

SPREADING TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW AND BUILDING POLITICAL CONFIDENCE IN THE BICYCLE MASTER PLANNING

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ABSTRACT

After 6 years of cycling promotion within local authorities, the Association des Départements Cyclables (ADC) network has come to the conclusion that spreading a “cycling culture” depended on two key elements:

1. Spread know-how within planners, developers, technical staff, engineers and decision makers more effectively.
2. Make decision-makers and local politicians feel more confident in the bicycle plan they ought to defend

To fulfil these goals, the ADC network undertook two different projects.

It first worked on a **teaching system** that could be used and adapted to any kind of public, going from technical staff to planners and decision makers. This teaching system gives out technical and pragmatic tools as well as headlines and main knowledge of a cycle master planning. This work was achieved in mid-2005 and is now free of use by any local authority part of the ADC network in France.

As for politicians and decision makers, we realized that if they more and more genuinely believe in the purposes of cycling development, they also very much lack confidence and courage when it comes to defend a cycling program. We are therefore currently working on a dedicated tool which would give them all data and arguments necessary in order them to feel confident and able to confront any opponent, voter or fellow decision maker on their cycling development policy.

BODY OF THE PAPER

1. Short presentation of the ADC network goals and objectives in the context of France’s local authorities in order for the audience to better understand the presentation.
2. Presentation of the technical support: how we came to make it, how it’s being used and conclude by a critical approach of the strength and weaknesses of such tool.
3. Presentation of the political/decision makers’ approach: how we came to undertake such project, our method and our hopes regarding this tool which we hope to achieve sometimes during 2006.

REFERENCES

- « Mallette pédagogique », Association des départements cyclables – ADC2005
- « Argumentaire vélo », document provisoire – ADC2006
- Collection l’Essentiel Sur, N°1, 2 3 4 et 5, Association des départements cyclables – Editions Techni.Cités