



**Call for Contributions**  
**Winter Cycling Congress**  
**2 through 4 February 2016**  
**Minneapolis-Saint Paul, Minnesota, USA**  
**Due date: 30 September 2015**

#### About

The Winter Cycling Congress 2016 Minneapolis-Saint Paul is a three-day professional development event uniting a diverse and international group of people with a shared vision of enabling more bicycling and walking through the winter among people of all ages and abilities. This year's congress will be held in the United States for the first time ever in one of North America's most bicycle-friendly communities. In acknowledgement of the rapidly evolving cycling culture in Minneapolis and Saint Paul and in cities across North America, this year's congress will look at winter cycling through the lens of *equity*. How do we engage with a wide range of people to ensure everyone in the community has an ownership in bicycling and active transportation no matter the time of year, the neighborhood they live in, their age, ability or background?

This Congress defines "winter" as a season encompassing a full spectrum of weather – including a range of temperatures and types of precipitation. The Congress acknowledges that no matter the climate type, there are real and perceived barriers preventing people from realizing all the benefits year-round cycling and walking can support in terms of health, wealth and happiness for all. Bringing together people from various winter climates allows those who experience similar weather to learn from each other – especially in terms of maintenance approaches. While as a greater group it becomes possible to address the commonalities – for example morning and evening darkness and psychological barriers – that people who ride bikes and walk experience in every winter climate.

With the intent of empowering and engaging more interested but concerned people to keep riding through the winter, the congress will look at bicycle and pedestrian planning from every angle. This will be an opportunity to discuss the policy, planning, engineering, design, maintenance, implementation, evaluation and encouragement necessary to creating a built environment and social context in which cycling is a safe, comfortable and convenient choice in July and January. There will be three tracks at the congress, including the following.

1. Build it – policy, planning, engineering and design for year-round cycling and walking
2. Maintain it – implementing the plan and maintaining safe, comfortable conditions
3. Bike it –evaluating winter cycling and encouraging health, economic and social benefits

This Congress will celebrate and respect the diversity of the North American cycling movement while also welcoming the inspiration, best practices and lessons bicycle-friendly communities from all around the world can provide.

#### Attendees

This is the fourth annual Winter Cycling Congress. Past congresses have attracted stakeholders and thought leaders from many areas, including bicycle and pedestrian planning, Safe Routes to School, civil and traffic engineering, public works, urban design, landscape architecture, public health, journalism, the arts and many other areas. In short, this is a Congress for anyone who lives in a winter climate and works with or rides bikes.

#### Speaker Deliverables

When you submit a proposal, you agree to provide the deliverables and meet the deadlines outlined below, if your presentation is accepted

- Confirm your participation and that of other people included in your proposal. Provide complete and accurate contact and biographical information for all speakers included in your proposal. Bio maximum of 300 words and photo due **31 October 2015**.
- Register for the Congress by **30 November 2015**. Please note that organizers are working to deeply discount speaker registration fees. More information will be provided soon.
- Collaborate with the track or session organizer to deliver a planning meeting by **20 December 2015**.
- Deliver hand-outs and a final version of your presentation in PowerPoint format by **26 January 2016**.

## Presentation Formats

- **Lectures:** A 90-minute session with 3 lectures on related topics. You present your contribution in a maximum of 20 minutes. A moderator leads the discussion following the presentations.
- **Workshops:** A 90-minute interactive session that you lead together with another expert on the topic submitted. Tell us about your topic and the approach you suggest for the workshop in your submission form.
- **Panel session:** Together with other experts you join a panel around a common theme. Each panel member makes a short presentation. After, a moderator interviews the panel and engages the audience.
- **Poster session:** A number of topics and experiences are particularly nice to present through a poster. We supply the display space – size will be communicated in advance – and you bring the poster. A few dedicated timeslots allow you to present your poster to an audience visiting the posters.
- **Pecha Kucha:** 20 slides, 20 seconds per slide, this is the formula for a Pecha Kucha presentation. A great format for succinct and entertaining presentations, Pecha Kuchas will be integrated into an evening program.
- **Mobile tour or workshop:** Do you know a great Twin Cities route that our visitors need to experience? Mobile tours should be planned with winter weather in mind!
- **Exhibition:** Would like to demonstrate your business's products or services, your book or your art? No need to fill out the form. Please contact WCC co-Chair Tony Desnick directly by email at adesnick@niceridemn.org.

## Selection Criteria

Preference will be given to proposals that:

- Deliver cutting-edge information about issues related to winter cycling policy, planning, engineering, design, maintenance, implementation, evaluation and encouragement.
- Address winter cycling through the lens of equity
- Emphasize innovative approaches and replicable examples
- Provide interactive or hands-on exercises (practice implementation, design review, role-play, etc.)

## Winter Cycling Congress 2016 Sessions

Theme: Equity in winter cycling

Equity recognizes that not all individuals or communities have access to cycling infrastructure that is safe, comfortable and convenient in the winter. Our conference will highlight opportunities to overcome the barriers and successful examples of ways to provide "extra special attention" to address inequities.

### Track 1 – Build it

Session Topics: Policy, Planning, Engineering and Design

- Network design in communities of various sizes from large metros to suburbs and small towns
- Designing equity into the bicycle and walking networks
- Embedding health in all policies
- Transit and cycling – routes, parking, station/stop design
- Better public engagement during the planning process
- Designing separated bikeways for year-round use
- Designing Shared Space, 20 mph zones, bike boulevards and other multimodal street designs for year-round use
- Design considerations for rural communities
- Design considerations for school zones

### Track 2 – Maintain it

Session Topics: Maintenance and Implementation

- Maintenance practices in climates of various types from the Arctic Circle to the maritime
- Maintenance practices in different sized communities
- Maintenance practices for various types of bike infrastructure
- Ensuring fair maintenance practices in all neighborhoods
- Climate change and maintenance practices - how to deal with changing winter weather?
- Creating priority clearance networks
- Level of Service in Winter Maintenance
- Best practices for collaboration between public works and planners
- Effective bike-sharing systems in winter
- Technological tools and crowdsourcing in planning

### Track 3 – Bike it

#### Session Topics: Evaluation and Encouragement

- Data collection and evaluation practices
- Health and behavior change campaigns, including campaigns targeting: women, children, senior citizens, families, under-represented racial and ethnic groups, economically-disadvantaged neighborhoods, etc.
- Helping marginalized groups start bicycling and walking in the winter
- Bikenomics of winter cycling and walking
- Mental and physical health benefits of active transportation
- Employer-initiated efforts to encourage winter bike commuting
- Winter bicycle tourism
- Embracing a winter city identity

#### Information to include in your proposal

Proposals must be submitted using the online form available through the link below.  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CZKGCLC>

The form cannot be saved and completed later so it is best to assemble the required information in advance and complete and submit the form all at once. The form will not time out while you are completing it.

1. Your bio (300 words maximum) and contact information: name, title, organization, mailing address, e-mail address, and phone number.
2. What format are you proposing? (see "Presentation Formats" section above)
3. The session for which your proposal should be considered? (see "Winter Cycling Congress 2016 Sessions" section above)
4. Title of your presentation (be clear and specific)
5. Keywords (3-5) list the words that best describe your presentation.
6. Presentation abstract (750 words maximum). Describe the purpose and goals of the presentation(s), explaining why it is timely and compelling; provide as much detail as you can within the allotted space. Include specific information on resources, tools and examples. Convince the reader to accept/attend your presentation.
7. Learning objectives (300 characters maximum). One to two objectives per 20-30 minutes of presentation. A description of the learning objectives is required so that WCC can secure continuing education credits for planners, engineers, public health professionals and landscape architects in sessions where appropriate. State the objectives briefly using verbs such as define, describe, estimate, give examples, identify, predict, recognize, state, discuss, and learn.

The deadline to submit is 12:00 a.m. Central Standard Time on **30 SEPTEMBER 2015**.