

**Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council  
Municipal Services Department**



**Cycle Counter Statistics 2016  
Comparative Report**



**Report to the Transportation  
& County Wide Movement SPC  
March 2017**

## 1. Introduction

Cycling is a key element of transportation policy in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council with a number of cycling projects advanced in recent years in relation to the development of cycling infrastructure and promotion of cycling. The Council's vision, set out in the Cycling Policy (June 2010), is as follows;

*To cultivate a cycling culture, through the implementation of appropriate infrastructure and promotional measures, that positively encourages all members of the community to cycle at all life stages and abilities as a mode of sustainable transport that delivers environmental, health and economic benefits to both the individual and the community.*

This vision is being achieved through the implementation of 19 objectives and associated interventions in line with the National Cycle Policy Framework objectives. Among the successes in recent years was the enhancement of a number of cycle routes and greenways, the preparation of a number of cycling leaflets, annual participation in National Bike Week and the training of 1500+ students each year in schools.

## 2. Cycle Counters

Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown County Council installed a number of automatic permanent cycle counters in recent years along a number of key routes in the County, as shown in Table 2.1.

	<b>Counter Location</b>	<b>Date of operation</b>
1	Stillorgan Road Totem (1-way) Replaced on December 10, 2015	January 13, 2011
2	Montrose (2-way cycle track)	January 25, 2012
3	The Metals, Glenageary Dart Station – (2-way)	November 24, 2010
4	Rock Road Bus lane (1-way)	January 25, 2012
5	Rock Road Inside park near the Dart (2-way)	January 24, 2012
6	Clonskeagh Road Totem – (2-way)	May 3, 2012
7	Rock Road Totem (1-way) Replaced on October 14, 2015	March 7, 2012

The cycle counters provide real time information on the number of cyclists passing each location that can be accessed and analysed online. An inductive loop is inserted under the surface of the cycle lane/track and each time a bicycle goes over the loop, a system detects the two wheels' electromagnetic signature and registers a count. In addition, a totem cycle counter display unit provides a visual display of the numbers of cyclists passing over the loop on that day and also displays the cumulative number of cyclists that passed over the loop during that year. Figure 2.1 below shows a typical totem cycle counter as seen on the Rock Road.



**Figure 2.1 Totem Cycle Counter Display Unit (Rock Road)**

The cycle data from the counters is used mainly for the following reasons:

- To monitor cycle trends at key routes in the County;
- To check if new or upgraded cycle routes result in more cyclists; and
- To justify investment in cycling infrastructure by having robust cycling data available to facilitate before and after monitoring.

This report compares the 2016 cycle counter data by month using cycle count data from previous comparable months and years.

## 2.1 Stillorgan Road Cycle Counters

The first totem cycle counter in the County was installed on the city-bound side of the Stillorgan Road on the approach slip road to UCD. Two additional cycle counters using traffic loops were installed on the cycle track (separated by a grass verge) where the Montrose Hotel slip road joins the Stillorgan Road in 2012, with locations shown in Figure 2.2. The traffic loops count the number of cyclist in both directions.



**Figure 2.2 Stillorgan Road at UCD and Montrose Cycle Counter Location**

The Stillorgan Road Totem was replaced at the end of 2016 with a newer version due to a fault that took considerable time to repair. Table 2.2 shows the monthly cycle numbers for the Stillorgan Road Totem between 2012 and 2016 where data was available.

<b>Table 2.2 Cycle numbers comparison Stillorgan Road Totem Cycle Counter Inbound</b>					
<b>Cyclist numbers</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
January	11,120	9,944			11,244
February	13,255	12,615			14,931
March	14,141	9,949			14,377
April	12,056	13,626			16,369
May	13,895	14,356			9,525
June	10,618	10,291			10,224
July	11,285	11,545			13,911
August	11,411	11,197			14,226
September	15,367				21,808
October	16,549				23,473
November	9,685				20,509
December	6,631				12,140
<b>Total Annual Cyclists</b>	<b>146,013</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>182,737</b>

It was only possible to compare full year cycle Totem data for 2012 and 2016 due to a technical fault in the intervening years and this showed an increase of 25% in total cycle numbers.

Tables 2.3 and 2.4 show the monthly cycle numbers from the cycle counter loops near the Montrose slip between 2012 and 2016 where data was available. It was only possible to compare full year cycle data for the years 2013 and 2016 as battery issues resulted in gaps in the cycle data.

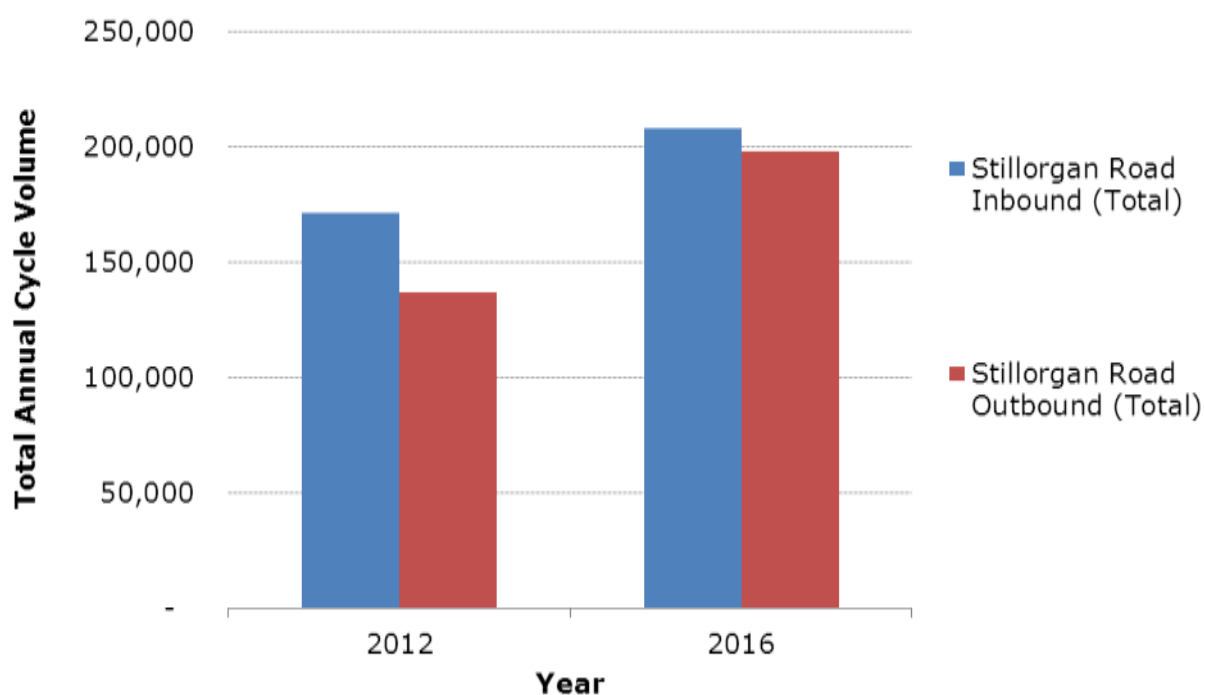
<b>Table 2.3 Cycle numbers comparison Montrose Cycle Counter out of City</b>					
<b>Cyclist numbers outbound</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
January	2,579	13,261	11,904		11,680
February	12,049	12,619	11,309		15,311
March	13,633	9,917	14,546		14,913
April	10,973	14,074	16,876	17,405	17,344
May	12,886	14,289	15,405	16,058	18,046
June	9,852	13,177	14,795	16,726	15,375
July	10,972	15,455	15,342	15,000	14,757
August	11,133	13,711	12,628	13,926	15,406
September	15,064	18,642	23,422	22,132	22,781
October	16,001	18,666	21,738	21,038	21,957
November	14,419	17,397		17,241	19,480
December	7,626	9,818		9,395	11,240
<b>Total Annual Cyclists</b>	<b>137,187</b>	<b>171,026</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>198,290</b>

<b>Table 2.4 Cycle numbers comparison Montrose Cycle Counter into the City</b>					
<b>Cyclist numbers inbound</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
January	605	2,671	2,173		1,376
February	2,679	2,568	2,111		2,116
March	2,892	1,844	2,441		1,957
April	2,219	2,629	2,554	2,393	2,179
May	2,147	2,335	2,237	1,959	1,974
June	1,545	2,058	2,078	1,843	1,720
July	1,720	2,272	2,043	1,573	1,608
August	1,591	2,096	1,816	1,508	1,771
September	2,574	3,291	3,721	2,709	2,982
October	2,773	3,461	3,679	2,895	3,130
November	3,084	3,234		2,337	2,939
December	1,532	1,760		1,222	1,706
<b>Total Annual Cyclists</b>	<b>25,361</b>	<b>30,219</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>25,458</b>

When comparing the cycle data for 2013 and 2016, we see a 16% increase in the number of cyclists using the Stillorgan Road route outbound and a 16% decrease in cyclists using the inbound route. The cycle data on the inbound side shows cyclists coming from the Fosterbrook and Seafield residential areas only.

Table 2.5 and Figure 2.3 provides a comparison of the full year cycle data for 2012 and 2016 for the total inbound and total outbound cycle volumes annually on the Stillorgan Road.

<b>Table 2.5 Cycle numbers comparison Stillorgan Road (Total)</b>			
	<b>2012</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
Stillorgan Road Inbound (Total)	171,374	208,195	21%
Stillorgan Road Outbound (Total)	137,187	198,290	45%



**Figure 2.3 Graph of Total Cycling Volumes Stillorgan Road (2012 vs 2016)**

As we see from the above table and graph when comparing a full years data for 2012 and 2016 a total increase of 45% in the numbers of cyclists using the outbound direction and 21% in the inbound direction on the Stillorgan Road. When examining the 2016 data it should be also noted that some cyclists that previously used the Stillorgan Road inbound may have diverted to the Rock Road or Clonskeagh Road as a result of improved cycle facilities on the routes.

## **2.2 Rock Road Cycle Counters**

A number of cycle counters were installed on the Rock Road and in Blackrock Park in 2012 with the location of the Rock Road counter locations shown on Figure 2.4. The cycle counters were placed at the following locations:

- Cycle counter loop placed in the bus lane on the outbound side of the Rock Road adjacent to Blackrock Park, south east of the junction with Booterstown Avenue.
- Totem counter with a cycle counter loop placed in the cycle lane in the inbound side of the Rock Road, south east of the junction with Booterstown Avenue.
- 2-way cycle counter loop placed on the cycle way in Blackrock Park near Booterstown Dart Station that counted the number of cyclists in both directions.

Due to a road traffic collision in September 2014, the Rock Road Totem was damaged and unavailable for use for over a year. The totem was replaced at the end of 2015 with a newer version and thus there is a gap in the cycle data.



**Figure 2.4 Rock Road Cycle Counter Locations**

Tables 2.6 and 2.7 provide a comparison of the number of cyclists passing the cycle counters on the Rock Road (bus lane and Totem) between 2012 and 2016 where a direct comparison was possible and Tables 2.7 and 2.8 provide a comparison of the number of cyclists in both directions using Blackrock Park in the same period.

When comparing the cycle data for 2015 and 2016, we see that there was a slight reduction (less than 1%) in the number of cyclists passing the counter on the Rock Road bus lane in the outbound direction with the number of cyclists using Blackrock Park increasing in the outbound direction.

A big increase in the number of cyclists in the inbound direction (56%) can be seen at the location of the new cycle totem when comparing cycle data between the full year cycle data for 2013 and 2016. This is likely due to the Frascati Road cycle improvement scheme which significantly improved cycle facilities along the Blackrock bypass.

The route through Blackrock Park is well used with steady increases in cycle numbers each year. The introduction of a contra flow cycle track on Newtown Avenue in 2012 that allows cyclists to go from Blackrock to Seapoint Avenue, has contributed to this increase.

<b>Table 2.6 Cycle numbers outbound Rock Road Bus Lane (Traffic loop)</b>					
<b>Cyclist numbers outbound</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
January	2,834	10,693	11,407	10,571	10,829
February	15,001	10,277	9,784	11,037	11,662
March	18,914	9,122	13,672	13,229	15,478
April	14,467	14,560	15,854	17,317	17,143
May	19,551	18,376	17,548	16,344	19,407
June	15,753	18,049	19,385	19,292	17,144
July	17,619	22,075	19,662	18,005	11,114
August	17,216	18,145	15,471	17,415	16,987
September	17,065	18,401	20,586	20,375	19,933
October	15,879	16,279	17,509	17,531	18,154
November	13,325	14,409	13,575	14,756	15,937
December	8,263	9,294	9,657	9,574	10,298
<b>Total Annual Cyclists</b>	<b>175,887</b>	<b>179,680</b>	<b>184,110</b>	<b>185,446</b>	<b>184,086</b>

<b>Table 2.7 Cycle numbers inbound Rock Road Totem</b>					
<b>Cyclist numbers inbound</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
January		10,800	11,415		22,851
February		11,609	9,878		23,701
March	12,008	9,811	13,833		24,583
April	11,485	12,664	14,388		25,631
May	15,767	16,949	16,050		25,165
June	12,708	15,947	16,926		22,091
July	14,164	19,581	18,461		21,760
August	14,384	16,147	14,428		22,205
September	15,470	16,455			25,694
October	14,465	14,275			24,389
November	12,291	13,725		24,852	21,551
December	8,116	8,628		18,696	15,148
<b>Total Annual Cyclists</b>	<b>130,858</b>	<b>166,591</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>274,769</b>

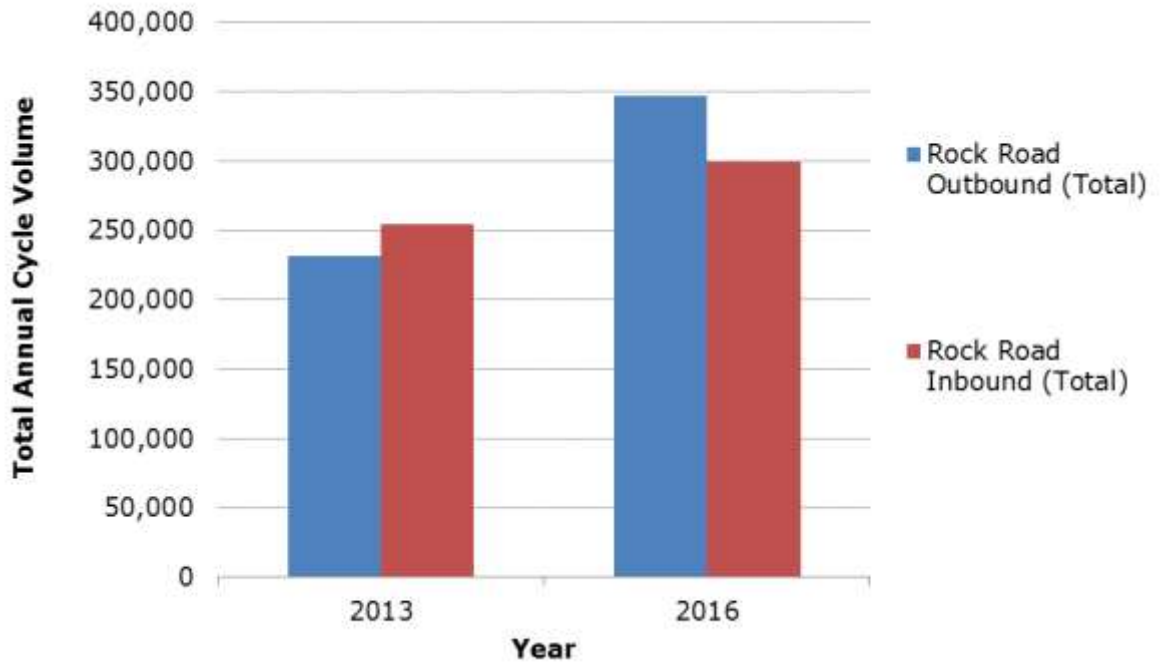


<b>Table 2.8 Cycle numbers comparison Rock Road Park towards Blackrock</b>					
<b>Cyclist numbers outbound</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
January		4,086	5,449		6,217
February	3,480	4,388	4,829		6,472
March	5,259	2,822	7,127	9,768	8,082
April	3,487	4,342	9,028	9,419	9,169
May	5,658	5,661	9,686	12,188	11,928
June	4,292	7,004	11,847	10,229	10,745
July	4,716	11,126	12,303	10,411	14,327
August	5,138	8,407	9,032	10,853	11,105
September	5,064	8,524	12,340	9,583	14,237
October	4,260	6,959		7,401	9,796
November	3,495	6,514		5,174	7,846
December	2,324	4,596		9,768	5,756
<b>Total Annual Cyclists</b>	<b>47,173</b>	<b>74,429</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>115,680</b>

<b>Table 2.9 Cycle numbers comparison Rock Road Park towards Booterstown</b>					
<b>Cyclist numbers inbound</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
January		3,920	4,124		4,132
February	3,392	3,860	3,666		4,222
March	4,743	2,621	5,476		5,208
April	3,303	4,306	6,866	7,215	5,817
May	5,133	5,370	7,544	6,782	8,066
June	4,079	6,567	9,539	8,941	7,164
July	4,506	9,833	9,591	7,288	7,961
August	5,066	7,168	6,855	7,616	7,305
September	4,869	7,108	9,603	7,796	7,184
October	3,981	5,624		6,810	6,420
November	3,259	5,218		5,086	5,216
December	2,225	3,568		3,440	3,770
<b>Total Annual Cyclists</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>65,163</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>72,465</b>

Table 2.10 and Figure 2.5 provides a comparison of the full year cycle data for 2013 and 2016 for the total inbound and total outbound cycle volumes annually on the Rock Road.

<b>Table 2.10 Cycle numbers comparison Rock Road (Total)</b>			
	<b>2013</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
Rock Road Inbound (Total)	231,754	347,234	50%
Rock Road Outbound (Total)	254,109	299,766	18%



**Figure 2.5 Graph of Total Cycling Volumes  
Rock Road (2013 vs 2016)**

As we see from the above table and graph when comparing a full years data for 2013 and 2016 a total increase of 50% in the numbers of cyclists using the outbound direction and an 18% in the inbound direction on the Rock Road.

## 2.3 Clonskeagh Road Cycle Counter

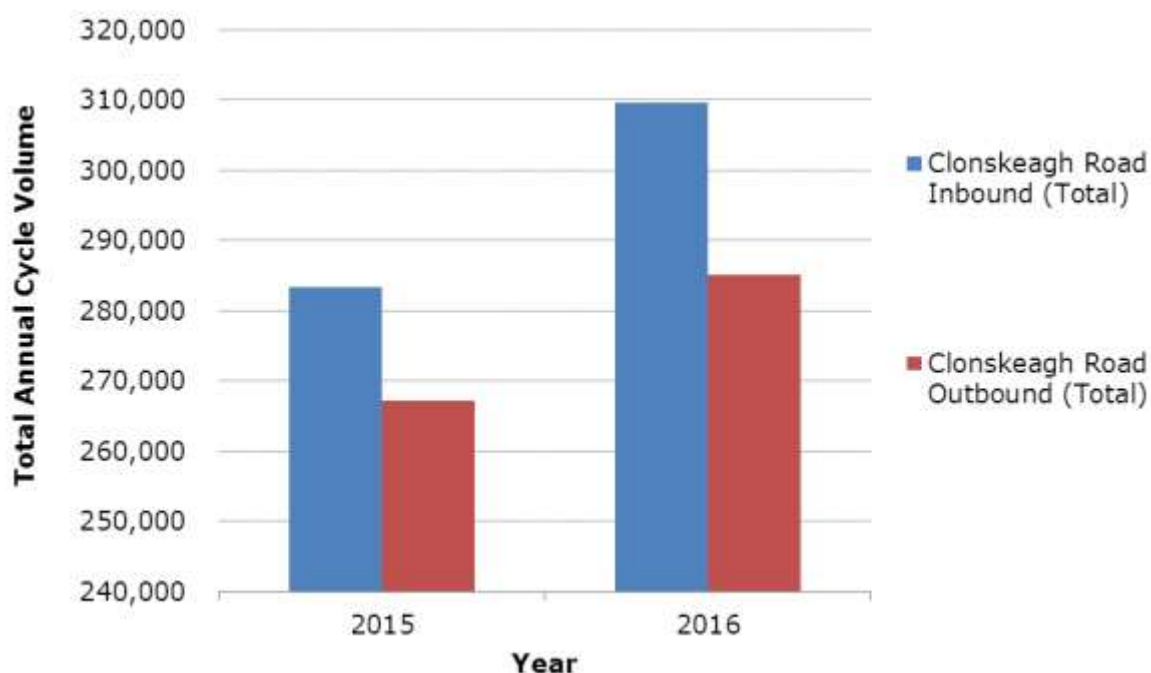
A totem cycle counter was installed on the Clonskeagh Road in May 2012 near the junction with Leinster Lawn that counts the number of cyclists in both directions. Tables 2.11 and 2.12 show the monthly cycle numbers between 2012 and provide a comparison of the number of cyclists passing the cycle counter on Clonskeagh Road between 2015 and 2016:

<b>Table 2.11 Cycle numbers Clonskeagh Road Totem Cycle Counter out of City</b>					
<b>Cyclist numbers outbound</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
January		16,981	18,940	19,555	17,977
February		21,182	9,501	23,381	24,879
March		16,554		21,855	23,489
April		20,980		26,693	27,628
May	18,501	22,533		22,908	28,976
June	15,027	18,640		23,085	23,074
July	15,947	21,516		20,757	21,670
August	16,510	19,257		19,631	22,505
September	23,948	28,099	31,058	31,519	33,287
October	27,924	30,139	32,279	31,571	34,377
November	17,193	27,926	27,423	26,893	31,853
December	3,543	15,659	16,665	15,459	19,927
<b>Total Annual Cyclists</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>259,466</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>283,307</b>	<b>309,642</b>

<b>Table 2.12 Cycle numbers Clonskeagh Road Totem Cycle Counter into City</b>					
<b>Cyclist numbers outbound</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
January		17,956	20,568	18,702	17,473
February		22,086	21,306	22,965	23,572
March		17,383		21,818	22,439
April		21,964		25,117	26,503
May	19,192	23,942		21,725	27,566
June	15,466	19,532		21,137	21,381
July	16,560	22,051		19,016	18,575
August	17,070	20,107		18,265	20,246
September	25,204	29,548	28,851	29,558	30,126
October	28,688	31,375	30,853	29,688	30,304
November	18,356	27,931	26,002	24,378	28,605
December	3,416	17,027	16,169	14,877	18,337
<b>Total Annual Cyclists</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>270,902</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>267,246</b>	<b>285,127</b>

Table 2.13 and Figure 2.6 provides a comparison of the full year cycle data for 2015 and 2016 for the total inbound and total outbound cycle volumes annually on the Clonskeagh Road.

<b>Table 2.13 Cycle numbers comparison Clonskeagh Road (Total)</b>			
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
Clonskeagh Road Inbound (Total)	283,307	309,642	9.3%
Clonskeagh Road Outbound (Total)	267,246	285,127	6.7%



**Figure 2.6 Graph of Total Cycling Volumes Clonskeagh Road (2015 vs 2016)**

As we see from the above table and graph a total increase when comparing the cycle data for 2015 and 2016, there was a 6.7% increase in the number of cyclists in the inbound direction and a 9.3% increase in cyclists in the outbound direction.

## **2.4 The Metals Cycle Counter**

Cycle and pedestrian counters were installed along the Metals route (Dún Laoghaire to Dalkey) in Glenageary in November 2010. The location of these counters is shown in Figure 2.7.



**Figure 2.7 The Metals Counter Location**

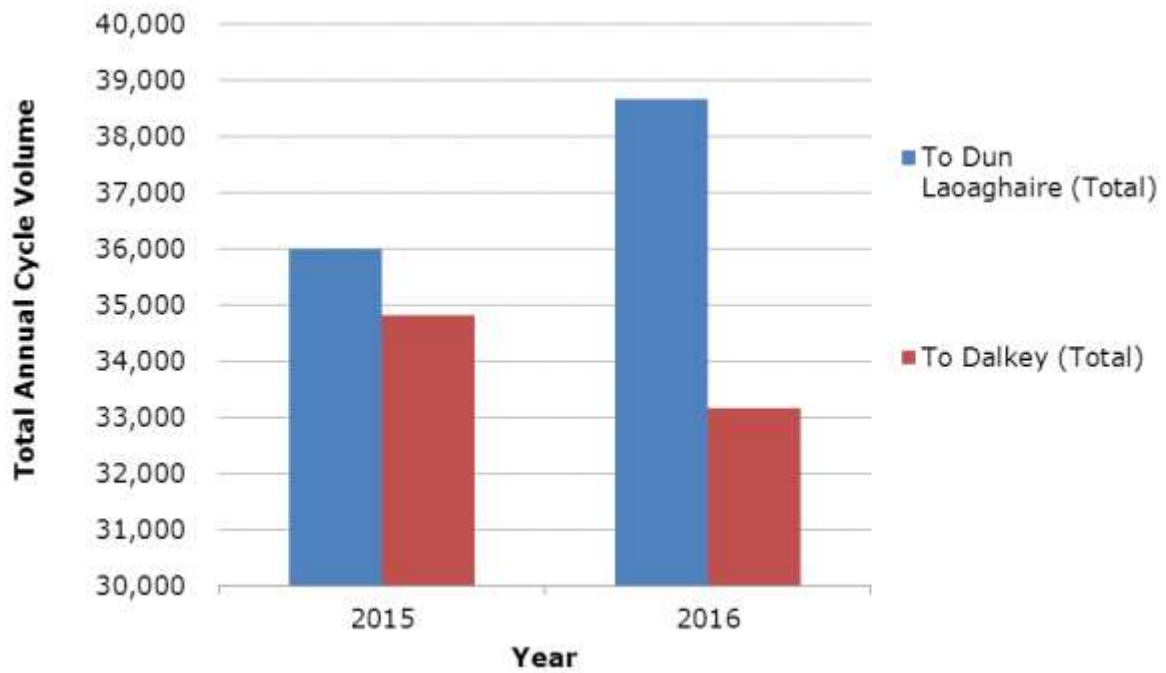
Tables 2.14 and 2.15 show the monthly cycle numbers between 2012 and 2016 provide a comparison of cycle numbers for the period between 2015 and 2016 for both directions:

<b>Table 2.14 Cycle numbers comparison Metals Cycle Counter – To Dún Laoghaire</b>					
<b>Cyclist numbers inbound</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
January	1,900	1,710	1,857	1,893	2,136
February	2,245	1,652	2,145	2,060	2,114
March	3,041	1,758	3,562	2,770	2,930
April	2,354	2,698	4,008	3,485	2,948
May	2,923	3,284	3,416	3,409	4,089
June	2,654	3,996	4,176	4,366	4,138
July	3,110	4,581	4,137	3,579	4,144
August	3,703	4,378	3,587	3,841	4,472
September	3,395	3,731	4,029	3,649	3,550
October	2,658	2,811	2,964	3,177	3,385
November	2,094	2,280	2,122	2,122	2,645
December	1,545	1,776	1,734	1,632	2,118
<b>Total Annual Cyclists</b>	<b>31,622</b>	<b>34,655</b>	<b>37,737</b>	<b>35,983</b>	<b>38,669</b>

<b>Table 2.15 Cycle numbers comparison Metals Cycle Counter–To Dalkey</b>					
<b>Cyclist numbers inbound</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
January	1,780	1,733	1,907	1,820	1,871
February	2,023	1,558	1,526	1,885	1,872
March	2,643	1,623	2,031	2,328	2,666
April	2,088	2,245	2,928	3,370	2,740
May	2,533	2,788	3,225	3,316	3,743
June	2,419	3,194	4,053	4,153	2,617
July	2,719	3,681	3,873	3,512	3,623
August	3,061	3,758	3,365	3,813	3,688
September	2,908	3,161	3,996	3,684	3,229
October	2,480	2,458	2,916	3,197	2,884
November	2,107	2,326	2,176	2,170	2,199
December	1,593	1,883	1,698	1,573	2,028
<b>Total Annual Cyclists</b>	<b>28,354</b>	<b>30,408</b>	<b>33,694</b>	<b>34,821</b>	<b>33,160</b>

Table 2.16 and Figure 2.8 provides a comparison of the full year cycle data for 2013 and 2016 for the total inbound and total outbound cycle volumes annually at the Metals cycle counter.

<b>Table 2.16 Cycle numbers comparison the Metals (Total)</b>			
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
To Dun Laoghaire (Total)	35,983	38,669	7.5%
To Dalkey (Total)	34,821	33,160	-4.8%



**Figure 2.8 Graph of Total Cycling Volumes  
The Metals (2015 vs 2016)**

As we see from the above table and graph a total increase when comparing the cycle data for 2015 and 2016, we see that there was a 7.5% increase in the number of cyclists going towards Dun Laoghaire and a 4.8% decrease in cyclists going away from Dún Laoghaire. However alternative low traffic routes also exist for those cycling from Dún Laoghaire to Dalkey and the decrease in cycle volumes travelling towards Dalkey is likely related to cyclists using these alternative routes. During the same period, it should be noted that there was a 12% increase in pedestrian numbers between 2015 and 2016 going towards Dun Laoghaire and 6% going out of Dun Laoghaire.

### 3.0 Average Daily Cycling numbers

Table 3.1 provide details of the average number of daily cyclists on key routes in the County for the years 2013 to 2016 with a ranking by cycle numbers using 2016 cycle data. This table is compiled based on daily cycling data for when the counter was in operation and shows that the Rock Road is the busiest cycle corridor in the County.

<b>Table 3.1 Average daily cyclist numbers in DLR 2013 to 2016</b>					
	<b>Counter Location</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
1	Clonskeagh Road Totem – From city	717	711	776	846
2	Clonskeagh Road Totem – To city	748	796	732	779
3	Rock Road Totem	460	486	746	751
4	N11 Montrose (southbound)	469	446	408	542
5	Rock Road Bus lane (1-way)	492	504	508	503
6	N11 Stillorgan Road Totem (1-way)	391	no data	no data	499
7	Blackrock Park towards Blackrock	178	248	233	316
8	Blackrock Park Toward Booterstown	203	192	167	198
9	The Metals – To Dun Laoghaire	94	103	99	106
10	The Metals – To Dalkey	83	92	95	91
11	N11 Montrose (city bound)	83	70	51	70



#### **4.0 Cycling Projects 2017**

During 2017, it is intended to progress and deliver number of cycling related projects with the main schemes as shown in Table 4.1. This is subject to the availability of National Transport Authority or Transport Infrastructure Ireland funding.

<b>Table 4.1 DLR Cycling Projects 2017</b>	
Cycle Infrastructure	Wyattville Road Improvement Scheme; Sandyford Cycle Route; Blackglen Road Improvements; Cruach Wood to Ballyogan Greenway; and Improved cycle access to UCD.
Road Safety	Speed Limit Review, 30km/hr streets and zones
Cycle Training	1000+pupilstobettrainedinCycleRight
Cycle Promotion	Bike Week events, school promotion
Cycle Studies	County Wide Public Bike Scheme

#### **5.0 Summary**

Seven cycle counters have been installed in the County on three main traffic routes (the N11, The Rock Road and Clonskeagh Road) and on The Metals Pedestrian and Cycle route (Dún Laoghaire to Dalkey) during 2010 and 2012. These cycle counters provide real time information on the number of cyclists passing the counter at each location. Overall, cycling numbers are increasing on the main routes throughout the County year on year basis.