

Childstreet 2005

First announcement and call for contributions, suggestions and interest.

The International Institute for the Urban Environment (IIUE), the City of Delft and the network of Child Friendly Cities in the Netherlands are pleased to announce the summer conference Childstreet2005.



**“A city friendly to children
is a city friendly to all”**

A conference on the development, design and evaluation of a child-friendly public space, geared for playing, walking and cycling.



**Wednesday 24th - Friday 26th August 2005
Delft, The Netherlands**





Why Delft?

Innovation in the field of child-friendly public spaces and traffic has played an important role in Delft since the introduction of the woonerf in the 1960s. Delft was in 1986 the first Dutch city to realise a comprehensive bicycle network in an existing town. Today the municipality wants to improve further the position of cyclists in Delft with special emphasis on the position of children. The current Safe Routes for Children project focussing on seven different aspects of independent mobility will be completed in summer 2005. The tangible results will be presented during the conference.

Background

It is well known that free-playing outdoors and independent mobility have great benefit for children's physical and mental health. City planning and management of public space should therefore create a rich learning environment for children that allows them to gradually grow into independent little pedestrians and cyclists in their town or city. By creating such favourable conditions for children urban planners and managers will also be developing an environment beneficial to all. Not only the mobility of the elderly and the handicapped will be facilitated but people will be stimulated to meet each other, experience city life and discover urban cultural heritage.



Conference aim

The purpose of this 3 day international conference is to bring together parents, politicians, planners, pressure groups, professionals, practitioners and other people to share current thinking and disseminate good practice on one of the most pressing challenges facing local government today: how can we facilitate children's needs for playing and independent (walking and cycling) mobility in ever busier cities?

During the conference we will look for solutions providing the on-street child-friendly balance between traffic and social activities like meeting and playing. This requires finding the right combination of conditions to make different kinds of traffic compatible with the needs of children. In our vision three kinds of traffic 'regime' are feasible.

1. The standard situation within built-up areas should be mixed traffic on condition that the speed is effectively limited to 30 km/h with sufficient pavement space for pedestrians.
2. An exception to 50-km/h maximum, if necessary, can be permitted on condition that safe and ample facilities for pedestrians and cyclists are provided.
3. A third component are zones where the pedestrian is dominant and where children can play and have their first biking experiences. They should be within easy reach of every house and every school. Examples are pedestrian zones and 'woonerf'-like areas where cycling and some motorized traffic is permitted but only dead slow.

Particular attention will be paid to the Dutch woonerf (living yard, residential area, recreation area). The original concept will be studied and current woonerf practice compared with both 30km areas and pedestrian zones. Similar solutions (home zone, wohnstrasse, cul-de-sac) realised in different countries, with or without the original traffic sign, will be studied and reasons for similarities and differences identified.



Conference format

In the conference we will focus on the lessons that can be learned from the past to design the child-friendly public space for the future. We intend to exhibit and discuss relevant illustrated examples from the Netherlands and worldwide. We will share ideas using different formats like presentations, discussions, design workshops and excursions in Delft and The Hague. Excursions on demand to other interesting projects are possible.

Planning

December 1st 2004:

closing submission of contributions / suggestions / interest by email

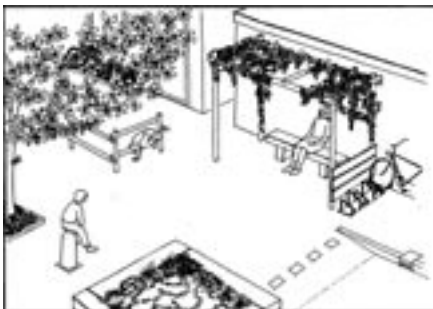
March 1st 2005:

the program will be published on the conference website

June 1st 2005:

registration information on the conference website

If you are interested in participating or you have contributions or suggestions, please let us know by email (childstreet2005@urban.nl). We will register your interest and send more information when appropriate.



Conference partners

- The International Institute for the Urban Environment (IIUE) [www.urban.nl]
- The City of Delft [www.gemeentedelft.info]
- Network of Child Friendly Cities in the Netherlands, an initiative of VNG and Jantje Beton, in cooperation with 3VO and BNSP [www.kindvriendelijkestedes.nl]
- KPVV, Knowledge Platform for Traffic and Transport [www.kpvv.nl]
- 3VO, National Traffic Safety Organisation [www.3vo.nl]

Steering committee

- Tjeerd Deelstra, director IIUE
- Janneke Zomervrucht, 3VO, children traffic safety consultant, one of the initiators of the CFC network in the Netherlands
- Steven Schepel, former president NGO 'Stop de Kindermoord', former manager National Sustainable Safety program, Ministry of Transport
- Jan Torenstra, alderman Neighbourhood Affairs, the City of Delft
- Lia Karsten, lecturer in Urban Studies, Department of Geography and Planning, University of Amsterdam



Program management

- Donald Boyd, IIUE (project manager)
- Eddie Kips, The Hague University (senior lecturer) & Cyclist Union

Contact details

childstreet2005@urban.nl
www.urban.nl/childstreet2005

Conference language

The official language of the conference is English.

Conference proceedings

Apart from the website we will publish the results on a more sustainable paper carrier. Conference participants will receive the proceedings for free. Others can order the proceedings separately.