

Walking as a pillar in the sustainable human mobility planning

Ole Thorson

IFP President

Spain

Qualification of the presenter:

Ole Thorson, Civil engineer, Mobility Consultant and President of the IFP, International Federation of pedestrians

Co-author(s): Thanos Vlastos, Professor, National Technical University of Athens, Chairman of the OECD working group on Pedestrian safety, urban space and health.

Proposal:

Abstract for the Xth International Conference on Walking, Walk21 in The Hague (OECD Working Group on: Pedestrian Safety, Urban Space and Health) Walking as a pillar in the Sustainable and Human Mobility Planning - Ole Thorson, President of IFP - Thanos Vlastos, National Technical University of Athens, professor In the Joint Transport Research Committee of OECD, the Working Group on 'Pedestrian Safety, Urban Space and Health', preparing a report addressed to the governments of the member states, during the last two years, experience is put together. The pedestrian is the point of vision. The overall objective of the Working Group is to investigate Policies, to be applied by governments, in order to make walking and sojourning in the urban space the pillar of urban transportation because first of all and what is at stake is quality of life, safety and health. This paper deals with Sustainable Mobility Planning and the place and role of Walking. For Mobility Planning, throughout the OECD countries, all political and administrative levels are involved and play a role in items as ☐ Organisation of planning process and participation ☐ Public transport and intermodality - walking ☐ Classification of road network ☐ Parking policy ☐ Pricing policy (i.e. Toll systems) ☐ Pedestrian infrastructure, ☐ Car Sharing and Car Pooling There are many problems in the actual situation of transport in the majority of cities: accidents, poor pedestrian infrastructure and accessibility obstacles, pollution, noise, lack of urban space aesthetics. Walking belongs to a broader strategy for a more human, functional, productive, healthy and less energy consuming sustainable city. It is time to think, in the cities, first about Human Mobility and not transport of cars. Human Mobility Planning has not to focus on the projection of actual trends but on the real tomorrow's needs. ☐ to free urban space for the pedestrian ☐ to reduce speeds ☐ to reduce the number of cars ☐ to enhance public transport and its intermodality as a necessity for the future in the big cities ☐ to put in place other environmentally friendly means ☐ to ensure continuity in the pedestrian movements ☐ to inverse priorities in favor of the pedestrian For the human mobility point of view these will be the principal aims of the Sustainable Mobility Planning. To combine Urban Planning with Mobility Planning: high densities around public transport stations and mixed land use are guarantors of short trips and walking. So to stop urban sprawl, to adapt cities with the geography of public transport networks and to ease accessibility of the stations for pedestrians is also a very important issue. Actually the big number and the low cost of parking places near activities stimulate car use. It is crucial to implement a radically different parking policy as a very effective tool to modify attitudes and mentality.