BACKGROUND

In the last decade the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) has installed a number of on-street bicycle parking facilities throughout the City of Portland. In the late summer of 2009, a number of corrals were installed on NE Alberta Street. These corrals typically take the place of two on-street motor vehicle parking spots.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The objective of this report was to determine how and when the bicycle corrals are being used. The occupancy of the bicycle corrals along Alberta Street was counted during various times of day throughout the week and on Saturdays. The data collected from these surveys will help us determine if some land uses and specific businesses attract more bicycle users than others. This information may be able to assist PBOT in determining the best placement of future bicycle corrals.

FINDINGS

Corral usage varied greatly on NE Alberta Street. In general, corrals located near food and beverage establishments with extensive hours of operation were characterized by the greatest use, while corrals near retail establishments were more likely to be empty.

We observed the continued use of other bike parking options in close proximity to bike corrals, including sidewalk staple racks, and the improvised use of railings and other street furniture.

We did not observe frequently high levels of occupancy of on-street motor vehicle parking spaces.

CONCLUSIONS

While the findings of this survey were not conclusive, the general trend seems to indicate that restaurants, bars and coffee shops attracted more bicycle users than retail uses. The results do not indicate that cyclists unilaterally prefer bike corrals to other parking options.

The results do not reflect a high degree of competition for motor vehicle parking spaces, suggesting that bike corrals do not have a high opportunity cost in terms of space.

As the corrals on NE Alberta Street are relatively new, additional counts may be helpful in the future.