



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE SERIES

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New York City to host the international 2009 Walk21 Conference:

Walk21 New York 2009

More footprints, less carbon

New York City's top transportation official announced Thursday that New York will host the Walk21 conference in October, 2009.

The conference will take place at New York University in Manhattan's Greenwich Village, from Wednesday October 7 to Friday October 9, 2009.

"We aim to make Walk21 2009 an inspiring and powerful global gathering of the best urban planners, leaders and visionaries, and a major contribution to the worldwide effort to achieve sustainable cities for people," said Janette Sadik-Khan, New York City Transportation Commissioner.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg has begun a long-range sustainability campaign which has led to new transportation strategies in New York. The city has launched a wide range of green mobility and public realm projects and policies, all of which contribute to and require a high-quality pedestrian environment. New plazas and attractive sidewalks, rapid bus lines and protected bicycle lanes are blooming across the city. City agencies are developing a new street design manual that will ensure that all future projects yield attractive, walking-friendly streets.

Specific themes the conference will address are:

- 1. More footprints, less carbon: walkable communities are sustainable communities.**

Dense, pedestrian-oriented, walkable cities have significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions than more sprawling, car-oriented counterparts. Practitioners will discuss how they are linking pedestrian planning and environmental goals in their cities.

2. Paving with gold: investing for a successful city.

In the age of global mobility, employers, investment capital and people are attracted to liveable cities - those with the best urban quality of life. Attendees will present the relationship between investment in walkable cities for people and cities' economic fortunes, and the types of investment that have yielded the strongest results.

3. There is more to walking than walking: design strategies for urban quality.

Creating cities and towns where walking is a pleasure and a choice involves more than wider sidewalks or more time at crosswalk signals. The conference will examine a wide range of experiences in the development of lively, high-quality public life on urban streets, and how to re-develop the public realm in places that are primarily oriented to the flow of car traffic.

4. Fit cities: community design for active living

As rates of obesity, heart disease, and diabetes grow, more communities are exploring connections between public health and city design. International practitioners will discuss best practices in active design and communications strategies to get more people walking.

A section of the Walk21 website (www.walk21.com) will soon be opened to display details of the conference and launch the call for papers. Those interested in urban and transportation planning, sustainability and climate, recreation, community development, safety, health, tourism, design, and business are invited to note the date and attend this outstanding, world class event.

Walk21 is an international not-for-profit which champions the development of healthy, sustainable and efficient communities where people choose to walk. Walk21 partners with a host city each year to present the International Walking Conference. Past hosts include London, Copenhagen, Toronto, Zurich, Melbourne, and Portland, Oregon. The 2008 conference is currently underway in Barcelona.