URBAN REPAIR SQUAD

Do-it-yourself infrastructure: a practical manual

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"In the future, there will be one solution: to ban cars from cities."
-The head of Volvo, Montreal Gazette, 4 Aug, 1990-

"I applaud the activists who are stencilling their own bike lanes on Toronto streets. The city, with an ample budget for bike paths but without the leadership to implement the plan, needs a good kick in the pants for its abject inaction."
-Letter to the Toronto Star, June 2007: Don Tai-

"After 10 years of fighting off aggressive and inattentive car and SUV drivers and risking my neck for a couple feet of pavement, I have become almost ready to give up my daily bicycle commute to work. So I welcome actions, like lane paintings by the Other Urban Repair Squad, that highlight the outrageous fact that drivers continue to be given priority over cyclists, even as we face smog and climate crisis.
-Letter to the Toronto Star, June 2007: Michael Polanyi-

"It will engender absolute selfishness in mankind if the driving of automobiles becomes common. It will breed violence on a scale never seen before...It will destroy the sense of neighbourhood and the true sense of Nation. It will create giantized cankers of cities, false opulence of suburbs, ruinized countryside, and unhealthy conglomerations of specialized farming and manufacturing...It will make every man a tyrant."
-R.A. Lafferty - Interurban Queen, short story, early 1970's

At first such things were known as "catastrophes." Now people speak of "accidents." Soon they'll stop speaking altogether. Silently they'll haul away the victim and silently write down the number.
- Ilya Ehrenburg, "The Life of the Automobile", 1929

"Every time I see an adult on a bicycle, I no longer despair for the future of the human race."
-H.G. Wells
MISSION

To encourage bicycling as an antidote to the poison that is car culture.

To invert the status structure of the commons, returning priority to pedestrians and bicyclists over cars.

To create an infrastructure that promotes polite sharing of the roadway.

To employ the concept of Critical Mass, encouraging cyclists to bond together and more safely take back their rightful place on the public roadways.

To encourage citizens to reclaim ownership and stewardship of their urban space.

To actively construct a positive future of what urban transportation could be by installing it NOW.

Your city is broken. Don't wait for the bureaucrats to fix it. DO IT YOURSELF.
I. IDENTIFY PLACES IN NEED OF REPAIR
   A. Your favourite routes
   B. Spot where someone was injured or killed
   C. Gaps in existing infrastructure

II. INVESTIGATE
   A. Observe at different times.
   B. Assess needs of all road users.

III. DESIGN
   A. Choose appropriate repair model
      see diagrams next page
      1. Sharrow Lane
      2. Rush-Hour Lane
      3. Wrong-Way on a One-Way
      4. Bike Box
      5. Custom design tailored to location
   B. Consider need for signage
   C. Discuss
      1. Is it safer?
      2. Is it more efficient?
      3. Is it more pleasant?
      4. How could this go wrong?
   D. Illustrate with diagrams

IV. PLAN THE MISSION
   A. Scout location again.
      1. Best for action at night or day?
      2. Where to stash the gear.
      3. Where to meet for cold beers while paint dries.
   B. Disguises
      1. Civilian - easy to blend with crowd
      2. City Worker - could attract unwanted attention
   C. Assign Roles
      1. How many look-outs
      2. Stencil carrier
      3. Painter
   D. Test paint for dry times
   E. Rendezvous
      1. Time & Place
      2. Bad weather E-plan
   F. Get-a-way Plan
      1. Split-up
      2. Re-group location

DON'T GET BUSTED ARGUING WHAT TO DO NEXT
V. TAKE ACTION
   A. Source materials
      1. Buy professional grade paint
      2. Garbage pick cardboard
      3. Make cardboard stencil and stencilmportfolio
   B. Get it done
      1. Be careful
      2. Have fun
      3. Go for a beer (optional)
   C. Test-ride your new & improved infrastructure

VI. PUBLICIZE (Optional)
   A. Document what you have done
   B. Consider Media Strategy
      1. Local press, TV, radio
      a. Secret communique
         i. Silly disguises
         ii. Funny voices
      b. Anonymous tip
      2. Alternative media
      a. Blogs
      b. Flickr
      c. You-tube
      d. Carbusters

* Don't get cocky!
* Maintain anonymity
* Trust your inner bunny! If it doesn't feel good, come back another day.

Of course, Officer! I'm making a bike path!
Sharrow Lane

Whoa! Too close for comfort!

Safer
Faster
More efficient
Fun!

I'm so lonely

Wrong-Way on a One-Way

Wrong way? There's no wrong way on a bike.

Scary for everyone!

Plenty of room
Bike Box

Gives cyclists priority at red light.

coloured box more visible

Green light, cyclists clear intersection first.

Clean-Air Corridor

Safer & more fun!

Trees, flowers, puppies

Custom signs

The "make a pass" lane!
Hallo from Official Repair Squad

Our Agents inform us that your city is too busy putting self on backside about 2001 Bike Plan that they don't bother make any bike lanes. We come to make roads safe so citizens of Toronto leave car at home and ride bicycle to work making for cleaner air and more friendly city. For to make rush-hour traffic more safely for the bicycle riders we have create a special lane. The "Rush Hour Bike Lane" do hurt business, no lose parking, and no need for expensive designer to paint like an road.

Rush Hour Bike Lane is CHEAP CHEAP.
Can be done overnight.

Then you will see. Less cars.
More BIKES. Cleaner City.

We hear city is broke.
We fix, NO CHARGE.

exex Official Urban Repair Squad

Ossington/Dundas

urbanrepairs.blogspot.com