POLICY AND PUBLIC INITIATIVES TOWARDS PROMOTING WALKING & CYCLING IN AFRICAN CITIES

By

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Transport

- The role of transportation is key for the quality of human lives

- Is it only about moving from A to B?

  1. Safety
  2. Accessibility
  3. Choice
  4. Affordability
  5. Efficiency
  6. Convenience
  7. Freedom
  8. All-inclusiveness
Sustainable Transport

- Stemmed from the notion “sustainable development” - With the publication of the Brundtland Report “Our Common Future” by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987

- The notion cuts across all sectors including that of transport and hence the need for sustainable transport systems
Non-Motorized Transport-NMT

- Bicycling and walking
- Active modes of travel
- Human force powered

“The Forgotten Majority Mode”
Why NMT?

• Environmentally friendly

Carbon emissions (17%), being a major global threat to sustainability, and given that the share of the transport sector is increasing, it is important to consider transport systems with sustainable carbon emission levels. (Richardson C. Barbara, 2005).
Benefits Cont’d

• Space efficient
Benefits Cont’d

• **Affordability;** Acquisition, Maintenance & Infrastructure
Benefits Cont’d

• Health Benefits:

“A recent demographic survey carried out throughout the country has shown that 10 per cent of Uganda's population is obese and these include children and adults”. (Daily Monitor, 9th Oct, 2010)

Note: “Obesity is as a result of an imbalance of energy uptake & its expenditure”
Benefits Cont’d

• Energy Efficient
• Reduced Transport costs (transport consumes a huge percentage of household incomes in Africa)
NMT & Air Pollution

• Most affected are NMT Users
• More than 50% in most African cities use NMT
The crucial role of Traffic and Transportation

- Traffic and Transportation plays a crucial role in providing the right space (air) for people, business and thus cities as a whole.
But How do we respond to our traffic problems?
Road Expansion—Unfortunate trend?

- This process is now going on world wide.

- Also in expanding cities in Africa and Asia.

- This may not only be irrelevant but also increases pollution levels.
Kampala
NMT Policy initiatives

- NMT Policy for Uganda-sensitization on
- UNEP’s “Share the Road”-Design guidelines for NMT in Africa- UN Avenue first pilot -1.7 Km, Kigali Rwanda, Demonstration project, Rue de la revolution-1.5. Km, Kampala’s NMT pilot Project, 3.5 Km

Source: Share the Road by UNEP
NMT Policy initiatives

• UN-Habitat launched an NMT pilot project in informal settlements in Kenya (Kibera, Mirera-Karagita and Kamera)

• National Road Safety Policy; *Cycling lanes proposed-Uganda*

• National Urban Policy; *Compact cities, and cycling facilities proposed-Uganda*
NMT Policy Initiatives

• National Transport Policy in Ghana-NMT captured

• Some cycling infrastructure through informal “Fights” with contractors to include cycling lanes

• Many cyclists in Northern Ghana

Source: People & Mobility, UN-Habitat Report (2011)
Other initiatives

• Improved Pedestrian walk ways
• Car Free days
• Involving Key stakeholders in the process
• Bike sharing project-Makerere University
• Police bike patrol
Major Challenges

• Implementation gap: Prioritization or Lack of funding??

• Negative attitude (e.g., cycling not for women, for the poor, the weather, terrain, etc.)

• Lack of awareness

• Car Oriented planning approach & so ALL dream of owning cars=MORE POLLUTION

• Inadequate public transport which demeans human integrity
What Happened elsewhere? Trial and error

- Road safety
- Noise
- Congestion
- Pollution
- Integrated planning

- 1970
- 1980
- 1985
- 1995
- 2005
- 20...
Way Forward

- Multi-modality & relevant transport Planning
- Integrate land use & transport planning
- Compact City planning
- Improve Public transport
- Start Small-Pilot cases-Where there is obvious demand
- Air Quality Monitoring
- Media involvement & co-operation
Role Models

• We need them

• You and I can be!!!
"When I see an adult on a bicycle, I do not despair for the future of the human race" (Albert Einstein).
Thank you very much

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