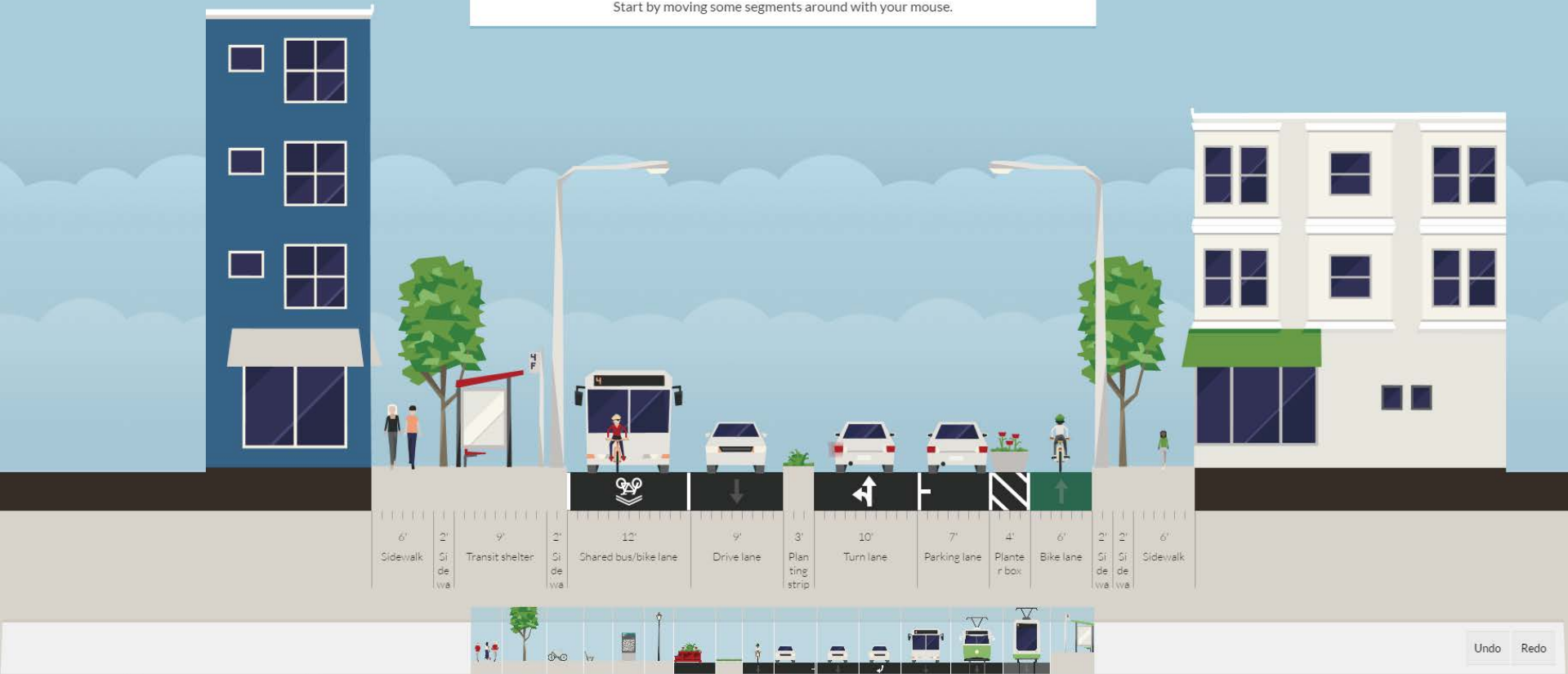




## Welcome to Streetmix.

Design, remix, and share your neighborhood street. Add trees or bike paths, widen sidewalks or traffic lanes, learn how your decisions can impact your community.

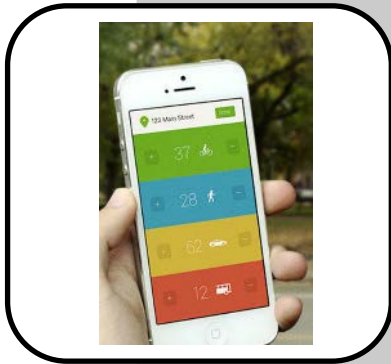
Start by moving some segments around with your mouse.



6'	2'	9'	2'	12'	9'	3'	10'	7'	4'	6'	2'	2'	6'
Sidewalk	Side- wa	Transit shelter	Side- wa	Shared bus/bike lane	Drive lane	Plan- ting strip	Turn lane	Parking lane	Planter box	Bike lane	Side- wa	Side- wa	Sidewalk

Undo Redo

# Delivering Results



# Delivering Results

- **Ask local planners** about how bicycle counts are used for prioritizing projects.
- **Present your results** to planning boards—even when it conflicts with *status quo*.
- **Coordinate meetings** with stakeholder groups & local officials.





# Summary

- How can you work with government and citizens to make your community more livable?
  - Everybody Counts
  - Messages Matter
  - Crowdsourcing platforms enable answers to new, re-framed questions

# References

- Brabham, D.C. et al., 2014. Crowdsourcing Applications for Public Health. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 46(2), pp.179–187.
- Evans-Cowley, J.S. & Griffin, G., 2012. Microparticipation with Social Media for Community Engagement in Transportation Planning. *Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board*, 2307, pp.90–98.
- Griffin, G.P. & Jiao, J., in press. Crowdsourcing Bicycle Volumes: Exploring the role of volunteered geographic information and established monitoring methods. *URISA Journal*, 27(1).
- Griffin, G. et al., 2014. *Transportation Research Circular E-C183, Monitoring Bicyclist and Pedestrian Travel and Behavior, Current Research and Practice*, Washington, D.C.: Transportation Research Board.

# Questions?



The mission of the Public Engagement Planning program is to advance the practice of public engagement through research and innovation.

[tti.tamu.edu/group/pep/](http://tti.tamu.edu/group/pep/)