Why Open Data Matters for Cycling: Visualizing a Cycling City

March 22, 2022
WHAT IS OPEN DATA?

You are free:

- To share: To copy, distribute and use the database.
- To create: To produce works from the database.
- To adapt: To modify, transform and build upon the database.
What is OpenStreetMap?

- Crowdsourced mapping platform
- Transparent, neutral data about what’s on the ground
- Provides data for major companies (Microsoft, Apple, Facebook)
- Supports city planning and humanitarian efforts
You can think of OSM in several ways:

- A distributed community of mappers contributing information about the geography of the world to a common repository
- A free web map hosted at https://www.openstreetmap.org/
- A loosely affiliated collection of free and open source tools for mapping the world
- A real-time stream of instructions representing how to add, change, or remove cartographically projected geometries and associated metadata based on a prior state
- ...Google Maps, but openly licensed

It’s hard to get people to agree on what exactly OSM is, but almost everyone agrees on one thing: it’s extraordinarily valuable and important.
Why use OpenStreetMap for transportation data?

- Cycle lanes
- Bicycle repair shops
- Bikeshare stations
- Cycle parking
Citizens / advocates ➔ City planners ➔ Reality

Pressure for more cyclelanes ➔ Build cyclelanes ➔ OpenStreetMap

Volunteers map changed streets ➔ Reality
Cycling Cities

25 million more people near safe cycle lanes by 2025
People Near Protected Bike lanes (PNpB)

# people within 300m of protected lane
Total city population

Cycle lane locations - OpenStreetMap
Population density data - GHSL
25 million more people near safe cycle lanes = **28 cohort cities** ↑ PNpB by 25% pts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Current PNpB</th>
<th>Target PNpB by 2025</th>
<th>KM increase by 2025 (approximate)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bogota</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santiago</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Istanbul</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>475</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Website automatically updates

Ciclomapa or ITDP Atlas
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Ciclomapa or ITDP Atlas

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Website displays useful metrics (PNpB)

Website automatically updates