

Planning and Investing for Sustainable Urban Mobility in Developing Countries and Emerging Economies

- the Role of the Bicycle –



Question Workshop,
Velo-city 2011 Conference
24th March 2011, Seville, Spain
11.30-13.00 Room: Andalucia Room 3



Background

Rapid urbanization and motorization, worsening traffic congestion, accidents and increasing health problems present significant technological, economical and policy challenges for cities in developing countries. To respond to current problems in fast growing cities in the South, investments for sustainable urban mobility options are essential to achieve urban regions that reduce their environmental impacts besides being socially inclusive and economically efficient.

In the context of efforts towards sustainable urban development worldwide UN-HABITAT, the United Nations agency for human settlements, promotes better conditions for non-motorized transport options as a sustainable and cost-efficient urban mobility solution to reduce greenhouse gas emission and contribute to poverty alleviation.

Gehl Architects are leading advocates for sustainable urban mobility as a vital means to improve urban life quality, and have recently advised cities such as Guangzhou/China and Mexico City on urban infrastructure improvements.

The key challenges in many cities of developing countries and emerging economies are lack of awareness about the wide benefits of cycling, limited technical capacity to design improved non-motorized infrastructure and scarce financial resources for the implementation of necessary investments.

Objectives of the Workshop

The Question Workshop will focus on the role of the bicycle in sustainable urban mobility and on ways to support the planning, funding and implementation process for enhanced infrastructure and services.

The main objective of the workshop is to highlight the benefits of better infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists and opportunities for planning and investing in these modes in cities of developing countries and emerging economies.

The workshop, to be conducted in English, will provide an open forum for exploring effective ways to integrate these considerations into overall strategies for sustainable urban mobility. A lively debate among participants, who are encouraged to provide brief inputs on their respective country experiences and potential solutions for mobilizing investments for expanded infrastructure for cyclists in developing countries and emerging economies, is the overall goal of this workshop.

The workshop will be conducted in English.

Questions for Presentations and Debate

1. Which tools and methods are required to mobilize investments in bicycle infrastructure?
2. How can local authorities be assisted in establishing the necessary infrastructure and urban settlement patterns?
3. How can national governments be encouraged to avail funding for non-motorized infrastructure?
4. How can bicycle organizations be supported in making the case for expanded infrastructure and better conditions for bicyclists?
5. How can new partnerships be established to encourage private businesses and investors at international and domestic level to engage in bicycle infrastructure and service expansion?

Facilitators

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Lars Gemzøe, Associate Partner, Architect MAA, Gehl Architects

Registration

For registration see: www.velo-city2011.com

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