



From the editor's desk

Another busy week on World Streets, with contributions coming in from the StreetFilms media group in New York on parking strategies, on city cycling and empowerment of women in Dhaka, and on to the very pressing matter of rethinking the finances of our entire operation so that we can continue to act as the world's only fully independent sustainable transport daily/weekly publication and peer network.

But the buzz of the week was a series of exchanges resulting from an announcement of government support in India for a really very shoddy proposal for a PRT Pod system for Delhi. We started by circulating the proposal and inviting comments from peers in India and worldwide, who immediately made short work of the proposal. We then organized a poll which you can see here in order to give our readers an opportunity to express their views on the project. This moved along for the first days smoothly enough, with a strong majority rejecting not only the proposal for Delhi but also more generally for the concept of PRT as a sustainability strategy for cities. All of that pretty much business as usual on World Streets.



The comments were measured, informed and non-polemic. But the real gag popped up when a group of PRT enthusiasts decided to attack the poll and stuff the ballot boxes. Which they did very nicely, though the final tally is being cleansed of the most evident of these frauds. It tells a story that we will do well not to forget, I am sure you will see.



There is behind it all however what I believe to be a happy ending, of sorts, which you will see in the piece "[Will the real PRT please stand up](#)". I hope you will find this a surprising and really very practical examination of what PRT increasingly is in cities above all in Asia, but increasingly in other parts of the world as well. Something extremely important is going on, but thus far it has largely escaped the attention of policy makers, other than when they unite as they are doing here and there to toss out the baby with the bathwater. You will see here.

Enjoy your read and continue to share your ideas, leads and contributions with us. After all, it is your journal.

Eric Britton, Editor

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Dear Reader. May we rent your brain?

[Eric Britton, editor](#) | 26 April 2011 at 18:15 | Categories: [editorial](#), [organization](#), [outreach](#), [World Streets](#) | URL: <http://wp.me/psKUY-1zY>

World Streets is obliged to close down regular publication starting on 1 May ,until we have managed to resolve our challenging financial situation. If you share our deeply felt [goals](#) concerning the up-hill push to sustainable transport, sustainable cities and sustainable lives, read on and consider how you could lend a hand. We need both near term and more solid longer term backing in order to be able to continue to make our contribution. And for this, your ideas and contacts can be of real help. If you like what we are trying to do with World Streets, take a minute and read on. [...]



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Who read World Streets this morning?

[Eric Britton, editor](#) | 26 April 2011 at 10:45 | Categories: [outreach](#), [World Streets](#) | URL: <http://wp.me/psKUY-1zH>

World Streets makes the claim that it is a truly international journal and world-wide collaborative effort. That's an easy claim to make, but just to put some muscle on it here is a map showing the points of origin of the readers who have come in thus far this morning. A day much like any other [...]

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The Transportation Majority. Can't our politicians count?

[Eric Britton, editor](#) | 25 April 2011 at 16:37 | Categories: [all-car](#), [behavior](#), [equity](#), [Governance](#), [non-drivers](#) | URL: <http://wp.me/psKUY-1zr>

Public transport? Cycling? Walking? Car pooling? Car sharing? People stuck at home? Elderly? Handicapped? Poor? People unable to get to a job? Or who have to take hours to get there and don't have a choice? Spend my hard-earned money for them? Bah! Who needs it? Why bother if it's just for a few marginal people? Let's concentrate our attention and investments on the big problems, those of the majority of us and our cars. We are the transportation majority. [...]



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PRT proposal for Delhi convinces the Chief Minister (But does it convince you? See poll results)

Eric Britton, editor | 27 April 2011 at 09:59 | Categories: [bad ideas](#), [India](#), [politics](#), [Poll](#), [PRT](#) | URL: <http://wp.me/psKUY-1A9>

It all started innocently enough with this newspaper article that appeared in the Press Trust of India on April 26. But when posted to the Sustran Global South peer forum for comment, the floodgates opened. For full background on this vigorously discussed, even polemic proposal, we invite you to check out the discussions at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sustran-discuss/message/6637>

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Op-Ed. On relative costs of PRT, auto and public transit

Eric Britton, editor | 29 April 2011 at 18:30 | Categories: [pricing](#), [PRT](#), [public transport](#), [taxes](#) | URL: <http://wp.me/psKUY-1AE>

There are a number of important factors to consider when comparing PRT, public transit and automobile costs, and therefore when comparing the cost-efficiency of roadway versus transit investments. (Commentary by Todd Litman of Victoria Transport Policy Institute on some of the figures raised in the discussions of PRT vs. cars and public transport.)

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Editorial: Will the real PRT please stand up

Eric Britton, editor | 29 April 2011 at 09:12 | Categories: [editorial](#), [Global South](#), [M2W](#), [PRT](#) | URL: <http://wp.me/psKUY-1Au>

Somebody wake me up on this please on this discussion. (See references at end). 1. If we look on the streets of any city in the Global South, we see de facto PRT, personal rapid transport, all over the place.

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Moving Beyond the Automobile - Exit Parking

Eric Britton, editor | 26 April 2011 at 16:04 | Categories: [Cars](#), [film](#), [parking](#), [public space](#), [StreetFilms](#) | URL: <http://wp.me/psKUY-1zP>

The tenth and final video in Streetfilms' Moving Beyond the Automobile series, looks into the necessary reasons and some of the techniques for parking reform. While the context is New York City, the lessons are universal. From doing away with mandatory parking minimums, to charging the right price for curbside parking, to converting on-street parking spots into [...]

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Cycles of Change: Pedaling to Empowerment in Dhaka

Eric Britton, editor | 26 April 2011 at 08:32 | Categories: [activism](#), [behavior](#), [cyclists](#), [Global South](#), [women](#) | URL: <http://wp.me/psKUY-1zA>

Bangladeshi women face significant barriers from family, neighbors and society in getting on a bike a riding around town in bright daylight. Freedom of mobility is seriously curtailed in Dhaka if women don't feel safe to travel independently in their own city. Over 35% of female commuters in Dhaka depend on a cycle rickshaw and [...]

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In Memory of W. B. Yeats.

| 26 April 2011 at 08:32 | Categories: [Musing](#) | URL: <http://wp.me/psKUY-1AK>

Earth, receive an honoured guest:

William Yeats is laid to rest.

Let the Irish vessel lie

Emptied of its poetry. [...]

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Hands-on collaboration: With you and your city?

How can World Streets help support sustainable transport initiatives in your neighborhood, city, country, agency, or public interest or user group? Through special issues or supporting articles? Collaboration in support of conferences, projects, workshops, master classes, city dialogues? Local or other media programs? Cooperative programs or events with universities, NGOs, consultancies and schools?

This we will have to do together. So now all that remains to be done is to get you actively involved as a reader, subscriber, contributor, supporter and working partner so that in 2011 we can together go from strength to strength. [Get in touch](#) so that we can swap ideas concerning how to go about it.



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