



CAR FREE DAY 2011, KAMPALA

Background

Sustainable transport is a "hot" topic globally at a time when climate change is also a matter of serious concern. The phrase sustainable transport is used to refer to means of transport with more fuel efficient, space saving and healthy living alternatives. Such means are also referred to as green modes of transport. Walking and bicycling are examples of such means of transport.

Traditional transport planning aims at improving mobility, especially for vehicles, and may fail to adequately consider wider impacts. And according to the Intergovernmental report on Climate Change (2007), Greenhouse gas emissions from transport are increasing at a faster rate than any other energy using sector. Road transport is also a major contributor to local air pollution. It is important to consider transport systems with sustainable carbon emission levels. Furthermore, more than 600,000 people on the globe die every year in road accidents and about 50 million people are seriously injured. (Visions Report, issue no.5). The World Health Organization estimates that by 2020, traffic and transport related accidents will be the second major cause of deaths and injuries in developing countries.

But the real purpose of transport is access - to work, education, goods and services, friends and family - and there are proven techniques to improve access while simultaneously reducing environmental and social impacts, boosting economic status and managing traffic congestion. The use of a bicycle is such a technique. Increased use of public transport systems may also reduce the aggregate volume of private car traffic and thus lead to less driving in the society as a whole. Bicycle transport has been rated very convenient and efficient, especially for short distances (3-7 Km)

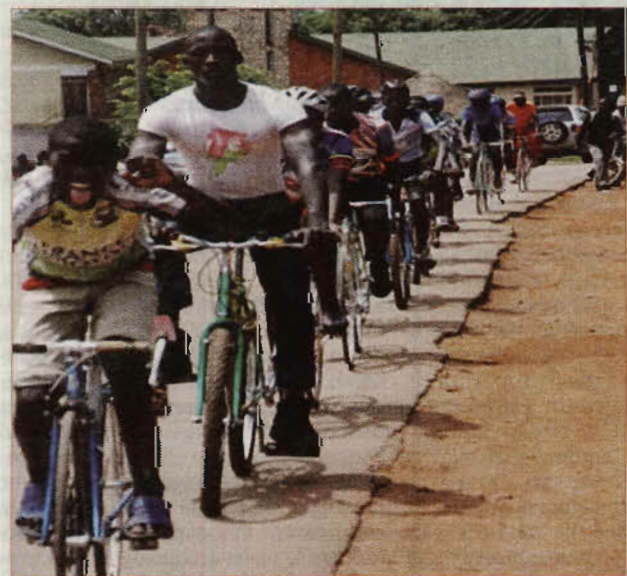
"When I see an adult on a bicycle, I do not despair for the future of the human race" (Albert Einstein)."

Introduction

In April this year, a workshop was organized by Kampala City Council on "Sustainable Urban Land use development, with a focus on sustainable transport. By the end of the workshop, non motorized modes of transport were much appreciated, and a pilot project for a section of the city was proposed. It was also realized that the public required sensitization and awareness about the advantages of bicycle transport. On that basis, team of advocacy groups, co-ordinated by Goudappel Africa, a land use, traffic and transport planning company in Uganda proposed a Car Free Day which is actually celebrated in several countries every 22 September.

Car Free Day Kampala 2011

This event, the first of its kind in Uganda will take place on Saturday, 10th December 2011. It is aimed at allowing bicycle riders to bike freely and comfortably for a period of two & half hours without fear of being knocked by vehicular traffic. The pedestrians will also be part of the fun that day. This Car Free Day will also be a mode of social unity and creating a feeling of togetherness and cohesion for sustainability. It is also aimed at raising awareness among the public and the policy makers about the need for safe co-existence with the non motorised traffic. It will also be a reward to the bicyclists and pedestrians for choosing the most sustainable modes of travel despite the feeling of unsafety and the negative attitude attached to those modes. The fun trip starts at Makerere University swimming pool area heading to Wandegaya, Bombo road, Kampala road, Jinja road, Yusufu Lule road, Wandegaya, Kampala road, and straight on to Kyadondo Rugby Grounds through Jinja road. About 250 people are expected to participate.



"Let Kampala Car Free Day be a showcase for just how our city might look like, feel like, and sound like without cars...365 days a year".

Mission

To raise awareness among the general public and the policy makers to the fact that bicycle transport and walking should be seriously recognized and respected for safety, efficiency, and environmental protection as well as economic development and social cohesion.

International Car Free Days

Car Free Days have been organized in several Countries. Hundreds of cities in up to 40 countries take part in World Car Free Day, an event first organised in Britain by the Environmental Transport Association (ETA). A Car free day is not about condemning cars; it's simply a celebration of environmentally-sensitive, health promoting and affordable transport. Bogota held the first Car Free Day in 2000, and it was later institutionalized to cover the whole city, on annual basis. In 2007, a Car Free Day was held in Jarkarta, Indonesia, by closing the main city avenue from cars. Currently, it is being held on a bi-weekly basis. Several cities in the Netherlands hold car free days on annual basis. Every September 22, Car Free Days are held in numerous countries. This will be the first time Uganda is joining the international community to promote sustainable urban transport in that manner.

Why bicycle transport in Kampala

Despite the numerous advantages of bicycle transport, it has not been accorded due status as a mode of transport. Bicycle transport is environmentally friendly, space efficient, healthy, self regulated and cheap to acquire and maintain. Its advantages are universal and therefore apply to all countries whether developed or not. It may perform excellently in some geographical locations because of the weather and terrain, but this does not prohibit its use when deemed convenient and efficient. It may also be affected by the cultural attitudes and myths such as loss of virginity. The good news is that recent research carried out in Kampala reveals that 80% of those that do not ride wish to do so but are affected by attitude and lack of cycling infrastructure.

Transport costs are inevitable because land uses and services must be accessed. Additionally, with the current economic crisis, transport costs have increasingly skyrocketed and yet travel is unavoidable. The pollution in the city center is also immense due to the increasing number use of used cars. Traffic congestion has also become worse and is expected to worsen if the current trend of private car use is not supported by alternative and convenient means of travel.



It is therefore high time that we celebrated the advantages of bicycle transport, reward those that are currently using it as an alternative mode of transport and promote its general use among the public by making it safer and popular. This will be an alternative to several road users. Our city will also be people friendly.

"Cities of bicycles are more people friendly, and city planning that considers cyclists and pedestrians will form a significant contribution to the humanistic city of the future". (Danish Ministry of foreign affairs, 2010)

Objectives of the Car Free Day

1. To demonstrate to all road users the need to promote safety of the cyclists and pedestrians, better air quality, safer, and healthier environment in Kampala city.
2. To foster Networking and lobbying for a cycling friendly policy & infrastructure.

Activities

The activities of the day will include bicycle decorating, bicycle riding, bicycle parking, walking, and sustainable transport information. Participants will also receive free tickets to attend "This is Uganda Festival" at Kyadondo Rugby Grounds. Registration will start at 8:00 am at Makerere University Swimming pool area. Bicycles are available but participants could come with their own. The Car Free Day will officially start at 10:00 am at Makerere Swimming pool area and end at 1:00 pm at Kyadondo Rugby Grounds.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased awareness of cycling benefits
- Increased need for an all inclusive transport policy
- Awareness of the need for Infrastructural provisions for cycling and walking
- Media attention

Organizers

TAFMOD

The African Forum for Mobility and Development (TAFMOD) is a non-governmental organization with an aim of promoting sustainable transport and mobilizing cyclists as an alternative mode of transport in the Kampala City.

Kampala Cycling

Kampala Cycling is a project by Luby Youth ManPower Development Agency (LYMPDA). LYMPDA is a local humanitarian organization that influences behavioral change amongst children and youth in the poorest communities of Kampala. It is also providing bicycles for this year's Car Free Day.

FABIO

The First African Bicycle Information Organization (FABIO) is a Uganda based non-governmental organization that believes in utilizing non-motorized transport as a vital tool for sustainable development. As the planet works towards its development goals, FABIO believes it is important to remain conscious of the global environment to ensure the sustainability of economic and social growth.

TEENS-Uganda

TEENS-Uganda is a community based organization aimed at empowering the Youth through creative art, positive life choices and advocacy.

Goudappel Africa Ltd

This year's Car Free Day is being coordinated by Goudappel Africa. Goudappel Africa is a land use, traffic and transport company in Uganda. It is providing all the technical and information aspects in relation to transport sustainability. The main goal is provide ultimate advice that maximizes the integration of land use and transport systems, as well as traffic management for sustainable transport systems.

Partnerships

This year's Car Free Day is being organized in partnership with "This is Uganda Festival", a talent promoting annual event in Uganda.

Sponsors

Car Free Day, Kampala 2011 is proudly sponsored by Iganga Foundation, an affiliate social responsibility foundation to Goudappel Coffeng, a Dutch traffic and transport consultancy.

Contacts

To participate and any other inquiries regarding the Car Free Day, please visit our website; www.carfreedayug.org or send us an e-mail us on carfreedayug@gmail.com or call; Tel; +256 787661518 or +256782007566.

Ms Amanda A. Ngabirano
Coordinator, Car Free Day Kampala 2011



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