



BICYCLE RESEARCH REPORT NO. 21

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A G WELLEMAN: THE DUTCH BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

“BICYCLE MASTER PLAN” TO BECOME PART OF DUTCH TRAFFIC POLICY.

SUPPORT FOR CYCLING ALSO TO GENERATE GREATER USE OF RAILWAYS.

The Key Facts

A "Bicycle master plan" is to form part of a Dutch policy for a sustainable society and is to help to restrict the growth of motor traffic. Use of bicycles is to be increased by at least 30% by the year 2010 by various means including links with public transport. This will also help to increase rail traffic by at least 15%.

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The aim is to link together policies on environment, transport and planning in the Netherlands and thus create a long-term sustainable society. This will involve the careful use of resources - clean and efficient vehicles, for example, restrictions on land available for the infrastructure, and traffic restrictions in inner-city areas and nature reserves. Mobility is to be reduced by using short routes between the most important destinations. Bicycles, public transport and car-sharing are to be promoted as alternatives to the car. Many places will only be accessible by lorry, bus or shared car - not by private car.

By the year 2010, hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen from cars are to be reduced by 75% compared with 1986 levels; CO emissions are to fall by 75% and fatal accidents by 50% and the number of injured is to be reduced by 40%. The use of private cars is to grow less than was originally forecast - (+35% as opposed to +75%) and public transport is to carry 50-100% more passengers.

Even in 1989 as many as 29% of all journeys in the Netherlands were made by bicycle. The bicycle master plan, devised in 1990 for 1995, intends to increase this by 30% to at least 3.5 billion cycle-kilometres. Improvements in bike-and-ride facilities should thus also help to increase use of rail by 15% (+1.5 billion passenger-kilometres).

The bicycle master plan concentrates on three areas: firstly, creating the right conditions, which include cycleways, traffic calming and better parking



facilities. Secondly, supporting pilot schemes and experiments, and thirdly encouraging' cyclists and bringing pressure to bear on influential organizations, politicians, decision-makers and the media. The information programme includes an English-language video shown at the Velo-City conference in Milan and an English-language brochure planned for January 1992.

- Lecture "The Role of the Bicycle in the Urban Transport System: Holland." Lecture by A G Welleman in English, given at the Velo-City conference in Milan, on 20.11.91.
- Addresses Ir A G Welleman, project leader, and Ir H P Weijers, Dutch Ministry of Transport, hoofddirectie van de waterstaat, Projektgruppe Masterplan Fiets, postbus 20906, NL-2500 EX Den Haag, Tel. +31-70-374 4548, fax +31-70-374 4164 (Welleman);+31-70-374 4159, fax +31-50-374 4335 (Weijers). Video can be hired from: ADFC, Postfach 107744, DW-2800 Bremen.