

ISSUE 04

CAMA Newsletter

The Collaboration for Active Mobility in Africa (CAMA) is a Partnership for Sustainable Solutions initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research Germany (DAAD) and the German Academic Exchange Service (BMBF).



Greetings, CAMA Community!

As we reach our final milestone, we express our pride and gratitude for everyone's dedication and support. Together, we have set a foundation for partnership towards a sustainable future.

Our stakeholder and expert workshops refined our strategies, while our capacity-building training equipped our team with the skills needed to implement living labs. We are also preparing a cycling manual to promote safe and enjoyable biking experiences.

We are delighted to have received the Young Research Award for

our paper publication. Additionally, we have shared our findings and achievements with a wider audience by presenting them at a major African and global conferences.

In the mid of October 2024, our consortium finally visited Mekelle city, where we experienced the vibrancy of its streets and the warmth of its people. Our activities included inauguration of the real-life experiment/living labs project, city visits, engaging workshops, inspiring public lectures, and Car-free Day campaigns. These platforms provided us with the opportunity to promote active mobility and its significance for

enhancing urban quality of life while also strengthening our partnerships with local stakeholders.

Building on the network of CAMA, our coordinating team has succeeded in securing Erasmus+ funding for mobility program for the two CAMA partners and is ready to welcome the first visitors. Thank you for being part of this remarkable journey and we invite you to go through our Newsletter Issue 04 for more details.

Living Labs Training

CAMA Project Team Visit in Karlsruhe in April 2024

Prof. Dr. Jochen Eckart, Catharina Lutz, Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences

In April, our researchers from Kampala, Nairobi, and Mekelle boarded on an educational journey to Karlsruhe, Germany, where they participated in a comprehensive Living Labs training program. This initiative was part of a broader collaborative effort to equip our team with the necessary knowledge and tools to implement and adapt Living Lab concepts to various socio-political and cultural contexts.

The training was an enriching blend of theoretical insights, practical group exercises, and insightful site visits to Living Lab projects in Karlsruhe.

Key modules of the program included: **Living Lab Basics and Vision Development:** Participants delved into the core principles of Living Labs, focusing on long-term visions and the openness of innovation processes.

Stakeholder Engagement: This module emphasized effective methodologies and tools for stakeholder involvement, underscoring the importance of collaboration.

Governance and Implementation: Participants reviewed governance models and strategic plans, gaining valuable insights into operationalizing Living Labs in diverse settings.

The program culminated in a dynamic role-play workshop, which centered on managing stakeholder perspectives and adapting Living Lab methodologies to local contexts in Africa and Central Asia. This hands-on training provided our researchers with practical and theoretical tools essential for developing resilient, sustainable solutions, particularly in the areas of decentralized energy systems and other critical challenges faced in their home regions.

The knowledge and skills gained will significantly contribute to our ongoing efforts to innovate and create sustainable urban solutions.



Researcher Teams from Kampala, Nairobi, and Mekelle Engage in Living Labs Training in Karlsruhe

Young Researcher Award

We are excited to share some wonderful news from the 7th Conference on Sustainable Mobility (CSUM2024).

Our team from Karlsruhe had the distinct honor of publishing a paper on promoting active mobility in the cities of Nairobi and Kampala. This significant research emphasizes the crucial role of sustainable urban transport in mitigating climate change effects and adapting to its challenges.

We are immensely proud to announce that our paper received the prestigious Young Researcher Award!

Themed "Climate Crisis and Transportation Resilient Systems," CSUM2024 highlighted the urgent

need for regions to prepare for the increasing impact of extreme weather events caused by climate change. These events, such as storms, floods, droughts, and



wildfires, result in devastating losses and irreversible damage. Given that the transportation sector is a major contributor to emissions, it is imperative that we transition towards sustainable practices to reduce environmental impacts and enhance resilience. The conference provided a vibrant platform for knowledge-sharing and collaboration among researchers, policymakers, and industry experts.

It emphasized the development of sustainable policies, innovative technologies, and resilient systems to tackle climate crises effectively.

Our contribution to this essential dialogue through our award-winning paper reinforces the importance of active mobility in creating greener, more resilient urban spaces.

 **7th Conference on Sustainable Mobility**
CSuM2024
Plastira's Lake, Greece, 4 – 6 September 2024

 Traffic, Transportation and Logistics Laboratory
 Research Unit of Infrastructure, Technology Policy and Development

Young Researcher Award

Topic: Active Mobility

Winner:

Catharina Lutz, Mary Mwangi, Hidaya Namakula, Joseph Tusubira, Martín Bejarano and Jochen Eckart

Paper Title:

Enhancing Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety in African Cities through Living Labs: An Integrative Analysis

Prof. Eftihia Nathanail
Chair

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Cycassel: A cycling week

Prof. Dr. Angela Francke, Azeb Tesfaye Legese, University of Kassel

Kassel Cycling Week (Cycassel), the first-ever held cycling week organized in Kassel from April 8th to 14th, 2024. This event saw enthusiastic participation from the CAMA team, including members from all African consortium partners and Hochschule Karlsruhe.



The week was dedicated to promoting cycling in Kassel, turning the spotlight on this vibrant city. Over 30 projects were developed, offering a wide array of cycling-related activities. The participants enjoyed guided tours through Kassel and its surroundings, bike fitting sessions for optimal adjustments, and independent repairs at Fix & Roll.

The event was also enriched with lectures and panel discussions about cycling in Kassel and beyond.

On April 9th, the CAMA team from Africa took part in the International Day panel discussions, sharing their unique perspectives on local cycling cultures. The panelists discussed the distinct characteristics of African mobility systems, the opportunities and challenges of active mobility in Africa, and their experiences with sustainable mobility, particularly cycling. German cities, providing the mostly European audience with a deeper understanding of African mobility and paving the way for future collaborations. This session aimed to exchange knowledge between African and German cities, providing the mostly European audience with a deeper understanding of African



mobility and paving the way for future collaborations.

In addition to the panel discussions, the team enjoyed a cycling tour through the city and along the picturesque Fulda River, followed by an internal consortium meeting at the University of Kassel. This enriching week highlighted the shared commitment to promoting sustainable and active transportation solutions.



We extend our gratitude to everyone involved for making Cycassel a memorable and impactful event.



African Transportation Research Conference



Our researcher Azeb Tesfaye from the University of Kassel, in collaboration with Mekelle University, Ethiopia, has presented research at the first African Transportation Research Conference (ATRC) in Cape Town, South Africa. The presentation, titled „Exploring Active Mobility User Needs and Preferences in Sub-Saharan Africa, with a Focus on Ethiopia,“ highlighted the mobility behavior findings from Mekelle. This conference provided a valuable platform for sharing CAMA project outcomes and survey results.

This opportunity allowed us to engage with fellow researchers and discuss future steps in our journey towards enhancing active mobility in Sub-Saharan Africa.

It featured numerous insightful presentations that covered a wide spectrum of transportation topics within the African context.

We are excited about the prospects that this conference has opened and look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts to promote sustainable transportation solutions.



**CAMA Mekelle University
team, Cape Town, SA, March
2024 ©Yonas Minalu**





Living Lab... Nairobi

Our vision for Safer Street, the Proposed University Way Living Lab, spearheaded by the University of Nairobi Collaboration for Active Mobility in Africa (CAMA) project, with support from various stakeholders. This initiative aims to re-design the lively University Way, transforming it into a model for pedestrian and cyclist-friendly urban design.



Fine-tuned Pedestrian Friendly Design for University Way: A Result of Stakeholders engagement

The living lab concept is a dynamic, real-world testing ground for innovative urban mobility solutions informed by research and stakeholder engagement. Our key interventions include the temporary installation of a tabletop crossing and strategically placed speed bumps to slow down traffic and enhance pedestrian safety. Additionally, video-based traffic conflict analysis has revealed that reducing the road's width by removing one lane on each side will shorten crossing distances, allowing for a refuge island in the median where pedestrians can pause safely while crossing.

These measures not only enhance safety in the short term but also provide valuable insights for future long-term improvements. By testing and refining these solutions, the University Way Living Lab aims to set a standard for pedestrian-friendly urban design in Nairobi.

The CAMA team is actively collaborating with relevant stakeholders to bring this vision to life. We are working to refine the proposed designs to ensure they meet community needs and align with city planning objectives. Our consultations have shown broad support for the initiative, with valuable insights contributed by various sectors shaping its development.

This collaborative effort highlights the importance of inclusive, data-driven approaches in designing urban spaces that prioritize people over vehicles. We will keep you updated on our progress as we move closer to making the University Way Living Lab a reality. Together, we are paving the way for safer, more sustainable streets in Nairobi and beyond.

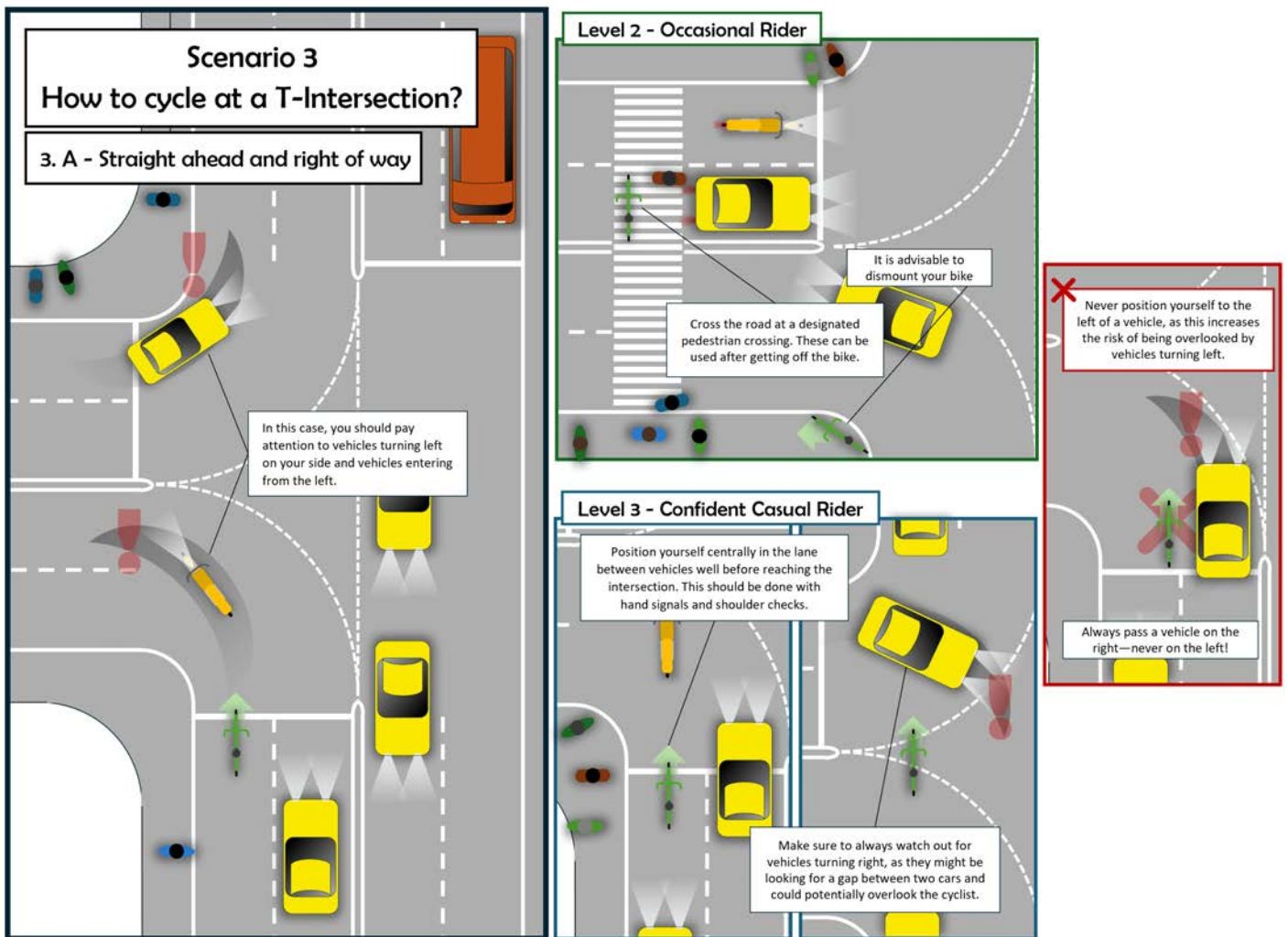


The first-round table discussion on the cycling manual at the University of Nairobi. PHOTO: CAMA, 2024

Pedaling Safely: A Cycling Manual

We are excited to share an important update from the University of Nairobi's CAMA team, who, in collaboration with their Karlsruhe CAMA partners, are making significant strides in promoting safe cycling in Kenya. With invaluable input from cycling instructors in Nairobi County, the team is creating the country's first-ever cycling training manual. This groundbreaking initiative aims to equip cyclists with the knowledge and skills to navigate Kenya's unique road landscape safely.

The manual combines real-world experiences from seasoned cyclists with research-based insights into road safety and cycling awareness. It will cover essential topics such as navigating different riding conditions, assessing risks, and responding to unexpected challenges, offering comprehensive support for cyclists of all skill levels. While the manual cannot guarantee absolute safety or cover every unique situation, it aims to empower cyclists with the tools and knowledge to ride responsibly and confidently.



On October 22, 2024, a significant milestone was achieved with the completion of the first revision of the manual. The next steps will involve pretesting the manual with local cycling communities to ensure it is effective and relevant. After these refinements, the manual is scheduled

for an official launch in 2025. We are proud of the progress made and look forward to the positive impact this manual will have on promoting safe cycling practices in Kenya. This initiative highlights our commitment to promoting sustainable and safe mobility while also establishing

a strong foundation for cycling education in Kenya. Stay tuned for updates as this important resource progresses toward becoming a key element of road safety in the country

CAMA Engagement with KCCA Leadership

On the 14th of May 2024, our team had a productive meeting with the Director of Engineering and Technical Services at Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), Eng. Justus Akankwasa, and Eng. Fortunate at City Hall. The CAMA team was represented by esteemed members including Prof. Jochen Eckart, Dr. Jotham I. Sempewo, Ms. Amanda Ngabirano, Ms. Namakula Hidaya, Mr. Tusubira Joseph, Ms. Catharina Lutz, and Ms. Azeb Tesfaye.

During this meeting, KCCA shared exciting updates on the planned rehabilitation of Sir Apollo Kaggwa Road and Bombo Road, which are scheduled for implementation in the

coming months. These plans already include pedestrian-friendly features. The CAMA team presented a pilot design focusing on safe shared spaces, especially for university students crossing towards Makerere University's Western gate.

Additionally, we explored other locations for pilot testing, including the Uganda Management Institute (UMI) crossing on Jinja Road and



committed to sharing the finalized designs with us for our input before construction begins. Ben Kiwanuka Street in the Central Business District. The proposed designs emphasize self-enforcing measures to ensure safe and inclusive mobility for all road users. This collaboration marks a significant step towards implementing active mobility solutions and fostering sustainable urban transport systems in Kampala.

We are excited about the progress made and look forward to continuing our work to create safer, more accessible, vibrant streets for everyone in Kampala.

Living labs: stakeholder workshop

We are excited to share the outcomes of the CAMA Follow-Up Living-Labs stakeholder meeting, which was organized to advance our efforts toward promoting active mobility in Kampala, Uganda. This meeting was instrumental in aligning ongoing research with practical interventions through the Living Labs approach. It brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to share progress, discuss findings, and refine pilot designs for proposed real-life experiments, with a particular focus on enhancing accessibility and

safety for pedestrians crossing Sir Apollo Kaggwa Road near Makerere University's western gate.

Key Discussions and Outcomes:

National Overview on Active Mobility: The meeting began with a comprehensive overview of active and sustainable mobility in Uganda and its relationship with the CAMA project.

Project Updates: Updates on the progress of the Kampala CAMA Project were shared, along with insights from video analysis results.

Pilot Design Review: An in-depth review of the Sir Apollo Kaggwa Road pilot design was conducted, incorporating valuable feedback from the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) and other stakeholders.

Collaborative Discussions: The meeting concluded by having a collaborative discussion on the proposed interventions, emphasizing inclusive street designs and cost-effective solutions to address mobility challenges in urban settings.



The meeting was attended by a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from:

- Ministry of Works and Transport
- DMB FuturePro Ltd
- Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA)
- National Planning Authority
- Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA)

- World Resources Institute (WRI)
- Uganda Railway Corporation
- School of Public Health at Makerere University
- Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) Africa
- First African Bicycle Organization (FABIO)
- Digital Bikes
- Uganda Road Accident Reduction Network Organisation (URRENO)

- Safety Watch Initiatives (U)
- Training, Education & Empowerment for Neighbourhood Sustainability (TEENS) Uganda
- Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development
- Civil Society Coalition on Transport (CISCOT)
- Department of Architecture and Urban Planning at Makerere University

- International Relations at Makerere University
- UB Consulting Engineers

We are delighted with the collaborative spirit and the progress made during this meeting. Together, we are making significant strides toward implementing active mobility solutions and fostering sustainable urban transport systems in Kampala.

Kampala Car-Free Day: Vibrant and Inclusive

Kampala Car Free Day was organized by the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) on 7th September 2024. This initiative transformed the streets of Kampala, promoting sustainable transport, environmental conservation, and community well-



being.

The event was a collaborative effort involving KCCA, Makerere University, AirQo, the World Resources Institute (WRI), ITDP, and local community groups, aiming to advance the adoption of non-motorized transport (NMT) while fostering inclusivity and health-conscious urban living.

Event Highlights:

Car-Free Zones:

Major roads like Buganda Road, Lumumba Avenue, George Street, and Speke Road were transformed into vibrant, vehicle-free zones, hosting various recreational, educational, and wellness activities.



Physical Activities:

Participants enjoyed cycling, walking, jogging, skating, and wheelchair mobility, along with group aerobics and yoga sessions promoting active lifestyles.

Recreational and Cultural Events:

The event featured on-street games such as volleyball, basketball, netball, and board games, as well as street art and painting sessions that turned open spaces into dynamic art zones.



Health and Wellness:

A health camp offered free medical services, including HIV testing, blood pressure checks, and general consultations by Makerere University's School of Public Health.

Educational Exhibits:

Exhibits highlighted environmental conservation, the benefits of NMT, and innovative urban sustainability solutions.



Key Contributions:

Makerere University, particularly the College of Engineering, Design, Art, and Technology (CEDAT) under the CAMA project, played a central role by involving students in street art painting, road marking, cycling, walking, and on-street games. They also conducted interviews to gather public opinions on pedestrian safety interventions near Jinja Road at the Uganda Management Institute (UMI) campus.



Environmental Impact:

Real-time air quality monitoring by the AirQo project, Makerere University, revealed significant improvements in air quality during the car-free hours, underscoring the environmental benefits of reducing motorized transport.

Wider Impacts:

The Car-Free Day demonstrated the transformative potential of reimagining streets as spaces for people. The event fostered a sense of joy and equity by engaging individuals in diverse activities, from leisurely strolls to inclusive games for the mobility impaired. A key highlight was the piloting of asphalt painting murals, enhancing street safety and promoting active mobility.

These murals, applied to crossings and public leisure areas, improved pedestrian safety, increased foot traffic, and revitalized community spaces through art. Additionally, Kampala hosted the East African Cycling Day, graced by His Excellency, the East African Games Ambassador, spotlighting the city's commitment to sustainable urban mobility.



Car-free day Kampala, September 2024





Shape your city's movement: An expert workshop in Mekelle

Our CAMA team in collaboration with Future Urban Lab and EiT-M at Mekelle University, an expert workshop was conducted on 18th of May 2024 at Mekelle University. The workshop was themed "Shape your City's Movement" and focused on promoting active mobility.



Experts' workshop Mekelle, May 2024

The main objective of this expert workshop was to create a platform where we can discuss about the design of the upcoming living labs/ real-life experiment planned to be implemented in the October 2024. It was to capture the expertise perception and recommendation on both case streets' design and to create a common understanding on the implementation of living labs/ real-life experiments including with whom and how to collaborate with key players of Mekelle city development. The workshop included a valuable mix of activities aimed at promoting active mobility.

Key activities included:

Guided Streets' Site Visit:

This program was the first task of the workshop. Experts were grouped into four based on their sectors, that is two group for Agazi street and two group in Bitsu'an group.

Two participatory maps were given per group, for the purpose of participatory street analysis and street design. It showcased the conditions of existing and missing infrastructure to support walking and cycling.



Experts' proposal real-life experiment design

Presentations:

Shared findings from the Mekelle digital crowd mapping tool.

Global Insights:

Provided insights into real-life experiments with active mobility from around the world.

Group Discussions:

Facilitated idea exchanges and discussions among experts based on discussion points:

- "List three necessary street amenities"
- "List three major obstacles"
- "List three possible long-term solutions"

Walking and cycling event:

A 10km walking event and 10km biking event was organised in collaboration with Hailemelokot cycling association. to promote the benefits of walking cycling in Mekelle city.



Walking and cycling event, May 2024

This workshop not only highlighted the current state of urban mobility in Mekelle but also fostered discussions on innovative solutions and best practices from around the globe. It has also provided a positive impact on shaping the collaboration with the experts and stakeholders.

Towards inclusive cycling: Training cycling skill to women

CAMA team Mekelle are delighted to announce the successful completion of a five-day cycling training program organized by our dedicated team in collaboration with Hailemelekot cycling association. This initiative was designed towards making cycling inclusive, in a city where cycling is perceived as a mode for men. It was to

equip the women with the skills and confidence to ride bicycles safely and effectively. Five passionate women participated in this comprehensive training. The program focused on essential cycling skills, including balance, control, safety measures, and road awareness. Through this training, our primary

goals were to empower women and build their confidence in cycling. The participants gained valuable skills and a sense of accomplishment, encouraging them to embrace cycling as a mode of transportation and recreation. This initiative also fostered a sense of community and mutual support among the participants.

Real-life experiment in Mekelle

Finally, we are pleased to share the latest updates on our efforts to promote active mobility in Mekelle City. As part of the CAMA-MU Project, in collaboration with Future Urban Lab, EiT-M, and Mekelle University, several significant initiatives and events took place before and during Mekelle Urban October.

Stakeholder Validation Workshop

Following the preparation of our street design for the real-life experiment based on our findings, we conducted a stakeholder workshop on 30th of September 2024 to validate and get approval for its implementation.



Validation workshop on the street design for real-life experiment, August 2024

The real-life experiment design includes:

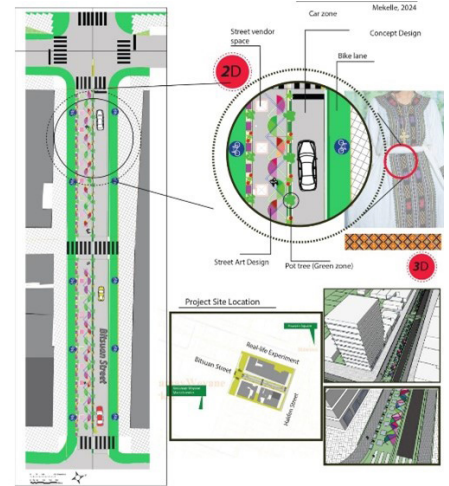
- Safe Pedestrian Crossings: Ensuring safe passage for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Ample Space for Pedestrians and Vendors: Providing sufficient room for walking and street vending buffered by street tree.
- Designated Cycling Areas: Allocating dedicated two lane for cyclists.

This workshop has ensured the approval of the real-life experi-

ment design, and the necessary collaboration opportunities for its implementation in the urban October.

Implementing the real-life experiment

Following the approval, various activities were conducted to implement the street design on ground.



Urban Design for real-life experiment on Bitsu'an street

Real-life experiment implementation



International Workshop



The implementation of the real-life experiment was enriched with events such as: workshops, panel discussions site visits, Car free day campaign and cultural farewell and networking events and more. The events were covered by local broadcasting medias.

Official Real-life experiment opening ceremony:

As first activity of the event, a site visit to the real-life experiment/ living lab site was conducted for an opening ceremony of the implemented real-life experiment.



Workshop:

An international workshop was held at the Mekelle University, bringing together international, national, and local stakeholders. The workshop featured:

Presentations:

Insights from German professors on global experiences in active mobility, including walking, cycling, and city living labs.



Official opening of the real-life experiment



Regional Insights and Panel Discussions:

The session included presentations on experience sharing from Kenyan experts, active mobility advocacy in Addis Ababa, and CAMA research findings from Mekelle. These were complemented by engaging discussions on the challenges and potential solutions for advancing active mobility practices.



Car Free Day Campaigns:

Implementation of the real-life experiment was marked by vibrant events aimed at fostering a culture of active mobility:

Walking:

A scenic walk along Chom'a Mountain via Mekelle University main campus.



Move-Mekelle Car-Free Day:

A walking and cycling event was organized in collaboration with Tigray Bureau of transport and Tigray health bureau to promote the benefits of reducing car usage. The event featured briefs on the advantages of active mobility and included non-communicable disease (NCD) medical checkups as part of the activities.



Car-free day in Mekelle



Health check-up activities by Tigray health bureau



Public Lecture:

Concluding with a lecture on research developments, grant findings, partnerships, and scholarship opportunities for academic and research staff, as well as postgraduate students.



These initiatives and events have underscored the importance of active mobility and sustainable urban living. We are excited about the progress made and look forward to expanding these efforts throughout Mekelle City.

We would like to extend our gratitude for the CAMA consortium for your continued support in advancing our city towards a model of active mobility and sustainable urban development.

As we are embarking to the new year. We wish you all a pleasant and prosperous year. We wish you all to see the sustainable and safe city we envision.

*Happy new year!
2025*

Contact

For more information and updates about us and our project check our websites and follow us on social media:

cama-project.com

ids.uonbi.ac.ke

www.uni-kassel.de/go/radverkehr

www.h-ka.de/en/ivi/profile

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