

John Williams, editor NCBW Forum & CenterLines National Center for Bicycling & Walking;
Program Director, Pro Walk/Pro Bike 2004 Victoria BC, March 2, 2004

Myths of the Times

Policy

"We can build our way out of congestion"

"People will never give up their cars"

Planning

"If we add sidewalks, we'll lose the rural character of the community"

"We take a "balanced" approach to transportation planning"

Design

"Four-foot sidewalks are wide enough to accommodate most pedestrian traffic"

"ADA design requirements benefit only a very small portion of the population"

Traffic Management

"Higher speed limits increase capacity and reduce congestion"

"Traffic signal synchronization improves the Level of Service (LOS)"

Transit

"Transit is for those who cannot afford to drive"

"Our community cannot afford transit"

Economic Development

"The main reason our downtown is dying is the lack of free parking"

"Reducing motor vehicle volumes will hurt business"

Land Use

"Higher densities will result in increased congestion"

"We don't want or have government regulation"

Safety/Education

"Safety is our number one priority"

"We need to train pedestrians to avoid getting hit"

Schools

"Walking and Bicycling to school is dangerous"

"Schools make bad neighbors"

Trails

"Trails reduce property values"

"Trail users vandalize adjacent properties"

Funding

"Bicyclists should pay their way like motorists"

"In tight economic times, we need to focus on funding core business" (I.e. cut funding for bicycling and walking)

Health

"People are responsible for their own health - leave the government out of this"

"Obesity is just a matter of personal discipline"

see also clf.org/transportation