THE BICYCLE REVOLUTION OF THE NETHERLANDS

When the Dutch economy began to boom in the post-war era, an increasing number of people could afford cars. Urban policymakers began to perceive the car as the future mode of travel. Entire Amsterdam neighborhoods were demolished to accommodate motorized traffic. The use of bikes decreased by 6% every year, with the prevailing notion being that bicycles would eventually disappear altogether.

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"Give them a hand"

The number of traffic casualties rose to a peak of 3,300 deaths in 1971, with more than 400 children killed in traffic accidents that year. This staggering loss prompted protests by various action groups, among which the most memorable was Stop de Kindermoord ("Stop the Child Murder"). Stop de Kindermoord organized bicycle demonstrations and played a key role in developing ideas for safer urban planning. The widespread concern expressed by these movements had a significant impact on politicians, and the way Dutch cities and roads are built today largely stems from deliberate political decisions made in the 1970s.

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"The province (of Noord-Hollandd) builds bicycle lanes." said this Dutch Hasler "Smile" type meter stamp.



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Veilig Verkeer Nederland emerges from the fusion of the pedestrian association

The Netherlands (2020).