



BICYCLE RESEARCH REPORT NO. 156

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Ways Forward for Cycling: 30 Examples of good Practice in France

French towns build exemplary cycle infrastructure. Slow renaissance of bicycle culture in France

Key Facts

A brochure published by the French urban research institute CERTU presents 30 examples from French towns and regions of innovative approaches to the promotion of cycling. Solutions for leisure and, above all, everyday cycling include cycle paths, cycle parking and publicity campaigns. The brochure is intended for local decision-makers and planners.

Content

The French Centre for the Study of Urban Planning, Transport and Public Facilities (CERTU) has published a brochure presenting 30 examples from French towns and regions of innovative ways in which cycling is now being promoted even in certain regions of France.

The examples, selected from the wide variety of recent French initiatives, show a range of different approaches to promoting cycling for leisure and as a daily means of transport. The brochure presents progress on cycle paths, cycle parking facilities at public transport stations and stops, and publicity campaigns. It is intended for local decision-makers and planners in the various local authorities.

Strasbourg, with its extensive network of cycle paths, its distinctive system of cycle route signage, and the systematic way in which it is integrating cycling facilities into the tram network which it is currently developing, is so far the only French town to have developed a real cycling culture. Bicycles can be taken on trams, and cycle parking facilities are being built along the tram routes.

In Paris, where cycling has in the past accounted for less than one per cent of road traffic, 40 km of bus lanes have been opened up to cyclists since 2001. Where space allows these lanes are widened to 4.50 m so that cyclists and buses can overtake each other. Paris is also developing bicycle service centres at selected rapid transit stations, offering bicycle hire, secure parking, storage and repairs under the trade name 'Roue Libre' ('freewheel').

Even Lille, where cars account for 60% of all journeys - the highest modal



split in any large French town - is now backing cycling, pedestrians and 30 km/h zones in its urban mobility plan. The 2003 budget includes 200.000 Euro for cycling, and a three-year publicity campaign is intended to encourage people to use their cars less.

Grenoble has a budget of 20 million Euro over four years for the promotion of cycling, which includes 25-30 km of cycle paths, parking for 500 bicycles and a Publicity campaign aimed at schoolchildren and employers.

Various French regions provide good examples of ways of promoting cycle-touring. The network of cycle routes in the Lower Rhine now Covers 330 km and the department is investing a further 3 million Euro. The first cycle route in Burgundy, linking Givry and Cluny, is already used by 7.000 cyclists a week in the high season. The small town of Creon, near Bordeaux, aims to become a cycling resort, on the model of a ski resort, and offers ten circular cycle routes. Vosges Department Council bought two stretches of disused railway line and covered 90% of the capital costs of building the 52 km long and 3 m wide Hautes Vosges Greenway.

Further examples of urban cycling developments documented in the brochure come from Annecy, Besançon, Calais, Chalon-sur-Marne, Chambéry, Hérault, La Rochelle, Lorient, Nantes, Romans, Raverny, Toulouse and Vendée. Further examples of cycletouring developments come from Baie de Somme, Gironde department, the island of Re, Poitevin marsh and Var department.

Publication	<i>'Des voies pour le velo'</i> (Ways forward for cycling), ISBN 2-211-094103, ISSN 0247-1159. Price 20 Euro.
Order information	CERTU Centre d'Études sur les réseaux, les transports, l'urbanisme et les constructions publiques (Centre for the Study of Urban Planning, Transport and Public Facilities), sales office, 9, rue Juliette Recamier, F-69456 Lyon Cedex 6, www.certu.fr
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Annex

- **WAYS FORWARD FOR CYCLING**
30 examples of good practice in France

