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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

Group of Experts on cycling infrastructure

First session

Geneva, 2 (pm) and 3 June 2020

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the first session*

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva starting at 3 p.m. on Thursday,
2 June 2022, Room TPS 2, Palais des Nations

I. Provisional agenda

1. Introduction and election of Officers:
 - (a) Introduction;
 - (b) Election of Officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe cycling network
4. Cycling infrastructure definitions and standards.

* For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. There will be no documentation available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Transport Division's website (www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5.html). On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by e-mail (maria.mostovets@un.org).

Delegates are requested to register online at: uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=LMhYtX at the latest one week prior to the session. All in-person attending delegates (including those holding long-duration badge), should register through INDICO badge system at: indico.un.org/event/1000486/ and delegates who do not hold a long-term access badge should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact by the ECE secretariat (maria.mostovets@un.org). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html.

5. Other business
6. Date and place of next meeting.
7. Summary of main decisions.

II. Annotations

1. Introduction and election of Officers

(a) Introduction

The Inland Transport Committee at its eighty-fourth session (Geneva, 22-25 February 2022), following the request from the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics ((ECE/TRANS/WP.5/70, para 50)) approved the establishment of the Group of Experts on cycling infrastructure (GoE).

The GoE is tasked to serve as a platform to collect data on national cycling infrastructure, to analyze the data and to propose routes in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), based on existing national cycling routes, to form an ECE cycling network. The GoE is also tasked to elaborate common definitions for various types of cycling infrastructure as well as new road signs for signposting the cycling routes.

The GoE work is to be guided by its Terms of Reference as contained in Annex V of ECE/TRANS/2022/6. The items of the agenda are formulated based on the tasks from the Terms of Reference.

(b) Election of Officers

The GoE is expected to appoint its officers: a Chair, and if deemed necessary, Vice-Chair(s).

2. Adoption of the agenda

The GoE is invited to adopt its agenda as contained in this document.

Documentation

Informal document No.1

3. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe cycling network

The GoE is expected to collect and analyze data on national cycling infrastructure in ECE member States in order to devise an ECE cycling network. The GoE is invited to build on the data collected so far in the process of the development of a pan-European infrastructure module for cycling, stored on the Geographic Information System (GIS) based International Transport Infrastructure Observatory (ITIO) developed by ECE.

Data on national cycling networks (in some case partial networks) from Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom are available on the ITIO. Also relevant EuroVelo routes data are incorporated into the platform. European Cyclists' Federation (ECF) will make a presentation on the current status of the network.

The GoE will be invited to consider opportunities for obtaining data on national cycling networks, both existing and planned national routes, from ECE countries whose data is not yet available on the ITIO.

The GoE should then commence a process of network analysis, and in particular the interconnections of the national routes across country borders. Following such analysis, the GoE should attempt to devise international routes to form the backbone of a future ECE cycling network.

4. Cycling infrastructure definitions and standards

The GoE is expected to elaborate common definitions for various types of cycling infrastructure which has undergone a major development in many countries across the ECE region to serve the increasing numbers of cyclists in everyday commuting as well as for tourism purposes. As indicated in ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2021/6, while definitions for certain types of infrastructure have been agreed at the international level and are stipulated in the international agreements, others have not. The availability of commonly agreed definitions for the various types of cycling infrastructure and their universal application will promote a further standardization which will be of great benefit in helping cycling to develop further and in a safe way.

The GoE is thus invited to work on the development of common definitions for specific types of cycling infrastructure. In doing so, the GoE is invited to consider the draft definitions reflected in Annex I of ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2021/6. The GoE should also consider knowledge on cycling infrastructure and standards developed in various regional projects such as e.g. the Danube Cycle Plans project as well as within existing organizations such as the European Cyclists' Federation (ECF), the Confederation of the European Bicycle Industry (CONEBI), World Bicycle Industry Association (WBIA) and others.

Moreover, the analysis done so far in the process aimed at the development of a pan-European infrastructure module for cycling shows that for some types of infrastructure the future standardisation requires the development of new road signs that currently are not included in the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals. To this end, the GoE may wish to review road signs which have been designed recently in ECE countries to signpost specific cycling infrastructure and/or prescribe specific traffic rules and consider which should possibly be included in the Convention. In doing so, the GoE should be informed about the ongoing work of the ECE Group of Experts on Roads Signs and Signals which is working on identifying and assessing potential road signs for inclusion in the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2021/6

5. Other business

The GoE may wish to discuss other issues of interest. Among them, the GoE may consider establishment of a funding project (GoE fund) in support of its activities. Such GoE fund, established for the duration of the work of the GoE (2022-2024), would be managed by the secretariat with funding to be used for (i) facilitation of expert participation in the work of the GoE, (ii) promotion of the GoE's work at international conferences and events, (iii) organization of awareness-raising events, (iv) advice to national or sub-national projects in countries with insufficient experience in forming national cycling networks, and (v) consultant support as necessary.

Experts may wish to formulate proposals for attracting financial pledges to the GoE fund.

6. Date and place of next meeting

The GoE may wish to note that its next session will be held on 28 and 29 November 2022.

7. Summary of main decisions

In accordance with established practice, the Chair will briefly summarize the decisions taken. Following the session, the Secretary, in cooperation with the Chair and Vice-Chair(s), will prepare the final report.
