



Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety National Conference

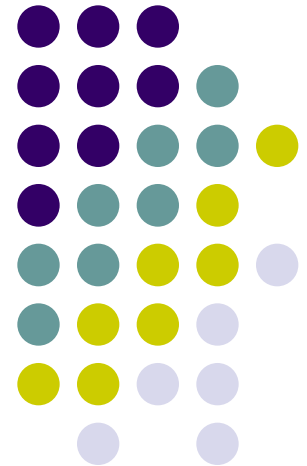
9 June 2006, Transport Accident Commission, Melbourne

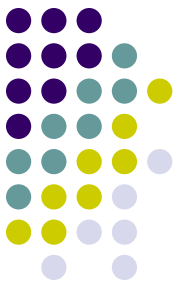
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Cycling and Road Safety

Peter Strang
Executive Director
Bicycle Federation of Australia





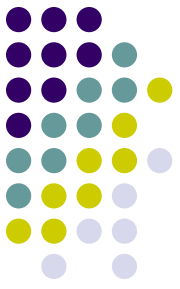
Is there a problem?

- Each year about 35 cyclists are killed & 2,500 seriously injured (reported to police)
- Bike riders represent about 2% of road deaths & 11% of serious injuries
- 46% of seriously injured cyclists are 16 years or under
- Good news - deaths down from 142 in 1950



What is the answer?

- Better cycling facilities
- Safer environment for cycling
- Better behaved motorists
- Better trained (& behaved) bicycle riders
- Lights, reflective clothing
- Discourage cycling?



Health benefits of cycling

- Life expectancy longer for active cyclists
- Health benefits outweigh risks
- More cycling → accident rates down
 - ‘Safety in numbers’
 - Greater awareness of bicycles?
 - Fewer car trips?
- Childhood obesity
- Environment, transport, social equity benefits

Cycling & kids - the official view



Children should not be discouraged from cycling as the health benefits provided by exercise are important, and cycling provides independent mobility for children.

Motorists should be prepared to encounter children cycling in the road environment.

**Australian Transport Safety Bureau
Monograph 17, Cycle safety: a national perspective, 2004**



Role of government

- Commitment to increasing cycling & walking
- ‘Share the road’ campaigns
- Better driver training & testing
- Safer environment
 - Greater priority for cyclists & pedestrians
 - More & better designed infrastructure
 - Lower speed limits / traffic ‘calming’
 - Safe Routes to Schools programs



Bike path – Groningen, Netherlands



The benefits of bike lanes



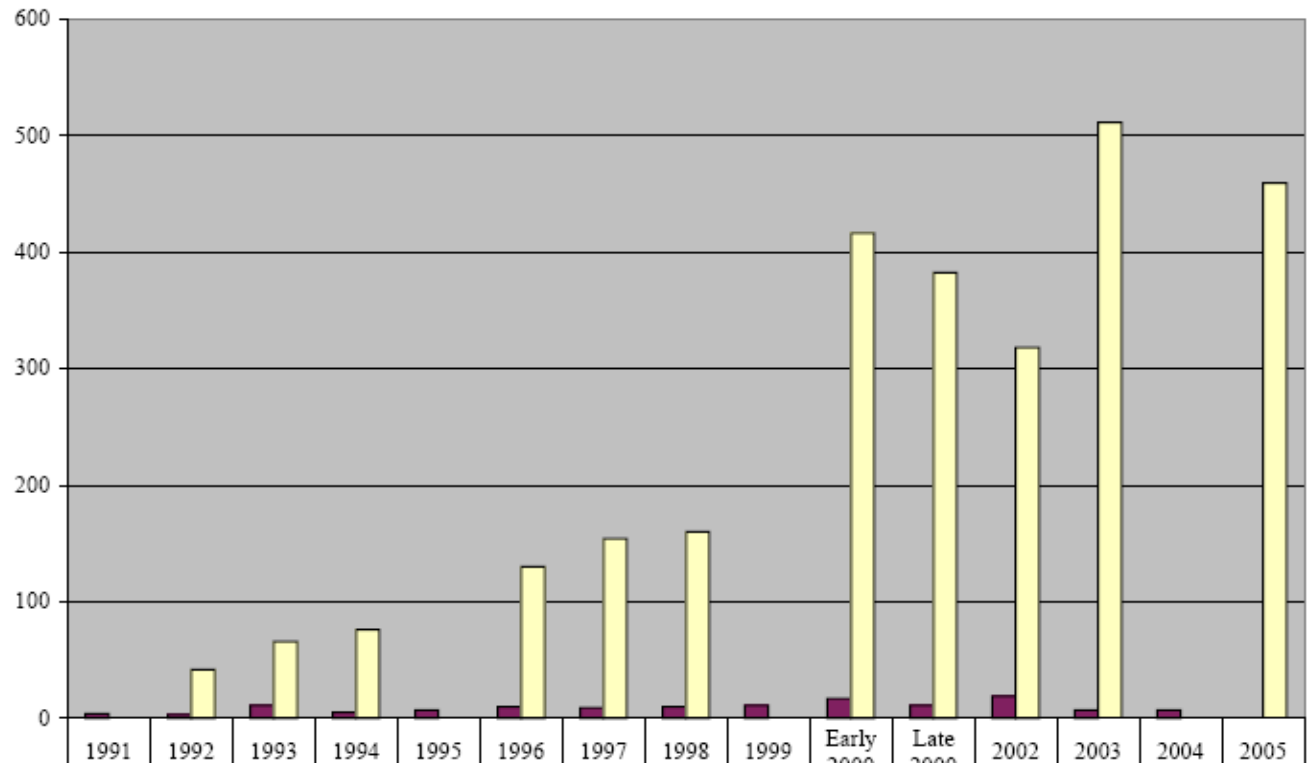
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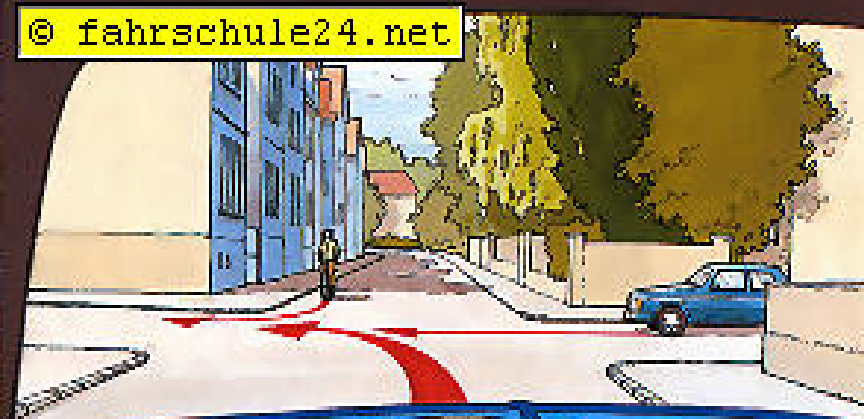
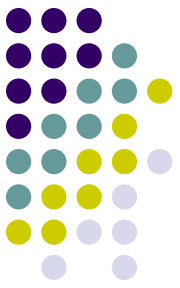
Bike lanes encourage cycling and make it safer - St Kilda Road

Note: Reported crash data not available for 2005



■ Reported injuries per year	4	3	11	5	7	10	9	10	11	17	11	19	7	7	
□ No of cyclists in morning peak		42	66	76	0	130	154	160	0	416	382	318	511	0	459

German traffic laws generally favour cyclists and pedestrians



Pedestrian & cyclist groups



- What do we have in common?
- Can we work together to achieve a better, safer environment for people who walk and who ride bicycles



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