



# 21 Heroes 2021



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# Our 21Heroes2021

2020 was a challenging year in many ways. The novel coronavirus swept across the world, completely upending every aspect of daily life as the global population feared for its health and safety. With many people working hard to address healthcare and economic concerns, the core task of the transport community was to keep transport systems running.

In almost every city, transportation came to a halt with lockdowns. But people still needed to get outside, to move around, to go to work. Faced with a daunting new reality, members of the international transport community stepped up with key solutions to keep everyday life going. TUMI is therefore proud to shine a light on these success stories. The 21Heroes2021 saw through the despair and used this crisis as a way

to not only keep people safe while moving through their cities, but also to invest time and resources into transforming urban mobility and combating climate change.

21Heroes2021 honors those who, despite historic challenges, achieved transport success in 2020 and laid the groundwork for even more successful and sustainable mobility initiatives in 2021. The individuals highlighted in this publication are a small, yet powerful, selection of many who are actively contributing to make mobility future-oriented, safe, inclusive and sustainable. So please, join us in celebrating our transport heroes, the people who are committed to transforming mobility to improve life for all!

**Keep the transformative spirit alive!**

# #1

## Elke Van den Brandt



© Saskia Van Der Stichele

### Minister of the Government of the Brussels Capital Region, Belgium

When the pandemic came for Brussels, Elke Van den Brandt gathered her team working on Mobility, Public Works and Road Safety. Coronavirus had taken over people's homes and workplaces, so Elke decided to give public spaces back to the people. First, she rescued the spaces from cars that were polluting and taking over 70% of public space. Elke then established 100km of "slow streets", commanding cars to move no faster than 20km/h, ensuring the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. 40km of bike lanes were also constructed at

a speed and quality that Brussels had never seen before. Starting on January 1st, Elke's plan for 'City 30' transformed the max speed limit to 30km/h as the rule, not the exception.

Elke is the President of the Board of the Flemish Community Commission and a member of the Joint Board of the Common Community Commission, working in tandem with Health Minister Alain Maron on Health and Social Action campaigns.

@elkevdbrandt



# #2

### Transport Secretary of Medellín, Colombia

At the start of the pandemic, Carlos disseminated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to Medellín's residents and regularly fought the virus on public transport vehicles with disinfectant. But coronavirus wasn't the only killer on Cadena-Gaitán's streets. Road deaths killed 10 out of every 100,000 inhabitants, so he set out to implement the Vision Zero approach to the city's 2020-2023 Development Plan to reduce deaths by initiating - inter alia - the complete transformation of the most dangerous avenue in the city: the Autopista Norte ("The Northern Highway").

Additionally, he'd fight off carbon emissions by introducing pop-up bike lanes during the first months of the pandemic, which allowed for an increase of use by female cyclists above 300% (as compared to the previous year). Some of these lanes are now being turned into permanent bike lanes. With his city on its way to safety, Carlos can don one of his many other hats. He is a professor, researcher and urban activist, specializing in urban sustainability outcomes in Latin American Cities. Carlos regularly contributes to several Colombian publications and is the co-founder of the think tank La Ciudad Verde.

@CadenaGaitan

## Carlos Cadena-Gaitán

© Sergio González



# #3



## **Transport & Mobility Manager, Lviv City Council, Ukraine**

Under Andriy's guidance, Lviv adopted its Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan in February 2020, a brave strategy to define the city's policy on movement for the next decade. Within this plan is a goal to optimize the city for efficiency, comfort, value, safety and environmental concerns. Andriy is dedicated to creating safe streets for everyone. He is renowned for prioritizing walking, cycling, and public transport in Lviv, with a Vision Zero goal for traffic accidents.

Beyond that, Andriy is a great orator of sustainable mobility. His vlog: Bilyy VLOG – YouTube regularly draws significant audience.

Since 2017, Andriy has been an advisor of the Mayor of Lviv in transport and mobility questions. Formerly, he worked at Dunapack Ukraine and at Procter & Gamble where he directed production and led the quality assurance initiative team.

 [facebook.com/andr.bilyy](https://facebook.com/andr.bilyy)

**Andriy Bilyy**

© Lviv City Council

# #4




**Dagmawit Moges**

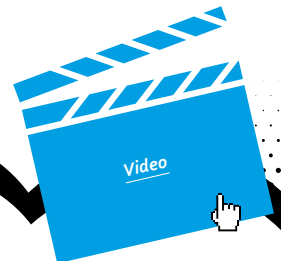
## **Minister of Transport of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

As the pandemic swept through Ethiopia, many abandoned public transit. Dagmawit knew that she'd have to be creative to save her cities and find new ways to help Ethiopians' journey to access opportunities. She inaugurated the Non-Motorized Transport Strategy 2020-2029, a plan to reduce the use of personal vehicles while improving road safety and air quality for thriving urban environments that would survive long past the pandemic of 2020. With faith in her country and her people, her plan would focus on the construction of continuous and safe pedestrian footpaths, bike lanes,

crossings, sufficient streetlights and the greening of street areas.

Dagmawit was appointed Minister of Transport of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in October 2018. Previously, she served as Deputy Mayor and Communication's Affairs bureau head of Addis Ababa City Government.

 [@dagmawit\\_moges](https://twitter.com/dagmawit_moges)



# #5

**Arun Bothra**




**Chairman and Managing Director of Odisha State Road Transport Undertaking (OSRTC) and Managing Director of Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) Odisha, India**

Under Arun's leadership, the public transport sector in Odisha has seen bold changes through the fulfillment of commuter-friendly measures like digital transactions, limitations within buses to sitting-only passengers and the enforcement of a stringent Covid-19 prevention strategy. On buses, Arun enforced mask wearing, regularly disinfection and social distancing, thus easing the population's fears of riding public transport again. Remaining grounded

during the pandemic, Arun brought together over 1200 bus drivers and conductors across Odisha state for a virtual training program that lasted a fortnight, using this terrible pause to impart knowledge and skills on topics like safe and fuel-efficient driving practices, customer care, gender sensitivity and good bus maintenance practices.

A senior and revered officer of the Indian Police Services, Arun began his first public transport assignment in June 2019 as Managing Director of CRUT. Previously, he worked as the CEO of Odisha's central electricity supply utility and at the Central Bureau of Investigation in New Delhi.

 @arunbothra

# #6

**Elon Musk**

**SpaceX-Founder and CEO of Tesla, USA**

A true legend in innovation, Elon's electric vehicle and clean energy company, Tesla, is well on its way to achieve the goal of "accelerating the advent of sustainable transport" by pushing the boundaries of e-mobility. However, where there is progress, there is often also controversy. The sustainable transport transformation traditionally calls for more mass transit rather than individual cars, but Elon's dynamic vision and focused spirit will nonetheless spur larger changes to the future of the mobility industry.

Now the question is if he will expand to public mobility such as e-busses?

Aside from being a transportation visionary, Elon is an engineer, business magnate, industrial designer and philanthropist. He is the founder, CEO, CTO and chief designer of SpaceX; early investor, CEO and product architect of Tesla; founder of The Boring Company; co-founder of Neuralink; and co-founder and initial co-chairman of OpenAI. He was elected as Fellow of the Royal Society in 2018 and was ranked joint-first on the Forbes list of the Most Innovative Leaders of 2019.

 @elonmusk



© Elon Musk Royal Society – Duncan.Hall / CC BY-SA 4.0

# #7

**Joe Ma**



**Deputy General Manager  
of Shenzhen Bus Group Co.  
Ltd., China**

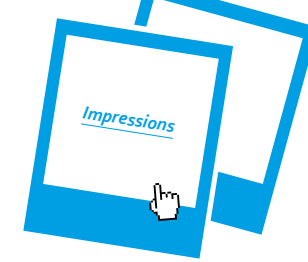
When he joined Shenzhen Bus, Joe successfully procured and commissioned over 6,000 electric buses and 5,000 electric taxis, motivating Shenzhen Bus Group to become the largest and first fully electric public vehicle operator in the world. In recognition of this noble feat, Shenzhen Bus was granted the highest 'Outstanding Achievement' Award at the UITP 2019 Global Summit at Stockholm. During the Covid-19 pandemic in 2019, Joe wrote two articles on how Shenzhen Bus Group combats Covid-19 and on the normalization of social and economic activities. He also conducted over 30 online sessions with the United

Nations, World Bank and many other NGOs, as well as global public transportation authorities and operators on coping with Covid-19.

An international giant in the field of urban and transportation planning, Joe has brought his skill all over China, Asia Pacific and the UK. He is an Eminent Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, a Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute and a registered Professional Planner. At Shenzhen Bus, Joe oversees international development, procurement, marketing, taxi and coach operations, training and advertisement. He currently chairs the UITP's global Taxi and Ride-Hailing Committee and is a member of the UITP Policy Board.

 @JoeMa\_SZBus


# #8



**Traffic Engineer,  
Seattle, USA**

When the Emergency Management Center called during the pandemic, Dongho answered. Working in tandem with the Seattle Department of Transportation's Incident Management Team, Dongho worked to uplift the streets. Throughout the troubling months of April and May, he implemented the "Stay Healthy Streets" campaign, a task that opened over 20 miles of residential streets to walking and biking. Seattle was in line with many cities that opened streets to bestow ample space upon residents seeking recreation while socially distancing.

Dongho has worked over 25 years in the transportation engineering field, always with an eye towards improving safety and mobility for all travel modes. Previously, he worked as the Traffic Engineer for the City of Everett and as Area Engineer for the Washington State Department of Transportation, where he was responsible for the traffic signals group, traffic analysis and channelization review, and the traffic safety program.

 @dongho\_chang

*© Dongho Chang on Twitter*



**Dongho Chang**


# #9

## Nicolás Estupinan

### Secretary of Mobility of Bogotá, Colombia

Bogotá has become a beacon for urban resilience during the pandemic, and that's in large part thanks to Nicolás. He took bold action during the crisis to rethink the distribution of public space and to increase safety, efficiency and diversity of active mobility modes like cycling and walking. He supported the construction of more than 84km of new bike lanes, and as a result, cyclists have filled the streets of Bogotá this year, up from 6.5% to 13%, a positive trend that is expected to continue.

Nicolás earned his degree in civil engineering and in city and traffic planning at the University of North Carolina. He previously worked for the World Bank in Washington D.C., the CAF – Development Bank of Latin America, and also served as Deputy Minister of Transport in Colombia. He has served as secretary of mobility in Bogotá since January 2020.

 @nico\_estupinan



# #10

## Erion Veliaj

### Mayor of Tirana, Albania

As the people of Tirana sheltered in their homes during lockdown, Erion looked to a new urban age of sustainability and resilience, setting a clear mission to spur green projects that would alter vehicular dominance in favor of pedestrians and cyclists. Erion thus oversaw the replacement of side parking spaces with wider sidewalks and an additional 11km of pop-up bike lanes.

A wise leader, Erion recognized that the most balanced way to achieve his plans would be to inspire the minds of his people. "I often say that the biggest infrastructure project to change in a city is not a boulevard, nor a big building. We know how to do those. It's the 10 centimeters between our ears – one's thinking and mentality – that is the toughest of infrastructures to transform."

Erion was elected Mayor of Tirana in June 2015, leading the vibrant city towards a vision of sustainable urban transport and green city planning.

 @erionveliaj

© Tirana municipality / CC BY-SA 4.0



# #11

## Felix Weisbrich




© Sara Lühmann

**Head of the Roads and Parks Department in Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg, Berlin, Germany**

Felix received great acclaim for his swift action and accurate timing in the implementation of 13km of pop-up bike lanes in his district during the pandemic, a daring move that increased the number of cyclists by 27%. While some city leaders wish to keep these lanes temporary, Felix has valiantly advocated for their permanency even after the pandemic. Felix says: "Experiments [like pop up bike lanes] show a lot of wonderful and positive effects, especially in the temporary implementation we

are able to test things for practical suitability – that is wonderful. "

An outdoorsman at heart, Felix previously served as forestry policy advisor in the Ministry of Agriculture in Schwerin and as logistician for energy wood production and head of the forestry office in Bad Döberan. In his current position, he is responsible for complex public spaces such as Görlitzer Park and the traffic systems in one of the most densely populated urban areas in Europe.

 @Felix\_Weisbrich



# #12

**Former Executive City Councilor for Urban Planning, Traffic & Transport, Climate Protection, Energy Planning and Public Participation in Vienna, Austria**

In her time working on mobility and sustainability in Vienna, Birgit had an earnest mission: To make Vienna the green capital of Europe, a city that promotes fairness, space, less noise, better air quality and equitable distribution of different modes of transportation on the streets. During the pandemic, she took dynamic action, implementing plans to build

20 new bicycle friendly streets in the upcoming years. She has proposed to convert parking spaces into additional pavement space and to help restaurants and cafés adhere to physical distancing guidelines.

Birgit is an Austrian politician of the Greens. She has served as Deputy Mayor of Vienna from 2019 to 2020, and previously served as a member of the municipal council and state parliament of Vienna from 2010 to 2019.

 @BirgitHebein

## Birgit Hebein

© Bwag / CC BY-SA 4.0






# #13

## Mayor of Porto Alegre, Brazil

Nelson has introduced the concept of exclusive bus lanes and cycle paths in the districts Auxiliadora and Moinhos de Vento, a conscientious move to prioritize public transport and active mobility in Porto Alegre. A tremendous feat, this measure extends 36km of blue lanes for the exclusive use of public transport at peak times, which, along with 57km of bus corridors, contributes to the regularity of operations and more agile traveling.

Nelson's project relies on the concept of Complete Streets, a plan that uses trustworthy urban design solutions to offer a safer and more democratic experience for everyone.

Nelson has also commenced the debate on implementing a congestion price through a proposal to the City Council. Nelson studied Law at the University of Vale do Rio dos Sinos. Since 2002 he has been active in political and public affairs. He previously worked as director of development and agribusiness at the Bank Bannrisul.

 @marchezan\_

© Alexandra Martins / Câmara dos Deputados



## Nelson Marchezan Junior

# #14

© Jacques Paquier / CC BY 2.0



## Mayor of Paris, France


Anne knew that 'shelter-in-place' orders would require a redistribution of public space, so she seized the chance to open street space for pedestrians and cyclists, introducing 50km of pop-up bike lanes and planning many more. Cycling rates have since skyrocketed by 50% in one year alone. As mayor, Anne has pursued a green agenda for the City of Paris, creating 'urban forests' and re-engineering the city's squares and roundabouts through a less car-oriented approach. Anne enthusiastically pursues the vision of turning Paris into a 15-minutes-city by increasing the availability of services to reduce transport demand.

Her commitment was recently crowned by the pledge of 250 million Euros for the redesign of the

## Anne Hidalgo

Champs-Élysées into an "extraordinary garden".

Anne is world-renowned for leading a bold policy that focuses on social inclusiveness, sustainable development, climate change, air quality and green mobility. The ideals she lives by are solidarity, innovation and civic participation. She has been a member of the socialist party since 1994, serving as national Secretary for Culture and Media. She headed the Parisian left coalition to victory in 2004 and 2010.

 @Anne\_Hidalgo

# #15



**Areli Carreón**

© Mariana Sánchez-Bicitekas

## ***Bicycle Mayor of Mexico City, Mexico***

Through keen allyship with likeminded organizations, Areli assured the success of Mexico City's new Mobility Law in 2014, a credence that guarantees the right to mobility and prioritizes sustainable active transport. In October 2020, the State of Mexico amended its national constitution, giving every person the right to mobility under the conditions of "safety, accessibility, efficiency, sustainability, quality, inclusion and equality". As Bicycle Mayor, Areli has focused on the people living in the outskirts of the city, promoting cycling as a tool to increase individual

mobility and access to the city, as well as empowering poor marginalized communities.

Areli is currently fostering the transformation of mototaxis to e-assisted cycle cabs in Mexico City that will improve more than half a million daily trips, particularly for women.

Areli is a longtime activist who lobbies for policy change around cycling and urban mobility. She's a founding member of Bicitekas, an organization that promotes the use of bicycles in Mexico City.

 @arelibiciteka



# #16

## ***Director of Transportation, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), California, USA***

activities. He also facilitated nine miles of new protected bikeways, 40 miles of "slow streets" and the closure of 18 miles worth of streets to cars.

Over the past year, Jeffrey didn't allow the pandemic to dampen his sustainable mobility goals. Rather, he used the crisis as an opportunity to rapidly transform the traffic system, ensuring access to essential areas like hospitals. Jeffrey especially acknowledged the SFMTA workers: "Our workers have been heroes during Covid-19, showing up every day to get essential workers to work and keep the city running." Despite scarce resources, his work included the creation of over 1000 "shared spaces" which allowed small business to use street space for business

As Director of Transport, he oversees the Municipal Railway (Muni), parking, traffic engineering, bicycle and pedestrian safety, transportation accessibility and taxi regulation for the City & County of San Francisco.

 @jeffreytumlin

**Jeffrey Tumlin**

© Jeremy Menzies, SFMTA Staff Photographer



# #17

## Anies Baswedan

### Governor of Jakarta, Indonesia

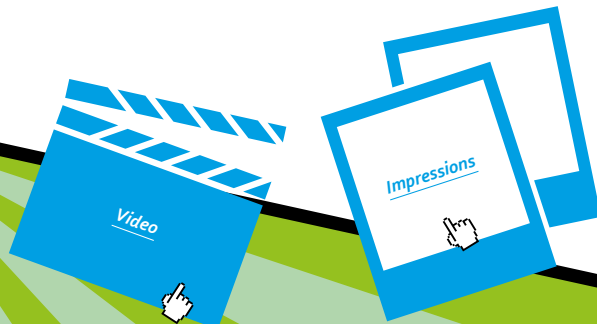
Already scarce resources in Jakarta dwindled during Covid-19, yet resourceful Anies led steady transit improvements, including respective bus services and plans for a large cycling network, 63km of which are already in place. The city worked toward a shared goal of creating fair, affordable and inclusive transportation for all. Before the pandemic, Anies took a bird's eye view of Jakarta's transport system in order to create a transformative and integrated system of different transportation modes. Amid the city smog, he saw an opportunity for launching

an electric bus operational plan and the renovation of city-owned public transportation stations directly linked to commuter line railway stations. Jakarta's achievements have been announced to be acknowledged with the ITDP-led STA award 2021.

Anies is an Indonesian academic, activist, politician and founder of Indonesia Mengajar, a mentor program that assigns university graduates to serve in a one-year teaching mission across the country. He previously served as Minister of Education and Culture under the Joko Widodo administration.

 @aniesbaswedan

© Government of Jakarta Special Region/public domain



© @souminijain on Facebook

# #18

## Soumini Jain

### Former Mayor of Cochin Corporation in Kochi, India (2015-2020)

Under Soumini's leadership, Kochi Municipal Corporation implemented several measures to curb Covid-19 cases in the city, such as calling on other town leaders to organize hygiene stations for hand-washing at markets and bus and railway stations. An advocate for keeping the people safe, she ensured the distribution of affordable facemasks among vulnerable groups and of food to the homeless residing at temporary government shelters. Soumini dauntlessly worked to provide clean, safe, affordable and reliable mobility options to the city's commuters.

For example, a touchless QR code system for currency transfer was installed, as well as physical separators for conventional auto rickshaws to ensure social distancing and safety protocols. It is due to Soumini's valorous actions that Kochi was awarded with the 'Award of Commendable Initiative' for 'Innovations undertaken in Urban Transport during Covid-19' at the Urban Mobility India Conference 2020.

 facebook.com/souminijain

# #19

## Zannatul Ferdous

© Majed Choudhury



### Mayor of Singra, Bangladesh

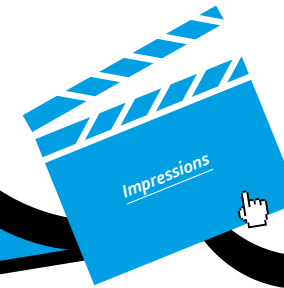
During the coronavirus lockdowns, Zannatul led projects that repurposed transport modes for emergency response, overseeing the use of e-rickshaws to deliver groceries to low and middle-income families sheltering in place and installing more e-ambulances to transport patients and doctors. Other cities should take note of this response when implementing transport projects and question whether those projects can be adapted and developed as part of emergency action plans in the future.

Zannatul's acclaim spans further back than the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2019, he received the National Award on 'Solar Street Light Project' the 'Resilient City Award 2019' for implementing low-carbon initiatives.

Zannatul's genesis in politics dates back to 2000 when he served on Advocate Zunaïd Ahmed Palak's team (ICT State Minister of Bangladesh). He was elected mayor in 2016.

 [facebook.com/ferdous.pk](https://facebook.com/ferdous.pk)

# #20




### Governor of Mombasa County, Kenya

Hassan has always understood that transport and socioeconomic development go hand in hand. As such, he has successfully introduced several mobility and road safety projects, including wider footpaths, tabletop crossings to reduce pedestrian fatalities, bicycle parking, and streetlights to guarantee security for residents. The 'red carpet for pedestrians' saw upgraded walkways in the central business district and the reallocation of car parking spaces to pedestrians. He also introduced strict parking policies to prevent

vehicles from parking on walkways. It is through the foresight and actions of these projects that mobility in Mombasa County has improved significantly while movement has become safer.

Hassan joined active politics in 2004 and became the Kisauni party chairman for the Liberal Democratic Party from 2006 to 2007. Later he was elected as Member of Parliament for Kisauni constituency and as Assistant Minister for Transport. In March 2013 he was elected as Governor of Mombasa.

 [@HassanAliJoho](https://twitter.com/HassanAliJoho)

## Hassan Ali Joho

© @HassanAliJoho on Twitter



# #21

## *Chairperson of the Transport Committee in the EU Parliament*

Recognizing the outside effects that the global crisis would have on both the economy and the transport sector, Karima Delli fought nonstop to convince the European Commission and member states to recognize the invaluable role of public transport in today's and tomorrow's mobility. She refused to allow the crisis to deter sustainable mobility and climate goals. Karima is perhaps best known for pushing an agenda that revives trans-European night trains as a low-carbon transport solution that complements the European Parliament's call for carbon neutrality by

2050. "The night trains are a response to all the challenges we face: It is an economic market, a means of transport that many citizens love and an ecological alternative to the plane," Karima has said. By building on existing sustainable modes, Karima's committee exerted enough pressure on the EU Council of Ministers to ensure that night trains will run via Vienna and Munich to Paris from December 2021 and from Zurich to Rome from 2022.

 @KarimaDelli

© <https://karimadelli.fr>

**Karima  
Delli**




### *Together for a better mobility future*

All around the world, urban leaders, transport experts, planners or students strive to transform mobility for the better for all. Our goal is to unite them. We roll out innovations on the ground, enable knowledgeable leaders and invest in the future of urban mobility.


We are the leading global implementation initiative on urban mobility, and we believe in a better future for humanity empowered by strong and clean mobility. Our vision is thriving cities with enhanced economic,


social and environmental performances in line with the New Urban Agenda, the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement.

TUMI is based on three pillars: innovation, knowledge, investment. We support innovative pilot projects around the world. We share knowledge with planners about modern mobility concepts, in workshops and conferences. We invest in the construction and modernization of sustainable urban infrastructure.

 [www.transformative-mobility.org](http://www.transformative-mobility.org)

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