

The Bicycle Co-ordinator / Cycling Officer: A Critical Catalyst for Change in a Car Culture

Andy Clarke, Executive Director, Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals
P.O. Box 23576, Washington DC 22043, USA
Andy.clarke@fhwa.dot.gov

What can the typical US city, with less than one percent of trips made by bicycle, teach the world in comparison to the typical Dutch or Danish urban area where closer to one third of trips are made by bike. Sadly, many parts of the world are closer to the US situation than the Dutch and thus might find it useful to learn that in almost all successful cities for cycling in North America and at the Federal and State level of Government, dedicated bicycle program staff have been a critical catalyst for change.

What does the bicycle co-ordinator do? Where do they work? How much do they earn? What impact have they had? How do they operate? Are they required?

This paper would present answers to these and other questions based on more than a decade of working with Federal, State and local bicycle co-ordinators throughout the United States and Canada. The author completed detailed surveys of bicycle co-ordinators in 1990 and 1995 and will present the findings of a 1999/2000 survey currently underway on behalf of the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals.