

Winter cycling in Oulu – towards new challenges ★

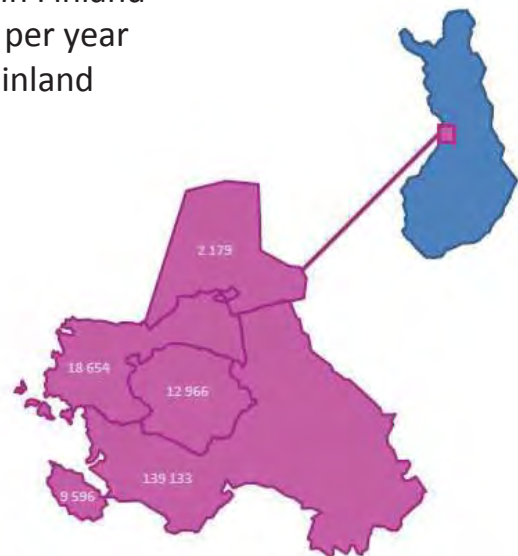
City of Oulu
Street and park services
City Engineer Pasi Heikkilä
14 Feb 2013



Facts about the City of Oulu

OULU
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- The name Oulu comes from a word in the Sami language meaning floodwater
- Town since 1605, founded by King Charles XI of Sweden
- New Oulu, 1 Jan 2013 -> Oulu, Haukipudas, Oulunsalo, Kiiminki ja Yli-Ii
- Population 190 695 (2013), 5th largest city in Finland
- City of Oulu is growing by 2000 inhabitants per year
- One of the fastest growing urban areas in Finland
- Surface area 3 000 km² ★



Bicycle and pedestrian street network – result of long term planning

History

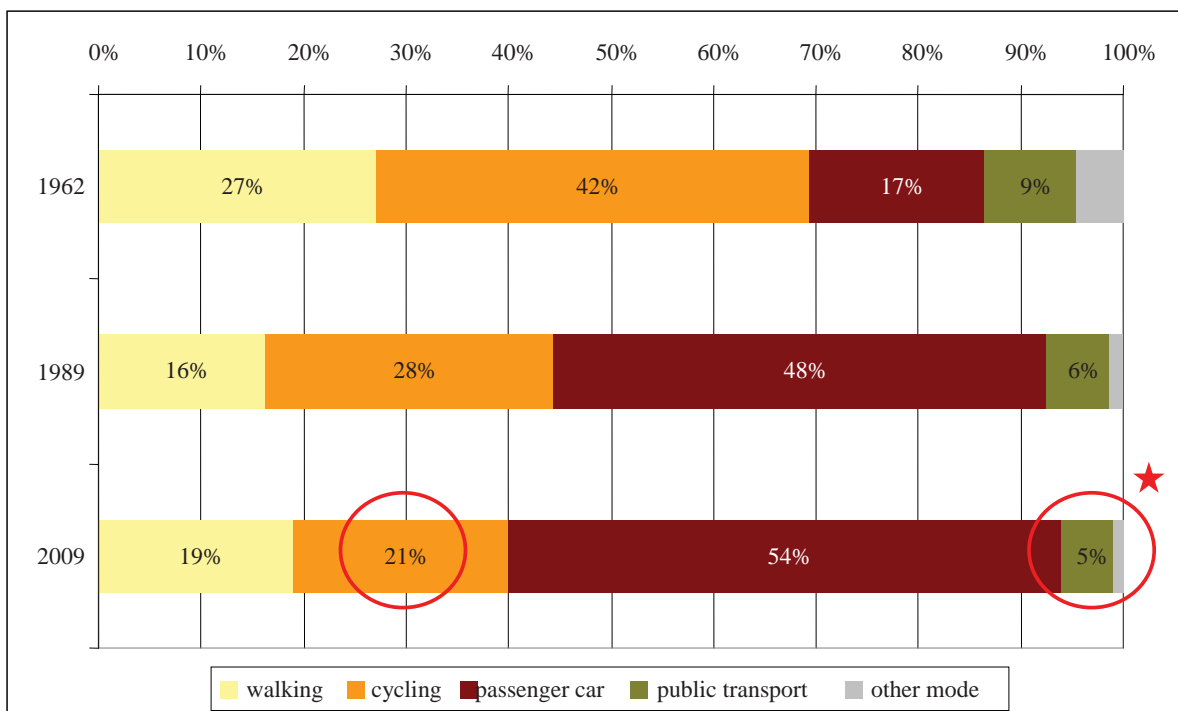
- Oulu - leader in bicycle and pedestrian traffic in Finland, even in winter time
- Planning started already in 1965
- 1972 development plan for bicycle and pedestrian traffic
- Since then planning has continued without a break
- 2007 strategy for bicycle and pedestrian traffic
- 2010 development plan for bicycle and pedestrian traffic
- Extensive separated network covering the whole city



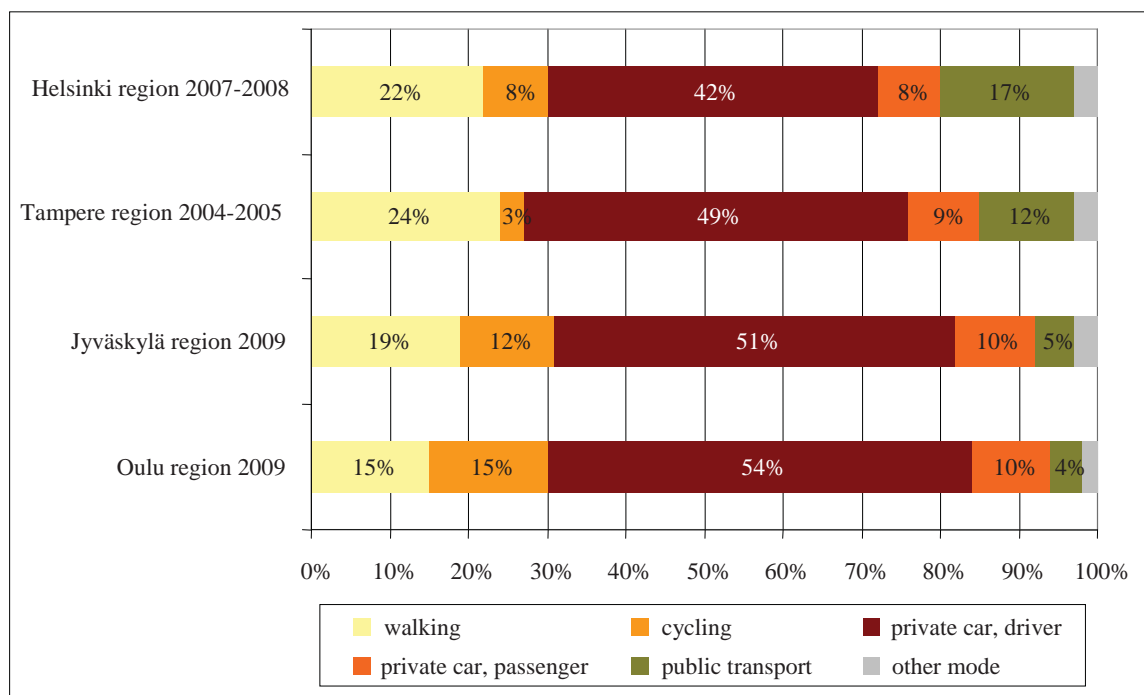
A long-term development plan and time are needed



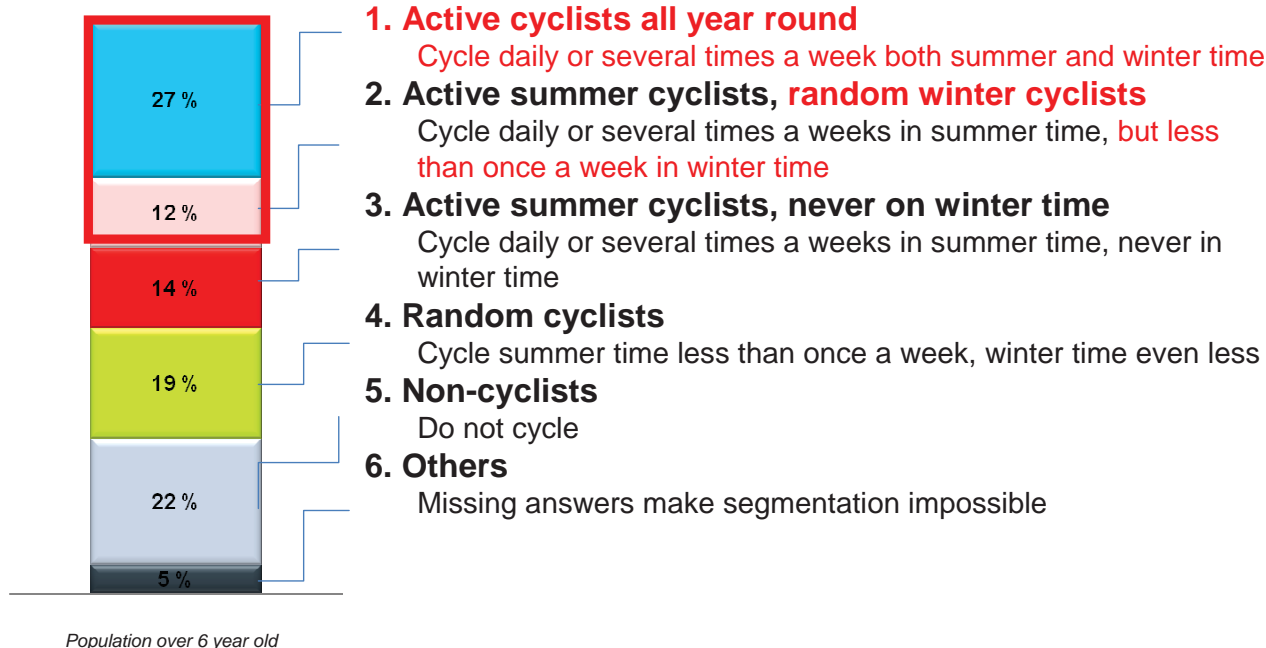
The development of mode choice in the City of Oulu



Modal split in major urban regions in Finland (residents over 14 years of age)

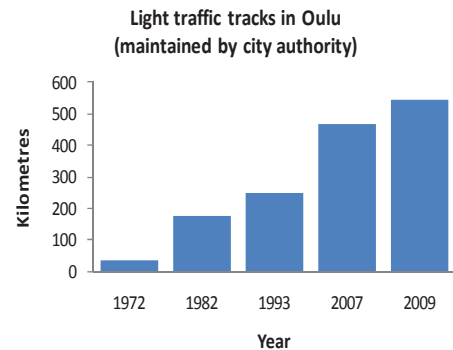


Cycling segments in the City of Oulu 2009



Figures

- In ten/10 years, more than 170 km of new bicycle and pedestrian paths/ways
- Bicycle & pedestrian paths/capita have increased, respectively roads & streets have not
- About 650 km of bicycle and pedestrian routes ★
 - Not lanes among cars, but a separate, own network
 - Also several routes with own geometry
 - Every bicycle and pedestrian route has lighting ★



Winter maintenance of bicycle and pedestrian routes

Two winter maintenance classes with specified quality requirements

Class 1

- Snow removal before 7 am when more snow than 3 cm
- Antiskid treatment: before 7 am

Class 2

- Snow removal after class 1 routes when more snow than 5 cm
- Antiskid treatment: most dangerous places before 7 am, otherwise after class 1 routes

Maintenance of bicycle and pedestrian routes prioritized over car traffic routes

Special machinery for bicycle and pedestrian ways

- Winter maintenance quality is optimized for cycling and walking

Street lighting and its maintenance are important

- All bicycle and pedestrian ways have lighting
- Several dark months
- Safety, the feeling of safety



Why Oulu is a winter cycling success story?

- A long-term plan, dedicated city personnel
- Extensive, separated cycling infrastructure from the car traffic
- High-level/-class of winter maintenance
- Historical-cultural factors (cycling and also winter cycling are normal things to do)
- Citizens of Oulu are proud of their reputation as a cycling city and as winter cyclists



Cycling traffic planning - challenges?

Network orientated

- Other means of planning are needed as well

Mobility management needed

- City area is expanding, distances are getting bigger ★
- More cars

Development needs

- Future target (share today 22%, in 2020 it should be... ?)
- Bicycle parking (in downtown, residential buildings) ★
- Travel chain development (park-and-ride)
- Automatic bicycle traffic calculation points
- ICT solutions for bicycle traffic, route guides (news in Kaleva ect. 8.2.2013 <http://www.ouluunliikenne.fi/>), gps etc.
- Promotion and influencing of attitudes
- Snow removal: temporary placement of the removed snow in downtown
- Cycling holidays and trips
- Mountain biking network

