

Heavy traffic on the way to sustainable cities and sustainable lives . . .

World Streets/This Month - April 2010



We are aware that most of our busy readers do not have the time to check into World Streets on a daily basis. For that reason we have from the beginning offered our subscribers and sponsors in addition to the daily edition, a monthly summary which brings together in one place all postings and comments in a manner in which the busy reader can review the month's titles in a few lines and make a decision as to whether or not to call up the full article with a single click. Time-efficient communication in an overload world.

April: The month that was

Another busy month on World Streets: 26 original articles coming in from colleagues and collaborators from Australia (several this month), Britain Canada, China, France, India, Japan, South Korea, and the US -- all of which are summarized briefly and then with a single click our available to you in the following pages.

New project: World Streets on Facebook



We are not Facebook experts, but nonetheless it appears that this is a legitimate communications tool that might be put to work to increase the worldwide reach of the sustainable transportation agenda. So with the help of our colleague Anzir Boodoo, we have today set up a first stage site/interface which you can access via <http://tinyurl.com/ws-first-steps>. We invite you to have a look, use as your interest and skill level permit, and, better yet, lend a hand and help us to do better.

Latest reader map:

And here you can see where the last eighty visitors came from. Generally representative of overall pattern, but from day to day with considerable variations. Our goal for 2010: bring in all those great white swaths.



[* Titles click to article](#)

World Streets/Monthly Report - March 2010

We very much doubt that most of our busy readers have the time to check into World Streets on a daily basis. For that reason we make available to our subscribers and sponsors in addition to the daily edition, a monthly summary which brings together in one place all postings and comments in a manner in which the busy reader can scan the month's titles in a few lines and make a decision as to

Posted on: Thu, Apr 1 2010 12:05 PM

Minister of Information



A book entitled "The Visual Display of Quantitative Information" by someone named Edward Tufte somehow landed on my desk in the middle 1980s and in a way it changed if not my whole life, at least a lot of my perceptions about the use of statistics and graphic images to convince, to propagandize, to beguile or simply to explain with balance and clarity what is really going on out there in the

Posted on: Mon, Apr 5 2010 6:35 PM

Vancouver Olympics - Lessons For Transport Planners

Every once in a while sustainable transport and sustainable city planners get a break. Some of these are immediately recognizable as such, for example when your city has decided to host some important international event such as the Olympic Games, a World Expo, or some kind of international athletic, cultural or political event, all of which occasions which may provide the funding and vision

Posted on: Wed, Apr 7 2010 4:10 PM

Americans want alternatives.

Fair enough. We all want choices. That is no more than human nature, But when it comes to transport policy and practice in the United States at the highest level, the idea of real choices is no less than a revolutionary statement. Right from the mouth of President Obama's Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood, who continues to surprise and delight. (But now, vigilant citizens, let's see



Posted on: Wed, Apr 7 2010 5:42 PM

Have you had a look at Urban Planet yet? "South Korea and Japan streets ahead in smart transport"

Urban Planet is a new information service of CNN.com offering active worldwide coverage of sustainability issues to which you may wish to lend an eye. You can pick it up today at <http://edition.cnn.com/CNN/Programs/urban.planet/>. And while it is not exactly our cup of tea here at World Streets -- i.e., their coverage is much broader than ours (agriculture, water, energy, construction, etc.)

Posted on: Thu, Apr 8 2010 5:18 PM

Chengdu China looking at caps on cars

"You can't not notice the horrid traffic in Chengdu. But it seemed authorities had turned a blind eye to the situation, hoping that the construction of pedestrian overpasses and the opening of the subway later this year would resolve the problem. In the meantime, traffic is only getting more backed up. Late last month, it was announced that the Chengdu government is drawing up plans to address



Crossing guard in Chengdu. Photo by Dan Sandoval.

Posted on: Fri, Apr 9 2010 11:15 AM

Moving People: Solutions for a growing Australia - Australian perspectives on sustainable transportation

When it comes to both old and new mobility, Australia offers an interesting case. Along with a group of countries that may seem surprisingly mixed at first glance, and which would include of course the perennial United States with the spacious Canada right in its footsteps, but which also a number of the Nordic countries and in particular Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland who have followed

Posted on: Mon, Apr 12 2010 9:59 AM

En Vélib' dans les éco-quartiers By Vélib' in Paris "eco-neighborhoods"

Okay, dear reader. If you want to get to the bottom of this update on how Paris's famous Vélib's are being integrated into the city's mobility and land use plan at a fair level of detail, you will have to make your way through this largely untouched machine translation of an article just published by the Vélib' team here in Paris. Courage! (If you want to know you will know. If you don't, you

Posted on: Tue, Apr 13 2010 9:11 AM

Cycling should be dull

" (Government) policy is not to make cycling safer but to encourage more people to be brave." The author, Janice Turner writing for the Times, puts her finger on one of the greater truths of public policy and cycling, which every city and every New Mobility activist will do well to bear in mind. In her words: "Cycling. . . should be banal. Because it is safe" Cycling should be dull, not an

Updated: Wed, Apr 14 2010 1:52 PM

Why Women Bike . . . and Why They Don't



To follow up on yesterday's piece by Janice Turner on "dull cycling" in the UK, the ever-stylish biker April Streeter reports from Portland on a survey of why women in the US cycle, and why they do not. (And if you are a female cyclist and have views on why women cycle, or perhaps do not, in your country, let us hear from you too.) Sporty cyclists few in Amsterdam but individualized and stylish

Posted on: Thu, Apr 15 2010 10:23 AM

World Streets in North America and the World: Sustainable transport indicators/lessons from?

Our reader maps, which are updated several times a day, reveal patterns that we think are worth at least a bit of inspection and thought from time to time. Here to get us started on this is one which reports the locations of the last 80 readers to check in to World Streets from North America this afternoon. Hmm. Does it tell us anything important? Let's have a look. The full picture for North

Posted on: Fri, Apr 16 2010 10:12 AM

Hundreds of Cars, No Garage: Recipe for a low carbon future - Australian perspectives on sustainable transportation

We are trying to get a better look at how sustainable transportation is coming along in Australia, as an example of one of the several handfuls of heavily motorized countries which have for decades concentrated on building (and in the process unknowingly locking themselves into) what is basically an all-car infrastructure. This is the second in what we intend to be a series of articles on this

Posted on: Mon, Apr 19 2010 11:47 AM

Hell is a gyratory system . . . so we want our cities back - Views from Britain on our one-way past

We put in traffic lights and stop signs in order to make our streets safe. We convert from two-way streets to one-way streets in order to permit cars to move more rapidly down them. And in almost all cases these decisions are made not on the basis of a broader systemic understanding of the traffic network as a whole, nor from an explicit philosophy as to what the basic underlying values and

Posted on: Tue, Apr 20 2010 2:02 PM

Honk! Complex thinking on reducing traffic signals in cities

What is that old saw that goes something like "the definition of high intelligence is the ability to keep two contradictory ideas in mind at the same time without ones head exploding?" Well, whatever the exact wording there is no doubt that this is an imperative capability for making wise policy in terms of our transportation arrangements. Here is an exchange taken from several leading

Posted on: Wed, Apr 21 2010 10:24 AM

The End of Climate? Hello Professor Krugman.



Engaging the battle to mitigate climate change is one of the fundamental driving principles behind World Streets, since we have taken it as our main metric for remedial action in the transport sector, which as you all know accounts for something like 20% +/-5% of all GHG emissions. By "metric" we mean that the climate emergency calls for sharp near-term reductions in emissions, and it just so

Posted on: Thu, Apr 22 2010 8:32 PM

The future for roads in 2050 - Australian perspectives on sustainable transportation

Several days ago Peter Newman of Infrastructure Australia and Professor of Sustainability at the Curtin University Sustainability Policy (CUSP) Institute was asked by the Sydney Morning Herald what the future for roads was going to look like in Australia in 2050. He gave them this: I think we will have roads with about 50% fewer cars on them in 2050 compared to today. The first signs are there

Posted on: Fri, Apr 23 2010 7:32 PM

Musing: How far is World Streets willing to go to get sponsorship support for 2010?

How would you feel about World Streets if we organize a special edition on electric cars with the sponsorship of General Motors or any other a major automotive manufacturer or upstream supplier? I hope you would feel at least a bit puzzled or impatient. And hopefully actually disappointed that we tumbled into that facile trap. Sure, electric vehicles are to be part of our future. No problem

Posted on: Mon, Apr 26 2010 3:19 PM

Honey, you gotta slow down



A bare five miles per hour over the speed limit on a city street, and . . .Editor's comment: It is the consistent position of this journal that much of what is wrong with our current transportation arrangements in cities could be greatly alleviated if we can find ways just to slow down. And it's not that hard. Stay tuned.(If you click here to <http://newmobilityagenda.blogspot.com/search/label/>

Posted on: Tue, Apr 27 2010 8:40 PM

Prisoner of car? (Working note from Communications 101)

If it is your firm belief that God is on our side (Gott mit uns) and that we are winning the battle of sustainable transport and sustainable lives, you will probably have little use for anything that might show up on a popular environmental site like TreeHugger. But hey! we are losing, so we need to be prepared to use every trick, talent and channel we can lay our hands on. Here is a



Posted on: Wed, Apr 28 2010 12:27 PM

Don't count on "alternative fuels" to save the world? (Dark bet on a pessimistic, high tech future)

Here we have an unusually perceptive piece from a specialist in chaos theory who helps us make sense of the "alternative fuels" proposals and claims. It is good to have his hardheaded expert view on the potential of alternative fuels in our future transportation arrangements. But it is important too that we reflect on his dark bet on a pessimistic, high-technology future: in which he sees us as

Posted on: Thu, Apr 29 2010 12:26 PM

[Tools: New Mobility Working Groups on line](#)

Just to your left you will see a new section under this title, the goal of which is to permit our readers to follow with a single click progress and postings in the main specialized discussion and reporting fora, for now covering the collaborative working platforms on: the New Mobility Café, World Transport Forum, World Carshare Consortium, World City Bike Forum, Value Capture/Tax Reform, World



Posted on: Fri, Apr 30 2010 6:10 AM

[Musing: Robin Chase on Sharing and Innovation](#)

Robin Chase, widely known as one of the innovators behind Zipcar, has spent a number of years looking at different ways of sharing cars and offers this thoughtful article on her personal blog, Network Musings, which we are pleased to share with you this morning. I believe there is a strong tie between sharing and the ability to innovate. This post will walk you through the logic.

Updated: Fri, Apr 30 2010 6:01 PM

[Curious about where carsharing is going?](#)



All you have to do is check out these two maps which report the last eighty visitors (locations) to check into the World Carshare Consortium -- www.worldcarshare.com -- today and the pattern unfolds right before your eyes. Pictures telling stories: Worldwide: The world map leaves us once again with our nagging question: why are we not seeing carsharing in those broad white swaths,

Posted on: Sat, May 1 2010 12:36 PM

Connection to 2010 monthly report summaries

- [January 2010: World Streets Monthly Report](#)
- [February 2010: World Streets Monthly Report](#)
- [March 2010: World Streets Monthly Report](#)

World Streets ABC's on organization and access (click to access)

- > [A: Start here / The Brief](#)
- > [B: New Mobility / The Strategy](#)
- > [C: World/Streets / The Resource](#)
- > [D: Expert views / The Reaction](#)
- > [E: Collaboration / Now what:](#)

World Streets in Italy - Nuova Mobilità

In June 2009, after four months of successful publication and an enthusiastic public reception in many parts of the world, we found ourselves talking with an Italian colleague, the environmental activist Enrico Bonfatti who had been scanning the readership maps of World Streets and in the process noted that there were only one or two regular readers of the publication in Italy. Why? Good question.

Might it be that there was no interest in the concept of better and more sustainable mobility systems in Italian cities? Or might there be another reason? We concluded that Italy was in many ways a typical case, and that is that while there is plenty of interest in many parts of the country in these matters, everyone is suffering from information overload on the one hand and furthermore that none of us, even those of us who know another language well, are all that comfortable if we have to read daily on these complex if interesting matters in anything other than our own main language. Now that may come as a surprise to anyone who thinks that English is taking over as the universal language, but if you actually take the time to speak with and get to know the people who are working with these matters at the level of cities, agencies, public interest groups, or even universities, you will see that when it comes to day-to-day communication all of us work best in our main language.



Enrico Bonfatti

So starting on 1 July with Enrico as managing editor, we set out on an adventure to bring these concepts into the daily life of colleagues across Italy, with the publication written in Italian and adapted for the Italian institutional context and felt priorities. Since then readership has expanded regularly and each day an average of anywhere from 100 to 200 Italian readers check in. What is especially striking about this map for those of you were familiar with Italy, is that in addition to the expected heavy readership in the northern half of the country, we are also seeing real interest from the South. This is an excellent sign for the future.

And if you wish to practice your Italian, nothing could be more simple: all you have to do is click to www.nuovamobilita.org. And if your usually excellent Italian should fill you, no problem, you will see the machine translation tool on the top left of the site. Benvenuti nel future della mobilità sostenibile in Italia.

Nuova Mobilita (Recent Visitor Map)

1st May 2010 1

