



Portland, Ore. Hosts International “Towards Carfree Cities” Conference in June 2008

Participants to discuss urban livability, sustainable transportation, and alternatives to private cars

PORTLAND, Ore. (January 16, 2008)—The World Carfree Network, in collaboration with SHIFT, presents the Towards Carfree Cities conference series in Portland, Ore. on June 16-20, 2008. Making its North American debut, the conference will bring together activists and professionals from around the world to discuss the creation of sustainable transportation systems and the transformation of cities into human-scaled environments rich in public space and community life.

“This conference is a chance to bring North America to the forefront of the international carfree movement and to empower ordinary people to change their lives, governments, and urban landscapes for the better,” said Conference Coordinator Elly Blue.

The conference’s fundamental role is to help participants share knowledge and assist in their practical work, whether that work be organizing community events, promoting urban cycling, or building carfree cities of the future. The 2008 conference’s theme is “Rethinking Mobility, Rediscovering Proximity.” The program includes workshops, lectures, walking, streetcar, and bicycle tours, a film festival, and a public day including an art show hosted by Portland City Hall.

“Portland is becoming an international leader in issues of sustainable transportation and urban livability,” said Portland City Commissioner Sam Adams. “This conference will help us bring local and international perspectives to a challenge we all share: dependence on the private car.”

The conference will showcase recent strides made in Portland’s urban landscape and the city’s approach to sustainable living. Previous conference sites have included: Lyon, France; Timisoara, Romania; Prague, Czech Republic; Berlin, Germany; Budapest, Hungary; Bogotá, Colombia; and Istanbul, Turkey.

For more information please visit www.carfreeportland.org.

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Media Inquiries:

Meghan Sinnott

971-533-5235

meghan.sinnott@gmail.com