

Active mobility in Durban

Making EThekwini a more walkable city

Have you ever asked German colleagues or friends, what they miss about Germany? I would guess that one of the most common answers will be about the freedom to safely move, walk and cycle in their home towns. Most will explain, how much they have learnt to appreciate the safe environment back home.

EThekwini Municipality aims to provide this kind of safe, walkable and cyclist friendly environment: "Climate Change Resilient Transport: Enhancing Active Mobility in EThekwini and as part of the Bridge City / KwaMashu Precinct Plan" is the rather long title for a workshop held at the Go!Durban office from 4- 6. July 2017 facilitated through GIZ. EThekwini Transport Authority (ETA) has acknowledged the importance of Non-Motorised Transport Planning; but the discipline is still an under-developed field in South Africa. In this workshop Active Mobility / Non-Motorised Transport (NMT) Expert Torben Heinemann from Leipzig in Germany shared his experience with 45 practitioners from different Municipality Departments and further stakeholders.

Two global projects implemented by GIZ are represented in Durban and have co-operated to make this workshop successful. "Cities Fit for Climate Change", a global network to strengthen cities as actors of sustainable development, has facilitated the participation of the German expert. I have joined eThekwini Municipality through "Integrated Expert for Municipalities worldwide" within the context of the Durban Bremen Partnership and my work focuses on the Bridge City/KwaMashu precinct and its open spaces. Together with my colleagues from ETA, I have planned and facilitated the practitioner's workshop.



Above: The 85% voter turnout campaign



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Some lessons learnt from this workshop were about the necessity to have differentiated design approach for walking and cycling. The institutional setting with its fragmentation was openly discussed and questioned. The importance of a community and stakeholder engaging planning process was stressed. This means desktop worked NMT plans need to be enriched by stakeholder and customer knowledge.

Maybe the most important overall message was the need for a shift in mindset within the Municipality and across the user groups. So Dinesh Dial, Go!Durban - Infrastructure Workstream Manager shared: "My lesson learnt is, that I have to see roads and the way we are planning and designing them through different eyes. I have seen roads mainly as transport corridors for motorised transport and not so much as part of the public realm for all user groups." An agreement was that walking and cycling are at least as important as mo-

torised transport. "Make pedestrians King!" was one statement often repeated during the three days.

This workshop was one of many steps on the way to make EThekwini become a more walkable city and to promote cycling. Within the Bridge City / KwaMashu precinct we plan to develop an Active Mobility Implementation Strategy. Here in the township, 70% of the people do not own a car and therefore depend on other modes of transport. A bike park has started to operate in November 2016. Approximately 50 kids come regularly to learn cycling and will hopefully become ambassadors for Active Mobility within EThekwini. ▲ Helge Mehrtens, Integrated Experts for Municipalities worldwide" G420 Methods, Instruments, Secondments Division Global Partnerships Department GloBe (Sector- and Global Programmes)

Students join GIZ workforce for Workplace Based Experience Programme

Another set of eight students from the Ekurhuleni West TVET College (Tembisa campus) returned to GIZ for a two-week Workplace Based Experience Programme (WBE) from 03 July 2017 until 19 July 2017. "Students come back very motivated and positive about the course they have enrolled for. This makes them work hard for their final

exam so that they can complete their exit level with good grades and start looking for a job. They actually said they already see themselves in that job. They say placement gives them a better understanding of what is happening in the real world of work and their career path is clearly mapped out." – Conny Maleka, Acting Campus Manager.

