

International Making Cities Livable Conference

June 17-21, 2019

Portland, OR

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Conference Summary

From Suzanne H. Crowhurst Lennard, Conference Co-founder and Director in her International Making Cities Livable conference publication, *True Urbanism: A Healthy City for All*:

“...creating cities where places for community social life, and nature places are easily accessible for all within 10 minutes by children, the poor and those with mobility problems as well as by the healthy and wealthy; and where most trips – to school, work, community places, shops, services, parks, and transit services – can be achieved by foot, wheelchair, public transit or bike.”

The conference brought together an international group of politicians, academics, and professionals. Some of the presentations we attended that were related to bicycle and pedestrian topics included:

- **Freiburg: Healthy Mobility for All.** This presentation was by Sven von Ungern-Sternberg, a former mayor of Freiburg, Germany. He spoke about the multiuse path network in Freiburg, pro-bicycle policies, and what he called a “city of short distances.”
- **Portland as an International Lab – What Have We Learned?** This presentation was by Michael Mehaffy, a planner based in Portland. He spoke about Orenco Station as an example of a suburban development that is also walkable and near transit.
- **Albina Vision, Portland.** This presentation was by Rukaiyah Adams, who is involved in the Albina Vision project in Portland. She spoke about the history of the historically black Albina neighborhood that was displaced by the construction of I-5 and a new project that is focused on how to move forward after displacement and re-imagine the Albina neighborhood as a healthy city for all. The project has done some initial visioning work to create a welcoming and equitable community for all, but does not have a concrete proposal yet.
- **Streets for the People.** This series of presentations and panel discussion touch on three projects related to complete streets. 1) complete streets design which focused on the concept of a complete street; 2) integration of green infrastructure into complete/active streets; and, 3) sidewalks and streets in Cairo, Egypt which was a university project where students mapped patterns of street use and will be developing design strategies to address issues while also recognizing existing uses.