
Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

Group of Experts on cycling infrastructure module

Sixth session

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Item 2 of the provisional agenda

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe cycling network

Draft recommendations

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The Group of Experts on cycling infrastructure module (GE.5) may wish to formulate recommendations for action by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) member States to be taken in a follow up to GE.5 completed mandate. These recommendations should concern: (a) further work related to establishing and maintaining a complete cycle route network for the ECE region, and (b) application of common definitions for cycle infrastructure.
2. This document contains the draft recommendations.
3. GE.5 is invited to review these recommendations, adjust them as necessary and include them in Section VI of its final report.

II. Draft recommendations

4. GE.5, drawing from the lessons learned in the process of implementation of its 2022–2024 mandate, recommends the following:
 - (a) with regard to further developing and maintaining the ECE cycle route network:
 - ECE cycle route network, as partially devised by the GE.5, should be maintained and further developed into an ECE-wide cycle route network in the future. To this end, the ECE secretariat should maintain and further update the network data in the ECE International Transport infrastructure Observatory (ITIO). ECE member States should continue to provide geo-coded data on their national cycle route network (target and current) to ECE for uploading onto ITIO.
 - ECE member States are invited to provide, and update regularly, the following data concerning the route features: route category (target and current), type of infrastructure, type of surface, route number (EuroVelo, or national number).

- ECE member States without established cycle route networks or with limited experience in this work are invited to use the Guide for designation of cycle route networks developed by GE.5 in the fulfillment of its mandate to advance on the endeavor to improving cycle infrastructure and establishing cycle route networks across the entire ECE region at all levels.
- ECE member States and the ECE secretariat are invited to explore elaborating projects or collaborative initiatives gathering national authorities and cycling associations through which practical work on cycle route networks, following the steps contained in the Guide for designation of cycle route networks, can be effectively supported.
- ECE member States are invited to explore establishing a fund under the Working Party on Transport, Trends and Economics in support of promoting designation of cycle route networks. The fund, if established, could act as an integrator of the member States projects through which international expert support could be facilitated.
- The Working Party on Transport, Trends and Economics (WP.5), within its cluster of work on “sustainable urban mobility, public transport and cycling” is invited to play a leading role on further devising the ECE cycle route network based on the newly established national cycle route networks or newly added national routes by making use of the criteria and the density indicator established by GE.5. In doing so, WP.5 should collaborate with EuroVelo to ensure consistency and connections between networks, to exchange information including geo-coded data as well as to learn good practice from each other.
- ECE member States are invited to utilize the cycle route and cycle infrastructure knowledge as contained in this report and the Guide for designation of cycle route networks for elaboration of a possible Convention on cycle route network in ECE region. The ECE secretariat is invited to actively explore avenues in support of these efforts.
- ECE member States without nationally established standards for cycle infrastructure or considering their revision are invited to incorporate, as part of their new standards, the cycle infrastructure quality parameters provided in the Guide for designation of cycle route networks.

(b) with regard to application of the common definitions for various types of cycling infrastructure:

- ECE member States are invited to widely apply and comply with the definitions for linear and non-linear cycling infrastructure so that cycling infrastructure of the same ‘Look and Feel’ is provided internationally thereby ensuring a good level of safety and comfort for cyclists. Should a given type of infrastructure not be present yet, or its uptake is low, the member State is invited to introduce or review the underlying legal provisions.
- ECE member States are in particular invited to adopt these types of cycle infrastructure, if not yet present, which present a low investment solution but have demonstrated their usefulness in support of cycling, such as the street with contraflow cycling or the traffic-light exemption for cyclists.
- ECE member States are invited to harmonize signage and rules for the various types of cycle infrastructure.
- ECE member States gathering in the Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) are invited to consider proposals elaborated by GE.5 for modifications to the 1968 Conventions on Road Signs and Signals and on Road Traffic for achieving better regulatory harmonization with regard to signage and rules for cycle infrastructure.
- ECE member States gathering in the Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety are invited to consider the proposal for updating the definition of cycle as prepared by GE.5.