

Healthy Streets

Improving the Walkability of our Cities



Photo provided by Arup from Cities Alive: Towards a Walking World © Gehl Architects

Overview

The legacies of the traffic-dominated planning era are clearly visible in cities worldwide. This is reflected in neighbourhoods without walkways, in public spaces made redundant by parked vehicles, and in urban highways that segregate neighbourhoods in order to serve sprawling suburbs. The negative outcomes of heavy automotive use on urban everyday life are significant: air and noise pollution, premature death and injuries in road accidents, car-centric lifestyle health problems, and traffic congestion.

This course sets out the strategic drivers that are shaping our future cities. It examines the movement and place dimensions, identifies the various benefits of walking and how liveable, healthy, complete streets can be achieved by quantitative and qualitative measurements. Supporting the delivery of high-density, mixed use developments that are planned around active and sustainable travel will ensure that urban growth is good growth.

Learning outcomes

- At the end of the course, participants will have an understanding of:
- various measures available through policy, infrastructure, and promotion that would incentivise and facilitate walking as a daily mode of transport
 - the role national, regional and local governments play in integrating active modes into mainstream modes of transport
 - the effect that the public image of walking have on mode choices
 - the role of consultation with stakeholders and communities
 - wellbeing, diversity and inclusion benefits
 - conflicts that can arise as walking numbers increase
 - the role key performance indicators and targets play in the delivery of holistic and 'fit-for-purpose' schemes and initiatives
 - various forms of funding available for the delivery of walking

Who should attend

This course is designed to provide a solid introduction to walking considerations and is suitable for professionals working in the fields of transport planning, transport policy, highway engineering, road safety, public health, or with managerial responsibility for these roles. It will also be of interest to people addressing walking and transport issues.

Topics covered

- UK walking policies and strategies
- benefits of walking
- setting goals and objectives
- policy framework and implementation
- demand forecasting
- casualty statistics and safety considerations
- education, training and publicity - types of measures
- enforcement strategies and measures
- inclusive walking and access
- autonomous vehicles and impact on walking
- stakeholder participation and engagement
- maintenance and management
- current conditions and challenges

Programme*

Arrival and registration Introduction and objectives

Overview of walking, why walking? Why walking strategy?

- Historic overview
- Broad overview of recent walking policies in UK
- Recent walking trends and statistics by age, gender, location etc.
- The purpose of a walking strategy and implementation plan

Strategic drivers

- Drivers of change behind the shift from car culture to sustainable, liveable, healthy urban developments
- These drivers include social, technological, economic, environmental and political

Break

Benefits of walkability

- Social, economic, environmental and political benefits
- Framework to guide decision makers to set visions, long-term plan and monitor results

Actions to improve walkability

- Vision and strategy, safety and efficiency, liveable environments, sense of place and communities, and smart and responsive cities
- Illustrated with case studies

Lunch

Walkbout

- A walk along local streets to look at and discuss some examples of good and bad practice

Performance Management

- SMART Targets
- Key performance indicators
- Monitoring

Predict and provide, Network planning

- Demand forecasting tools
- Strengths and weaknesses of tools
- Access and permeability

Appraisal, monitoring and evaluation

- Role of monitoring and evaluation
- Monitoring plan/Evaluation framework
- Overview of Key tools and methods

Break

Stakeholder and advocacy

- Who's who in walking in UK
- Roles and responsibilities
- Stakeholder engagement, community participation & public consultation

Maintenance and management

- Maintenance Regime

Group Discussion

- Future of walking
- Challenges or benefits from smart cities and technologies

Summary and close

*This is a preliminary programme and is subject to change

