# Step-By-Step Guide

# How To Read the Traffic Reports

This user guide shows how to interpret truck, bus, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic tables for a day in time within the Chicago Truck Data Portal, an open-source webpage by LVEJO and CNT.

Designed for residents, advocates, and policymakers seeking to understand the traffic data.

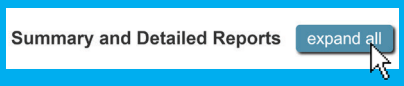
## STEP 1. FIND THE TRAFFIC REPORTS

*VISIT* Chicago Truck Data Portal @ https://chicagotruckcounts.cnt.org

*CLICK* Traffic Count Reports to hop to the traffic report section




*CLICK* expand all to see the full list of available traffic info




*FIND* find a neighborhood you want to explore

*CLICK* one of the two PDF options

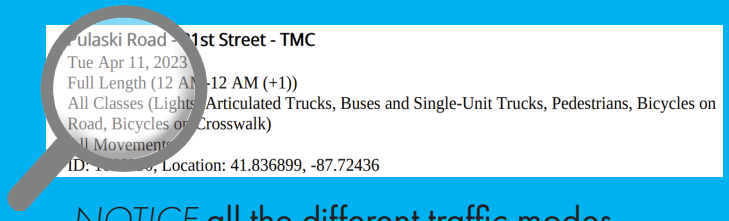



*What's the difference between 'summary report' and 'detailed count data'?*
*Both options show the same traffic info! For more pictures and context, choose 'summary report'.*

## STEP 2. START AT THE TOP

*OPEN* the report of interest

*READ* where & when the traffic count was




*NOTICE* all the different traffic modes

*TMC stands for Turning Movement Count, or an intersection count.*

*ADT stands for Average Daily Traffic, or a count at a road segment.*

# STEP 3. UNDERSTAND THE LAYOUT

## Columns

These columns show all traffic (people, bikes, cars, and trucks) heading North, South, East, or West on a specific roadway or 'leg'.

Intersection counts have four columns for each direction.
Road segment counts have only two directions, meaning two columns.
This is what you see for an intersection count:

| Leg | Pulaski Road | | | | | | 31st Street | | | | | | Pulaski Road | | | | | | 31st Street | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Direction | Southbound | | | | | | Westbound | | | | | | Northbound | | | | | | Eastbound | | | | | | |
| Time | R | T | L | U | **App** | Ped* | R | T | L | U | **App** | Ped* | R | T | L | U | **App** | Ped* | R | T | L | U | **App** | Ped* | **Int** |

R = Right-turn; T = Through traffic; L = Left-turn; U = U-turn; App = Approach or turns from all directions

Example for count at N. Pulaski Road & W. 31st Street, Chicago, IL 04-11-23.

## Rows

### Top Row

| Time | |
|---|---|
| 2023-04-11 12:00AM | |
| 1:00AM | |
| 2:00AM | |
| 3:00AM | |
| 4:00AM | |
| 5:00AM | |
| 6:00AM | |
| 7:00AM | |
| 8:00AM | |
| 9:00AM | |
| 10:00AM | |
| 11:00AM | |
| 12:00PM | |

The top row shows the hourly breakdown for one day only.

**Truck traffic can look very different in the morning rush versus late at night.**

### Bottom Row

| |
|---|
| **Total** |
| **% Approach** |
| **% Total** |
| **Lights** |
| **% Lights** |
| **Articulated Trucks** |
| **% Articulated Trucks** |
| **Buses and Single-Unit Trucks** |
| **% Buses and Single-Unit Trucks** |
| **Bicycles on Road** |
| **% Bicycles on Road** |
| Pedestrians |
| % Pedestrians |
| Bicycles on Crosswalk |
| % Bicycles on Crosswalk |

The bottom row shows:

the traffic count for a given transportation

total traffic with all modes,

and the % of traffic that a given mode makes up.

## Transportation Modes



*Lights* or cars, vans, and motorbikes *(Classes 1 -3)

*Single-unit* or medium-duty trucks *(Classes 5 -7)

*Articulated* or heavy-duty trucks with a tractor & trailer *(Classes 8 - 13)

*Vehicle classes defined by the Federal Highway Administration.

# STEP 4. SEE THE TOTALS

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 701 | 7093 | 814 | 3 | **8611** | 691 | 879 | 4849 | 2833 | 2 | **8563** | 276 | 2214 | 7165 | 2571 | 0 | **11950** | 465 | 1903 | 4392 | 634 | 1 | **6930** | 457 | **36054** |
| **% Approach** | 8.1% | 82.4% | 9.5% | 0% | - | - | 10.3% | 56.6% | 33.1% | 0% | - | - | 18.5% | 60.0% | 21.5% | 0% | - | - | 27.5% | 63.4% | 9.1% | 0% | - | - | - |
| **% Total** | 1.9% | 19.7% | 2.3% | 0% | **23.9%** | - | 2.4% | 13.4% | 7.9% | 0% | **23.8%** | - | 6.1% | 19.9% | 7.1% | 0% | **33.1%** | - | 5.3% | 12.2% | 1.8% | 0% | **19.2%** | - | - |
| Lights | 570 | 6519 | 741 | 3 | **7833** | - | 794 | 4574 | 2710 | 2 | **8080** | - | 2102 | 6717 | 2340 | 0 | **11159** | - | 1601 | 4091 | 508 | 1 | **6201** | - | 33273 |
| **% Lights** | 81.3% | 91.9% | 91.0% | 100% | **91.0%** | - | 90.3% | 94.3% | 95.7% | 100% | **94.4%** | - | 94.9% | 93.7% | 91.0% | 0% | **93.4%** | - | 84.1% | 93.1% | 80.1% | 100% | **89.5%** | - | 92.3% |
| Articulated Trucks | 4 | 272 | 26 | 0 | **302** | - | 25 | 80 | 32 | 0 | **137** | - | 25 | 165 | 63 | 0 | **253** | - | 114 | 116 | 4 | 0 | **234** | - | 926 |
| **% Articulated Trucks** | 0.6% | 3.8% | 3.2% | 0% | **3.5%** | - | 2.8% | 1.6% | 1.1% | 0% | **1.6%** | - | 1.1% | 2.3% | 2.5% | 0% | **2.1%** | - | 6.0% | 2.6% | 0.6% | 0% | **3.4%** | - | 2.6% |
| Buses and Single-Unit Trucks | 125 | 296 | 45 | 0 | **466** | - | 56 | 187 | 90 | 0 | **333** | - | 80 | 277 | 168 | 0 | **525** | - | 185 | 179 | 122 | 0 | **486** | - | 1810 |
| **% Buses and Single-Unit Trucks** | 17.8% | 4.2% | 5.5% | 0% | **5.4%** | - | 6.4% | 3.9% | 3.2% | 0% | **3.9%** | - | 3.6% | 3.9% | 6.5% | 0% | **4.4%** | - | 9.7% | 4.1% | 19.2% | 0% | **7.0%** | - | 5.0% |
| Bicycles on Road | 2 | 6 | 2 | 0 | **10** | - | 4 | 8 | 1 | 0 | **13** | - | 7 | 6 | 0 | 0 | **13** | - | 3 | 6 | 0 | 0 | **9** | - | 45 |
| **% Bicycles on Road** | 0.3% | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0% | **0.1%** | - | 0.5% | 0.2% | 0% | 0% | **0.2%** | - | 0.3% | 0.1% | 0% | 0% | **0.1%** | - | 0.2% | 0.1% | 0% | 0% | **0.1%** | - | 0.1% |
| Pedestrians | - | - | - | - | - | 666 | - | - | - | - | - | 263 | - | - | - | - | - | 450 | - | - | - | - | - | 444 | |
| % Pedestrians | - | - | - | - | - | 96.4% | - | - | - | - | - | 95.3% | - | - | - | - | - | 96.8% | - | - | - | - | - | 97.2% | - |
| Bicycles on Crosswalk | - | - | - | - | - | 25 | - | - | - | - | - | 13 | - | - | - | - | - | 15 | - | - | - | - | - | 13 | |
| % Bicycles on Crosswalk | - | - | - | - | - | 3.6% | - | - | - | - | - | 4.7% | - | - | - | - | - | 3.2% | - | - | - | - | - | 2.8% | - |

Table for N. Pulaski Road & W. 31st Street. Chicago, IL 04-11-23.

The right-most column shows the total traffic per mode for an intersection or road segment.

These numbers in the table above tell you how many pedestrians, bicyclists, cars, and trucks passed by during the traffic study. In other words, transportation trips.

**It's not just trucks, all road users count!**

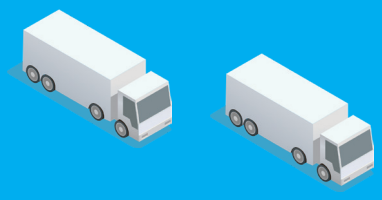
*Math shortcut! The Camera Locations map on the Portal shows the sum of all trucks and buses per count location (articulated + single-unit + bus).*

*If no number appears on the right-most column, add up the numbers in the columns with directional counts. This extra step is only needed for some pedestrian or bicycle info.*

# STEP 5. SPOT THE BIG VEHICLES

*NOTICE* how many heavy-duty and medium-duty vehicles are on the road vs other transportation modes

| | |
|---|---|
| Lights | 33273 |
| Articulated Trucks | 926 |
| Buses and Single-Unit Trucks | 1810 |
| Bicycles on Road | 45 |

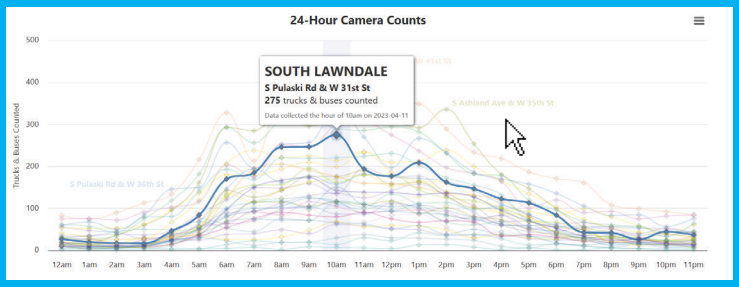


**Big trucks make the biggest pollution footprint.**

*Some tables have a combined row of buses and single-unit trucks, as seen here. Most reports separate them.*

# BONUS STEP. COMPARE COUNTS

*SCROLL* to the interactive 24-Hour Camera Counts Chart (under Traffic Count Reports)




*MOVE* your cursor around to see the array of info & to compare hr-by-hr truck and bus traffic between dozens of count locations

**Different locations have different truck traffic patterns.**

## *SCAN* TO VISIT **Chicago Truck Data Portal**

*https://chicagotruckcounts.cnt.org*

LVEJO

CNT

ftg fish transportation group

Traffic counts collected by FTG (Fish Transportation Group) using Miovision cameras and data processing.