

Synopsis for talk at “Cycling in the Tropics” webinar

Benefits of Bicycling: Lowering of Congestion, Carbon, Covid-19 (health) and Cost



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Synopsis:

The 2020 Structural Plan of Kuala Lumpur has a vision of making the capital a “World-Class City”. What do the most livable cities in the World all have in common? A vibrant streetscape where people like to shop / hang out / socialize because the space is pleasant and safe. Such vibrant streetscapes are adversely affected by wide busy roads with noisy and polluting cars, whereas bicycling, walking and public transport help to enhance the vibrancy of the streetscapes.

A Kuala Lumpur survey showed that the percentage of people who “almost never” walk and bicycle to work/school is 83% and 98.5%, respectively. The main reason cited is the lack of pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure that makes it safe to walk and bicycle.

Given the above, there is a strong case for rapidly improving the bicycling and walking infrastructure of Kuala Lumpur. Moreover, bicycling and walking has the additional benefits of reducing congestion, lowering the carbon emissions, improving public health (both for non-communicable diseases and virus transmissions) and lowering the cost for transport.

This presentation will focus bicycling. As a Kuala Lumpur bicycle commuter for the past 10 years, video clip examples will be shown of how it is to bicycle in present day Kuala Lumpur. And suggestions will be made for bicycle infrastructure projects that can rapidly spur the uptake of bicycle commuting.