



Institute for Transportation
& Development Policy



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Bogota, Colombia to Receive the 2022 Sustainable Transport Award

- *The first-ever Sustainable Transport Award winner Bogota, Colombia will return to accept the 2022 STA!*
- *The win was based on sustainable transport interventions that expanded safety and mobility for the city's most vulnerable populations.*

New York (December 1, 2021) — During the final MOBILIZE virtual summit series event on December 1, the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) announced that Bogota, Colombia is the winner of the 2022 Sustainable Transport Award. Bogota will be honored at a February 2022 virtual ceremony for their accomplishments, and the City will continue to join us in MOBILIZE programming throughout the coming year. Its win follows years of innovations that put sustainability and inclusion at the forefront.

Soon after the COVID-19 pandemic began, Bogota became one of the first cities in the world to create emergency bike lanes. 84 km were built, with 28 km becoming permanent and 46 km still in use today. The new bike lanes encouraged bike use to quadruple on some main roads. The COVID-19 changes were cemented with official policies, such as Acuerdo 804, which established biking as the priority means of transport in the city in future planning efforts. These built on previous goals formalized in the City's 2020-24 Strategic Plan, including growing the number of cycle trips by 50% by 2024. The City also reconfigured street space to allow for better social distancing and pedestrianized streets once only served by cars. Over the course of one project, 17,000 square miles of street space were repurposed for pedestrian use.

To improve public and environmental health, the City of Bogota has assembled a fleet of 1,485 electric buses for its public transportation system--placing the city among the three largest e-bus fleets outside of China. 350 buses have been deployed so far, and the switch will benefit low-income residents the most, whose neighborhoods have the most bus lines and highest air pollution levels in the city. Additionally, Bogota has begun a new program that provides exemptions to HOVs, vehicles with more than 2 passengers, from the city's odd-even license restriction program. This program prevents half of the city's cars from driving in peak times, but by allowing HOV exemptions, the city aims to encourage carpooling and expects to reduce car travel by 2 million kilometers weekly.



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The City also worked to improve road safety with speed management programs that reduced speed limits and deployed traffic calming measures. The speed reduction on major roads brought a 21 percent decrease in traffic deaths in 2019 compared to 2015-2018 average, and a 28 percent decrease in 2020 .

Travel safety efforts focused on some of Bogota's most vulnerable residents, schoolchildren. The City found that 58 percent of student trips are taken on foot, mostly by low-income children. At the same time, pedestrians younger than 15 years old were twice as likely to die in a traffic incident than adults. To change this, Bogota began a Kids First program that targets students who commute on foot, but also, focuses on providing transportation solutions to students who commute in the different transportation modes. Among other initiatives, the program created caravans escorted by adults, for the young travelers who commute to school, both on foot and by bike, which have so far helped more than 6,000 students in 2021 to get to class safely.

Bogota will be joined by two honorable mention cities--Peshawar, Pakistan and Tartu, Estonia. We look forward to celebrating these amazing cities, learning from them and working with them for MOBILIZE programming throughout the coming months. We'd also like to thank the STA committee and the participation of all who nominated their city.

The Sustainable Transport Award Program is the annual celebration of select cities implementing innovative sustainable transportation projects in the preceding year.

The Institute for Transportation and Development Policy is a global nonprofit that works with cities around the world to design and implement high quality transport systems and policy solutions that make cities more livable, equitable, and sustainable.

The STA committee members

The Asian Development Bank, AMEND, the BRT Centre of Excellence, CAF the Development Bank of Latin America, Clean Air Asia, Despacio, GIZ, ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability, ITDP, the World Bank, and the World Resource Institute.

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