

Park Loop Road Traffic from ITS and Paradise Hill Road Traffic Counters, 2015

Charlie Jacobi

Acadia National Park Resources Report 2017-6

At our January 2016 meeting I presented charts for the month of July 2015 showing the traffic entrance counts for all nine entrances to the Park Loop Road from the former ITS sites and temporary counters at the Visitor Center (southbound on the Paradise Hill Road) and the Stanley Brook Road. The temporary traffic counter at the Visitor Center failed and we did not know it until the data arrived just prior to that meeting. Thus we had no data for August, September, or October for the Paradise Hill Road at the Visitor Center southbound towards Cadillac, Sand Beach, and Jordan Pond.

I did the same analysis using the ITS traffic counter (it worked just fine all summer) located on the spur off of Route 3 at the Visitor Center (in lieu of my temporary counter on the Paradise Hill Road) for these other three months. This entrance data includes all traffic going to the Visitor Center as well so it is not ideal. Many vehicles go to the Visitor Center and exit back to Route 3 and may not contribute to congestion on the Park Loop Road unless they re-enter elsewhere the same day. Using this Visitor Center spur does allow some comparisons of entrance and exit data. However, I'm not convinced that using this data helps us. For example, using this traffic counter, the mean daily use of the Park Loop Road in July was 7149 and in August it was 6620. These are 1500 and 1000 vehicles respectively higher than the numbers I will show below using the FOTSC Paradise Hill Road traffic counter.

The Paradise Hill Road FOTSC traffic counter is located at the power line crossing near the Route 233 overpass and thus effectively funnels all traffic from the Visitor Center, West Street, and Cadillac Entrances to the major attractions of the Park Loop Road. When combined with the ITS traffic counters at the Kebo, Great Meadow, Sieur de Monts, Schooner Head, Otter Cliff, and Stanley Brook entrances we have a full accounting of traffic flows to our congested areas.

The flaws in using this seven-site traffic count dataset are I think minor. It assumes, correctly I think, that there are no congestion problems on the Paradise Hill Road. There are some Seal Harbor commuters which I think we can ignore. Unfortunately, the northbound lane at the Paradise Hill Road FOTSC site is counting erratically now. This means we cannot compare a full set of entrance data to exit data for the Park Loop Road using these seven count sites.

What follows are three charts for each month from July to October using summary data counts for all seven sites. The first is the sum of the daily 24-hour counts. Each month is on the same scale and the mean and median daily use is listed. The second chart show the mean and peak hourly use. The mean hourly use bars have 95% confidence intervals on them. Each chart is again on the same scale. The third shows the number of hours per month within various high

traffic flow ranges beginning with 501 – 600 vehicles per hour. These are not all on the same scale.

The following table summarizes further some of this traffic data for 2015.

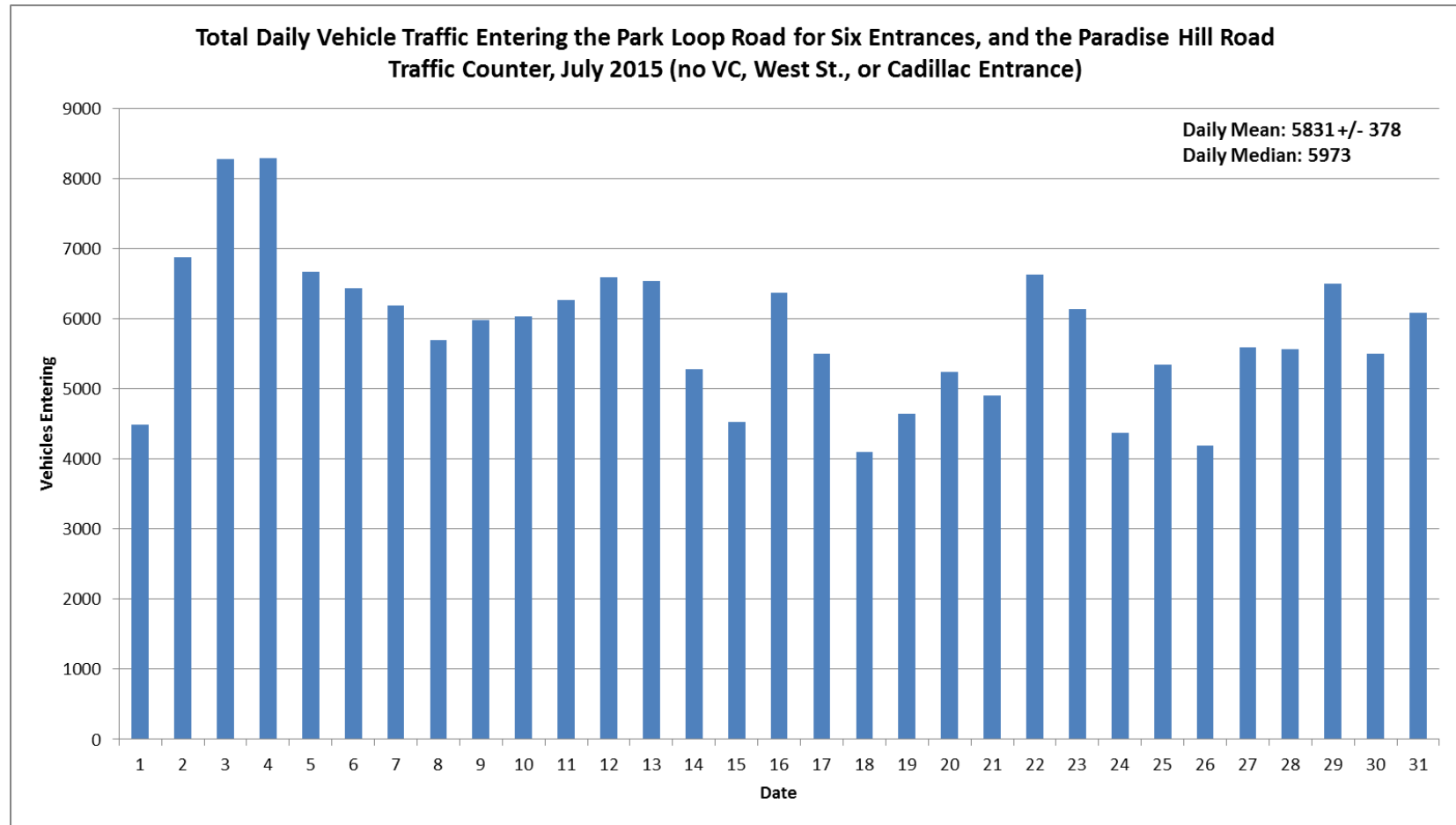
Measure	July	August	September	October
Mean Daily Use	5,831	5,682	4,222	3,500
Peak Daily Use	8,289	7,502	7,680	6,609
Day/Date of Peak Daily Use	Sat 7/4	Thu 8/13	Sun 9/6	Sun 10/13
Peak Hourly Use	1,040	944	976	994
Day/Date of Peak Hourly Use	Sat 7/4	Thu 8/13	Sun 9/6	Sun 10/11
Hour of Peak Use	11am – 12noon	11am – 12noon	10am – 11am	10am – 11am

- July was busier than August for these seven Park Loop Road entrances. You may remember Cadillac Summit Road traffic count data showed that August was busier than July. That is our usual understanding of park visitation.
- September 6 shows up as the busiest September day for the Park Loop Road and for Cadillac Summit Road. October 3, which was the busiest day of the season on the Cadillac Summit Road, was not the busiest October day for the Park Loop Road.
- Peak daily use and peak hourly occurred on the same day in each month and over the Holiday weekends in July, September, and October.

The table below shows the number of hours within the higher vehicles per hour entry ranges for the Park Loop Road in July, August, September, and October. As mentioned, these are also graphed for each month and collectively at the end of this document for comparison.

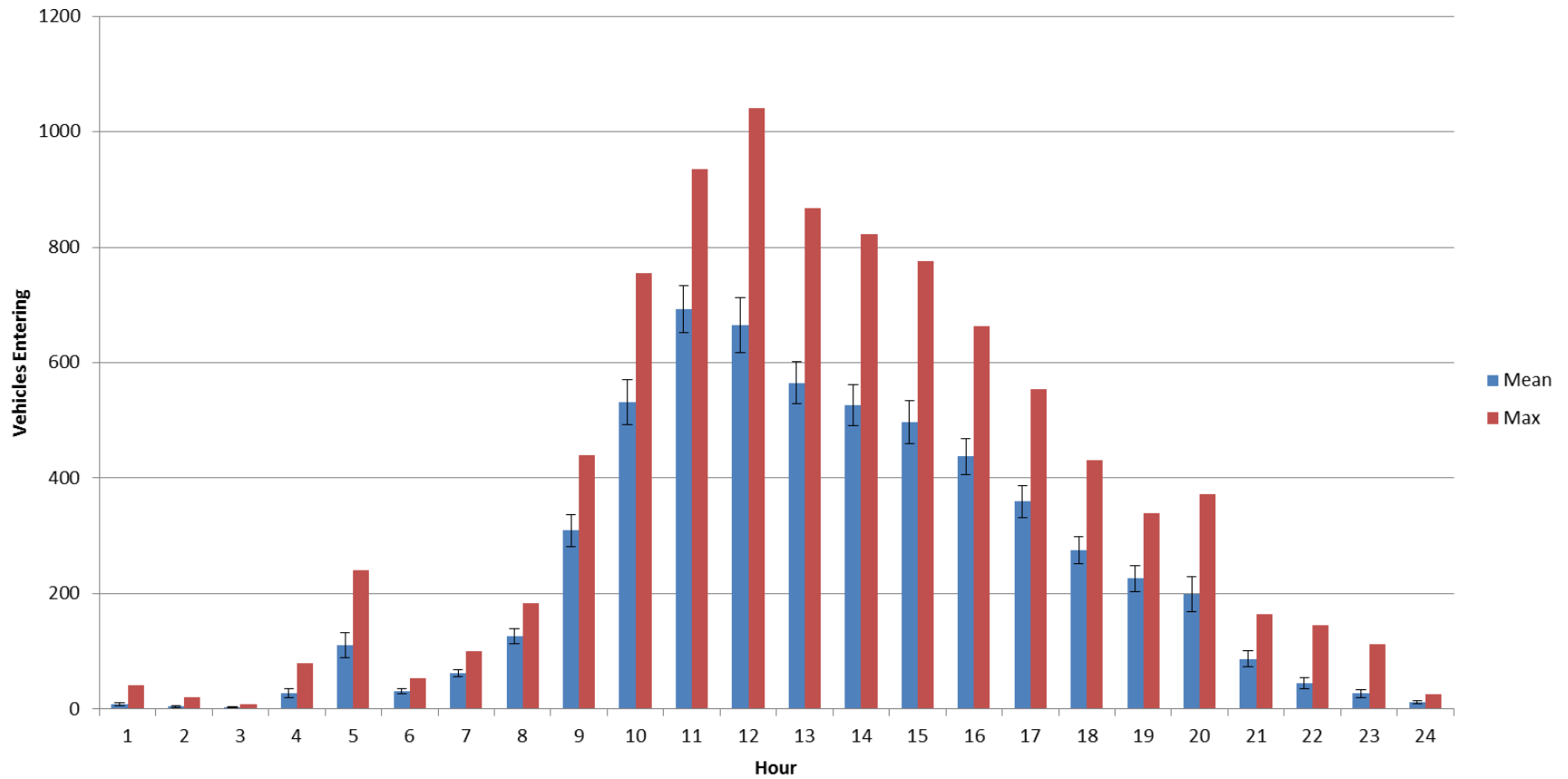
Vehicles/Hour Range	July	August	September	October
501 – 600	71	61	24	38
601 – 700	41	35	10	19
701 - 800	22	26	2	7
801 – 900	8	7	1	2
901 - 1000	1	1	1	0
1001 - 1100	1	0	0	0

July

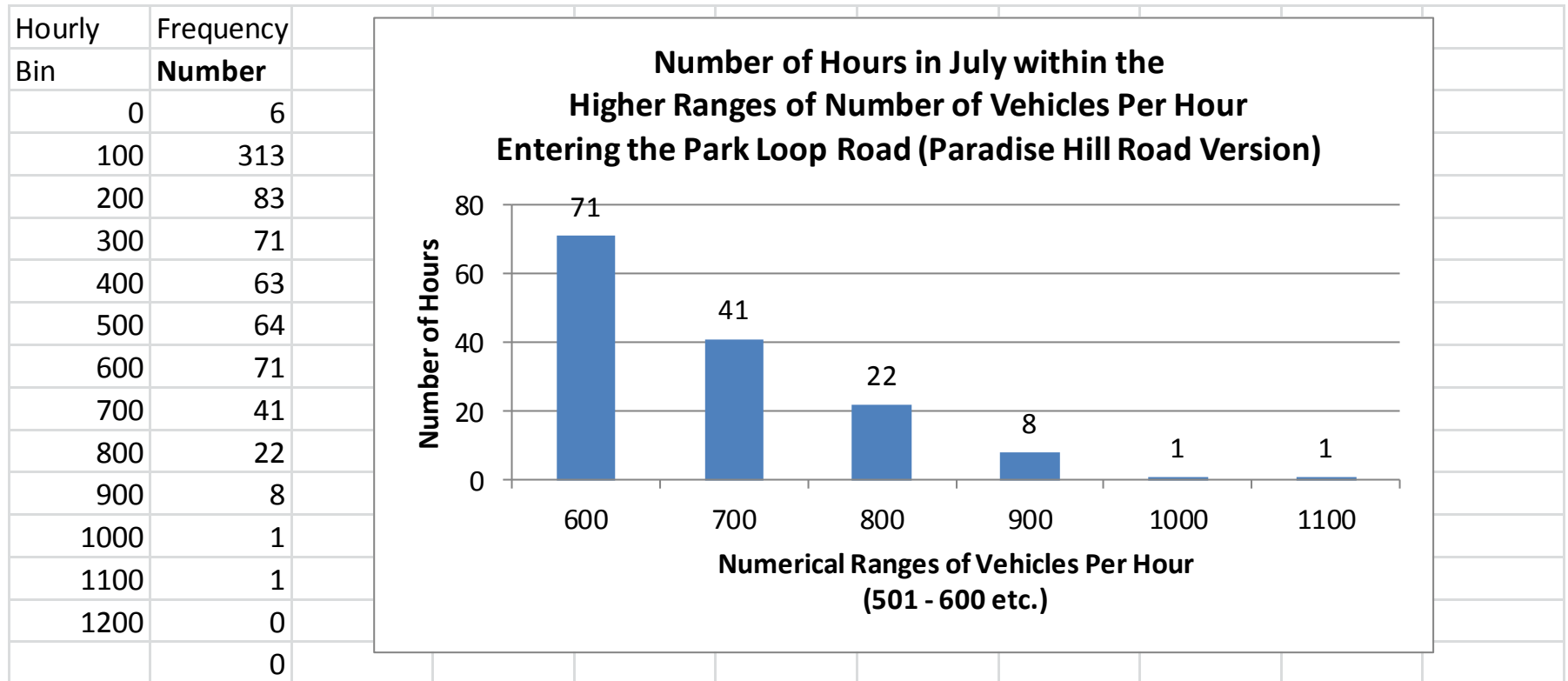


July

Mean and Maximum Hourly Vehicle Traffic Entering the Park Loop Road for Six Entrances and the Paradise Hill Road Traffic Counter, July 2015 (no VC, West St. or Cadillac Entrance)

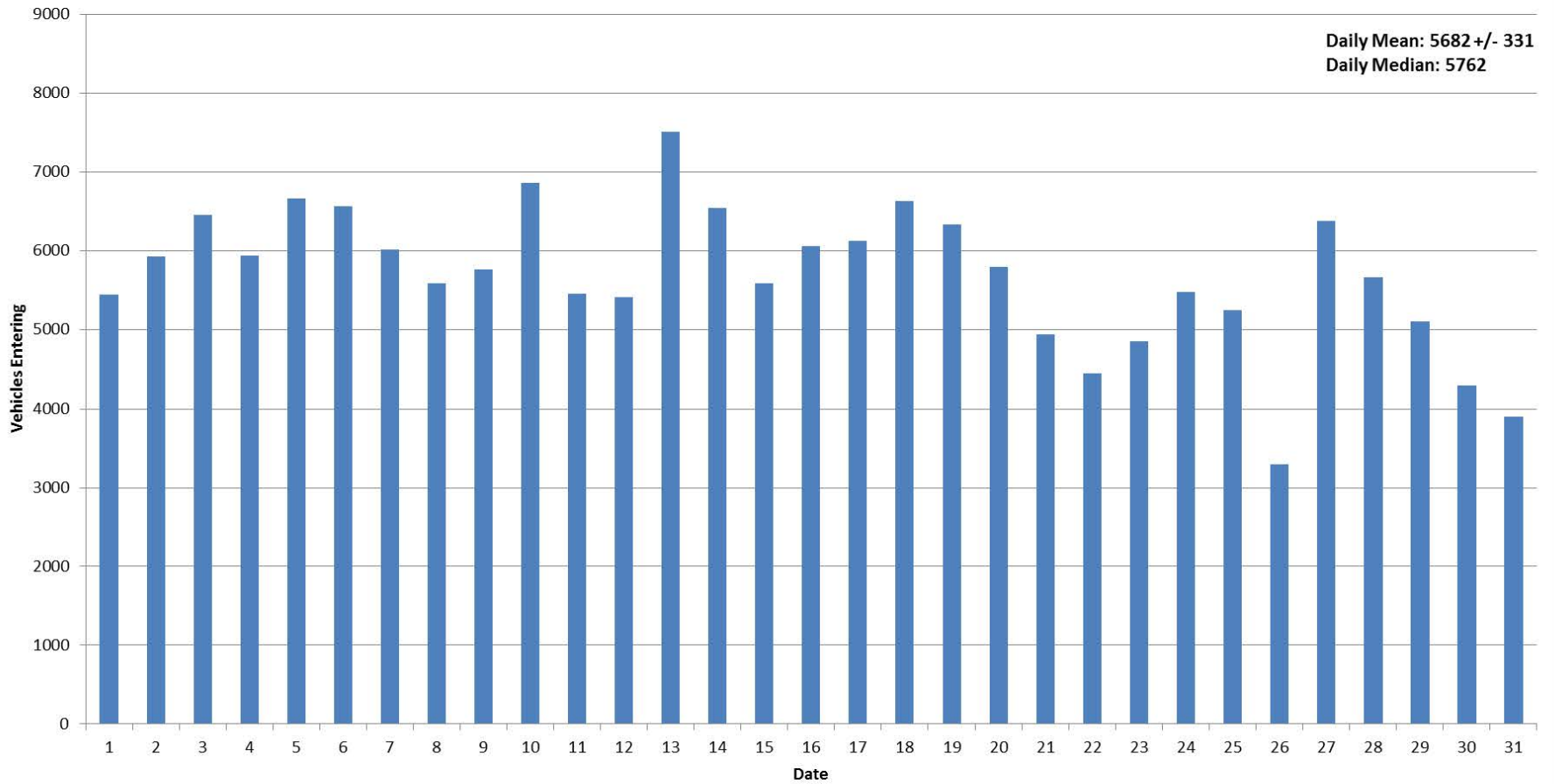


July



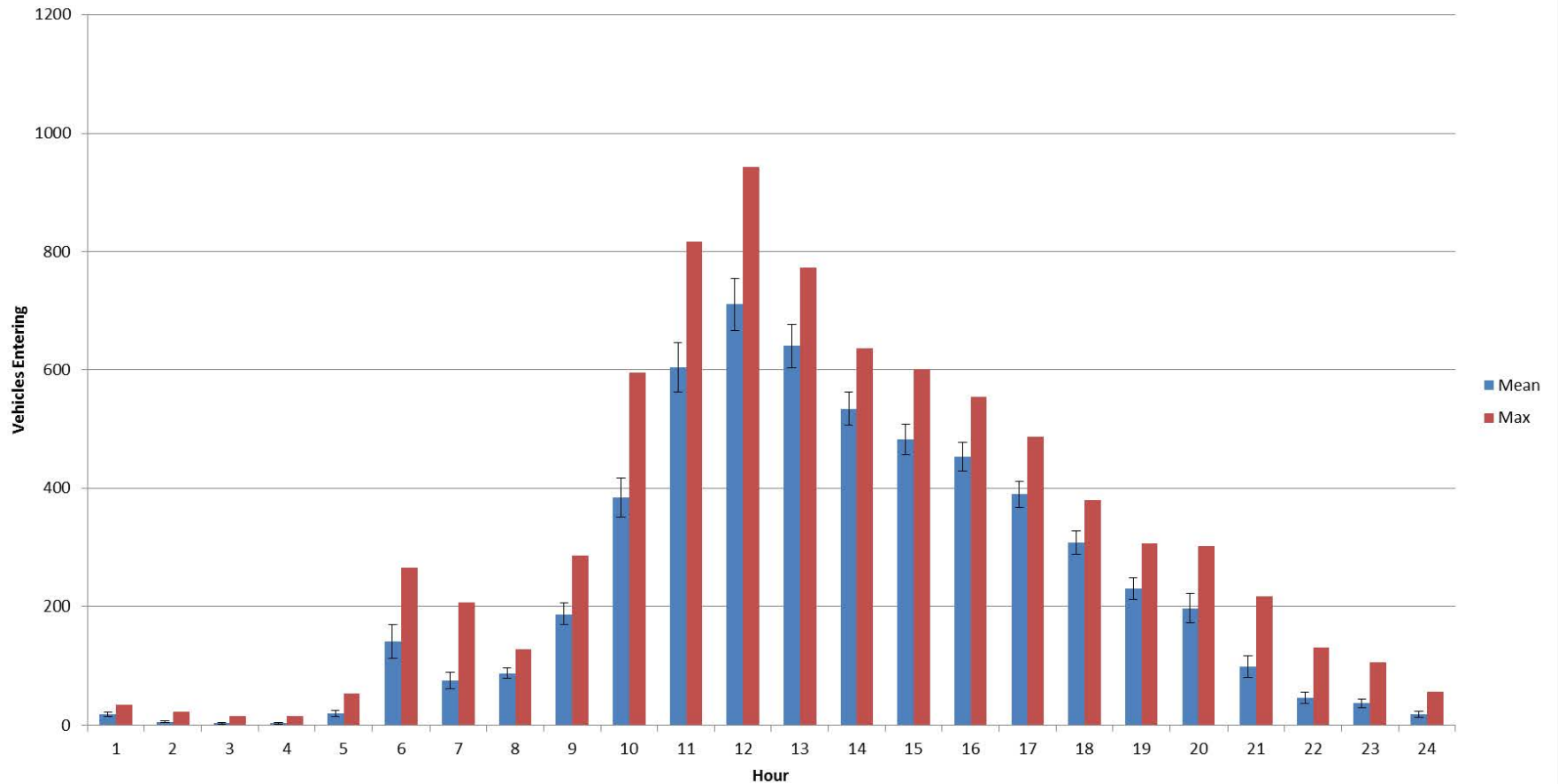
August

Total Daily Vehicle Traffic Entering the Park Loop Road for Six Entrances and the Paradise Hill Road Traffic Counter,
August 2015 (no VC, West St., or Cadillac Entrance).



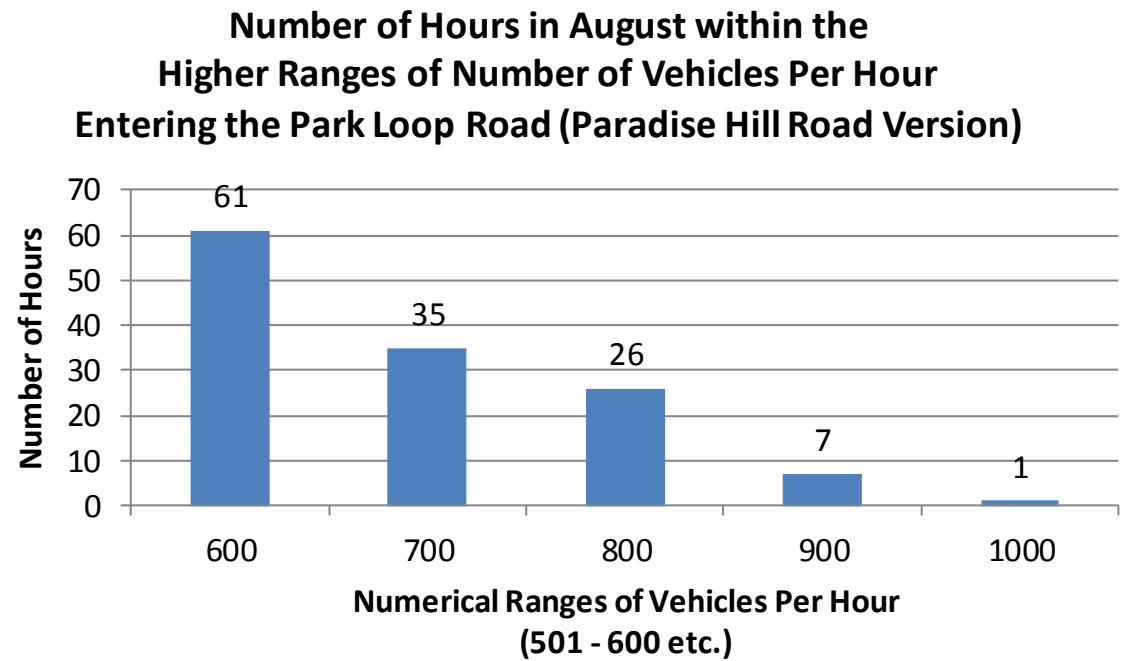
August

Mean and Maximum Hourly Vehicle Traffic Entering the Park Loop Road for Six Entrances and the Paradise Hill Road Traffic Counter, August 2015 (no VC, West St., or Cadillac Entrance).



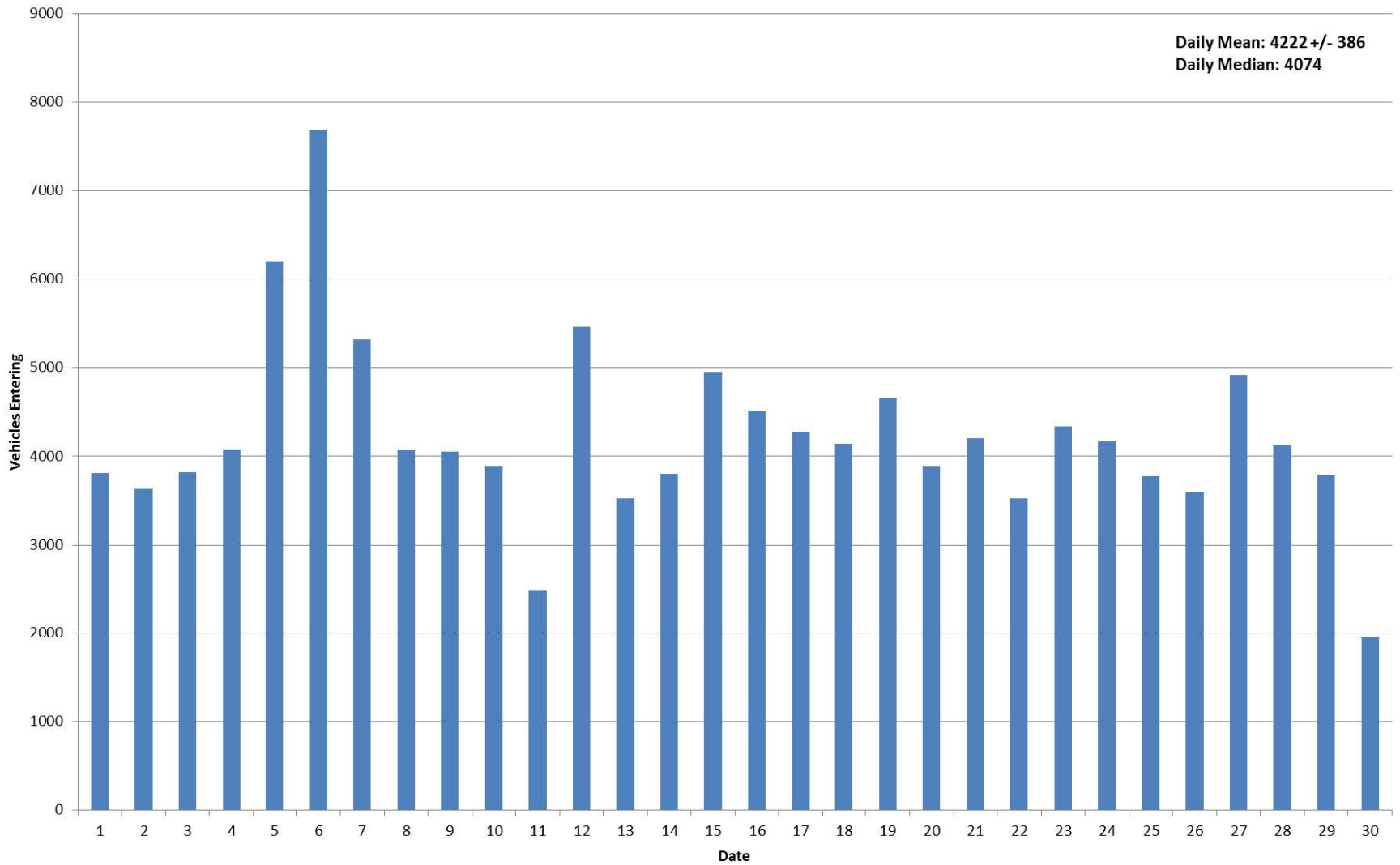
August

Hourly Bin	Frequency Number
0	7
100	316
200	78
300	82
400	64
500	67
600	61
700	35
800	26
900	7
1000	1
	0



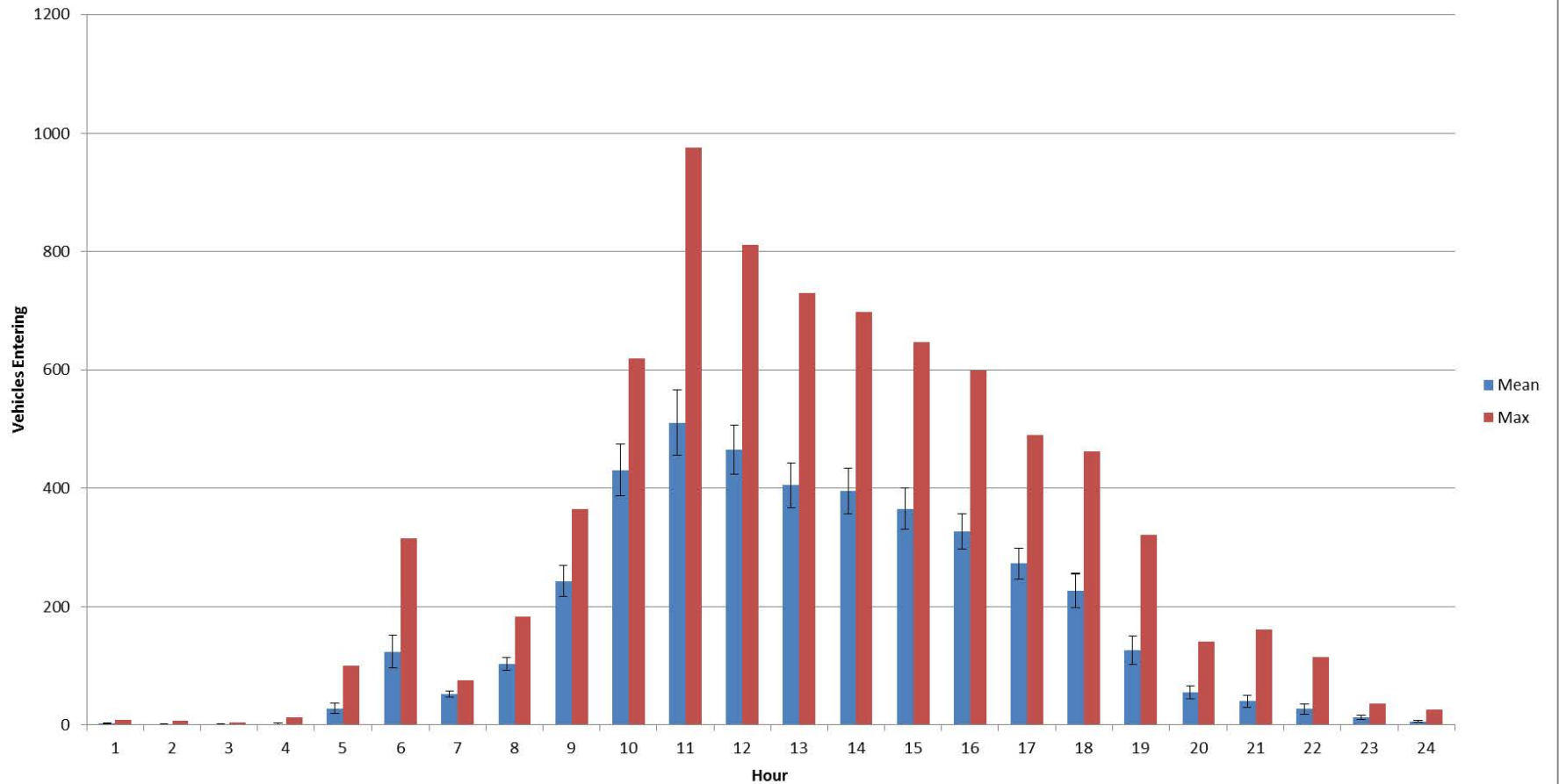
September

Total Daily Vehicle Traffic Entering the Park Loop Road for Six Entrances, and the Paradise Hill Road Traffic Counter,
September 2015 (no VC, West St., or Cadillac Entrance)



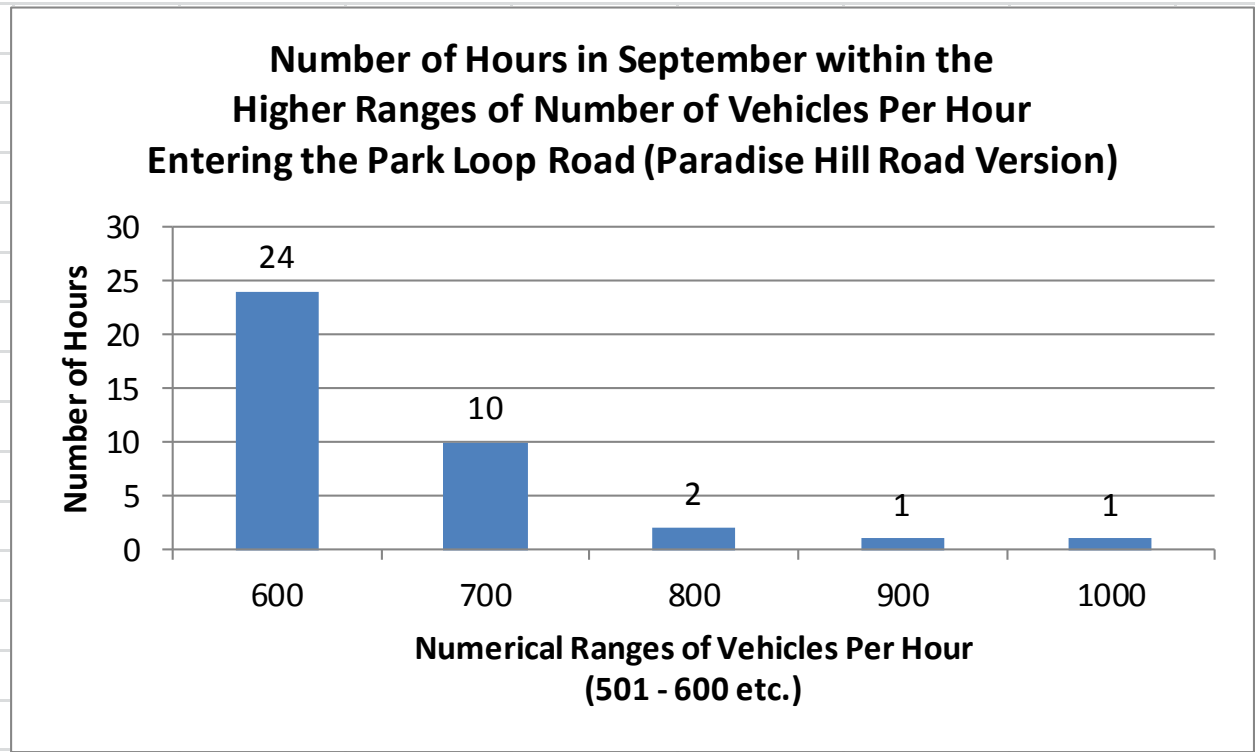
September

Mean and Maximum Hourly Vehicle Traffic Entering the Park Loop Road for Six Entrances and the Paradise Hill Road Traffic Counter, September 2015 (no VC, West St., or Cadillac Entrance).



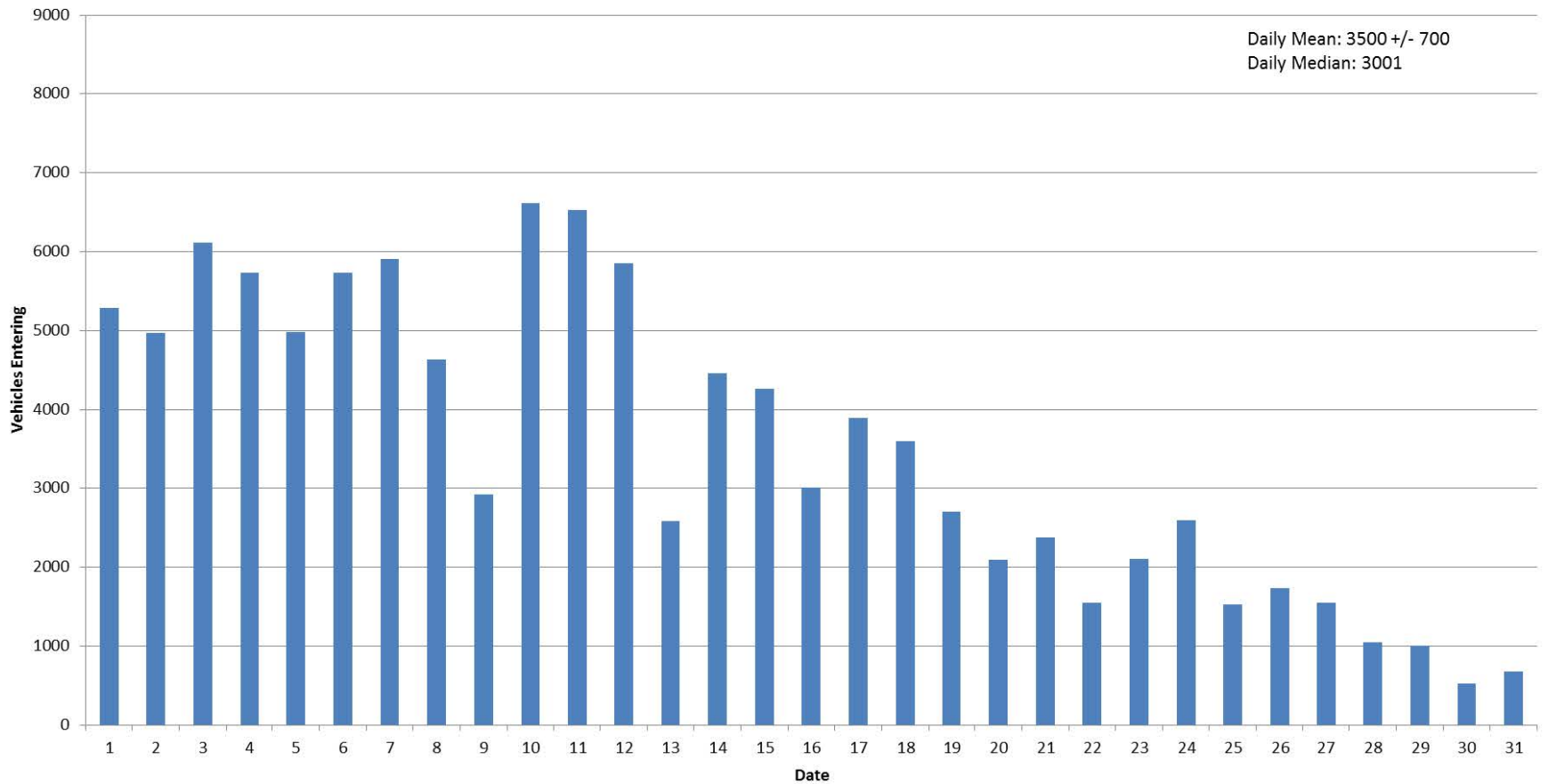
September

Hourly Bin	Frequency Number
0	34
100	331
200	69
300	89
400	90
500	69
600	24
700	10
800	2
900	1
1000	1
	0



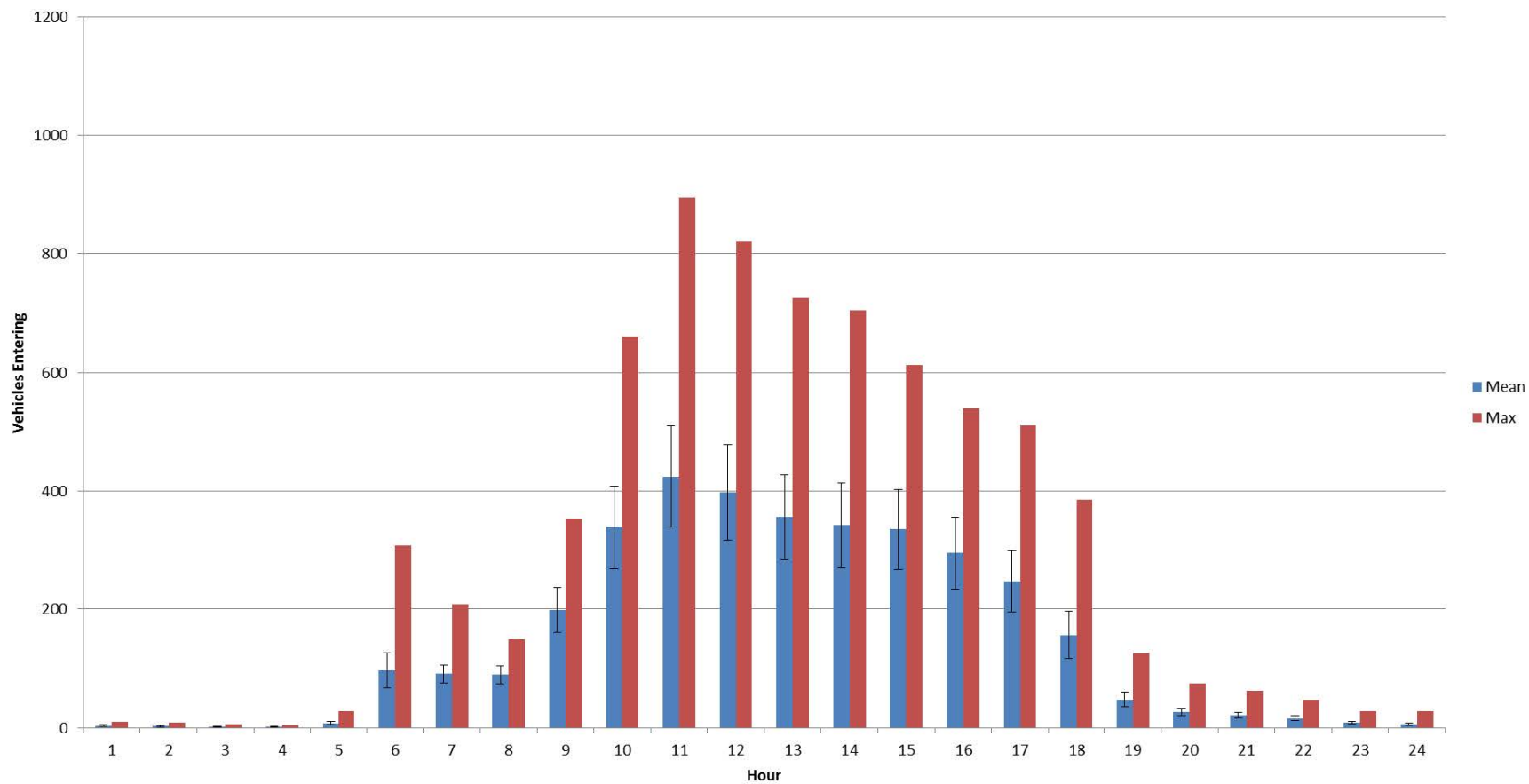
October

**Total Daily Vehicle Traffic Entering the Park Loop Road for Six Entrances and the Paradise Hill Road Traffic Counter,
October 2015 (no VC, West St., or Cadillac Entrance).**



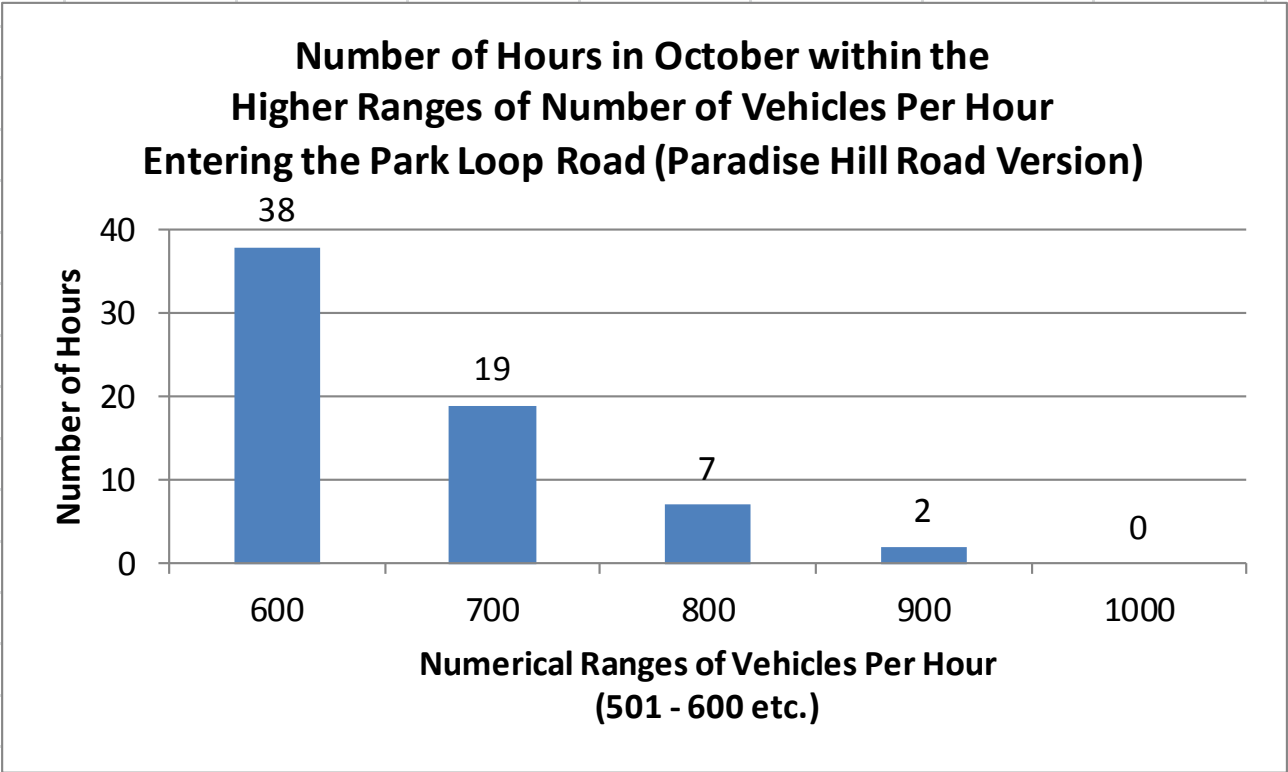
October

Mean and Maximum Hourly Vehicle Traffic Entering the Park Loop Road for Six Entrances and the Paradise Hill Road Traffic Counter, October 2015 (no VC, West St., or Cadillac Entrance).



October

Hourly	Frequency
Bins	Number
0	42
100	395
200	108
300	60
400	41
500	32
600	38
700	19
800	7
900	2
1000	0
	0



Number of Hours in Higher Traffic Ranges Side-by-side for July – October

