How U.S. Cities are Moving the Needle

Western Places | Western Spaces
Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute
Denver, CO
March 6, 2020
U.S. CONTEXT: CAR CULTURE

Source: Smart Growth America

Source: Rebecca Wilson, Flickr
Federal Funding for Bicycling & Walking Infrastructure

FIGURE 1.5.1 - # OF PROJECTS & TOTAL OBLIGATIONS TO PEDESTRIANS & BICYCLE FACILITIES & PROGRAMS BY YEAR

Source: League of American Bicyclists
U.S. CONTEXT: SEGREGATION

Source: Denver Public Library
AMERICANS BIKING TO WORK

Source: League of American Bicyclists
SAFETY INEQUITIES

According to data from the CDC, compared to white bicyclists, the fatality rate was 23% higher for Hispanic and 30% higher for African-American riders.

Source: League of American Bicyclists
STANDOUT CITIES

Bike Mode Share (%)  Bike Mode Shift 1990 to 2017

Portland, OR  Washington, DC  San Francisco, CA  Seattle, WA  Philadelphia, PA  Tucson, AZ  Denver, CO  Boston, MA  Sacramento, CA  Chicago, IL
1. High-Comfort Design
2. Quick-Build Networks
3. Multimodal Integration
4. Strategic Policies
HIGH-COMFORT DESIGN
lower stress tolerance

higher stress tolerance
RAISED CROSSINGS

Raised crossings had 50% crash reduction
(Schepers, J. P.; Kroeze, P. A.; Sweers, W.; Wüst, J. C. 2011)

Draft figure from the 2020 AASHTO Bike Guide
PROTECTED INTERSECTIONS

Draft figure from the 2019 AASHTO Bike Guide
QUICK-BUILD NETWORKS

Source: Marques et al., 2015
SEVILLE, SPAIN

SOURCE: MARQUES AND HERNANDEZ-HERRADOR
HOUSTON’S “BUILD 50” CHALLENGE
EARLY RESULTS
NEW ORLEANS
3 MULTIMODAL INTEGRATION
4 STRATEGIC POLICIES
Cambridge passed a first-of-its-kind ordinance mandating protected bike lanes as part of roadway reconstruction.
KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Focus on the MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENTS of HIGH-COMFORT DESIGN.

2. If given the chance, BUILD YOUR NETWORK QUICKLY.

3. INTEGRATE all modes.

4. Institute POLICIES that ALIGN WITH YOUR GOALS.