

Urban Mobility Recovery after COVID-19

Turning an emergency into a catalyst for change

By Maria Marrugat

Correlation between air pollution and COVID-19 mortality

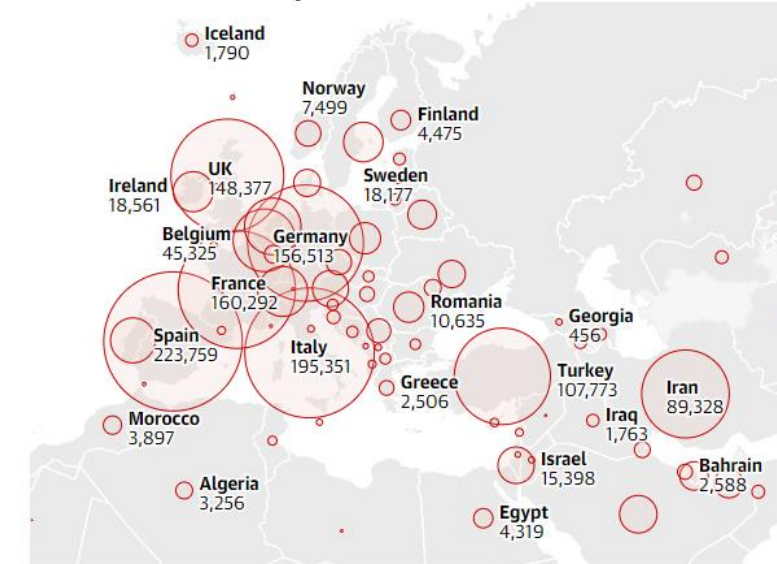
- Research by Martin Luther University: “of the coronavirus deaths across 66 administrative regions in Italy, Spain, France and Germany, 78% of them occurred in just five regions, and these were the most polluted.”
Yaron Ogen, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany [The Guardian](#)

“The results indicate that NO₂ long-term exposure may be one of the most important contributors to fatality caused by the Covid-19 virus in these regions and maybe across the whole world”

- A study by Harvard University :“a small increase in long-term exposure to PM2.5 leads to a large increase in COVID-19 death rate.” [Study on long-term exposure to air pollution and COVID-19 mortality in USA](#)

“The results underscore the importance of continuing to enforce existing air pollution regulations to protect human health both during and after the COVID-19 crisis”

Data correct at 10.25 UTC 26 April



Confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Europe, Middle East and North Africa



“It’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take a fresh look at your streets and make sure that they are set to achieve the outcomes that we want to achieve: not just moving cars as fast as possible from point A to point B, but making it possible for everyone to get around safely”

Janette Sadik-Khan (former Commissioner of NY Transport Department and urban transportation policy advisor)



Paris to create 650 Km of Post-Lockdown Cycleways

FACTS

- **WHO** recommended new guidance on moving around during COVID-19 outbreak: “**Whenever feasible, consider riding bicycles or walking**”. Both are useful for social distancing and meeting the minimum requirement for daily physical activity.
- Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo had promised that every street in the city would become cycle-friendly by 2024

PROPOSED

- **650 km of cycleways**—including a number of pop-up “corona cycleways”—will be readied for May 11 when lockdown is eased in France.
- On April 21, the Île-de-France region pledged financial support for the preexisting RER Vélo project (network of 9 cycleways linking the center of Paris with key suburbs) → **€300million** will be provided for a mix of new infrastructure and temporary “corona cycleway”
- **Cycleways mirror the routes of the RER metro** rail lines into Paris. Some existing RER Vélo cycleways include REVe, for use of e-bikes.
- 116 towns and cities in France (Lille, Dijon, Rouen, Le Mans, St Etienne..) plan to build temporary cycleways for the duration of the current lockdown and the next few months.

Barcelona: aims to expand sidewalks and bike lanes

FACTS

- World Health Organization (WHO) considers 40 micrograms per cubic metre of NO₂ a health hazard. Barcelona exceeds systematically that threshold (59 micrograms in 2017)

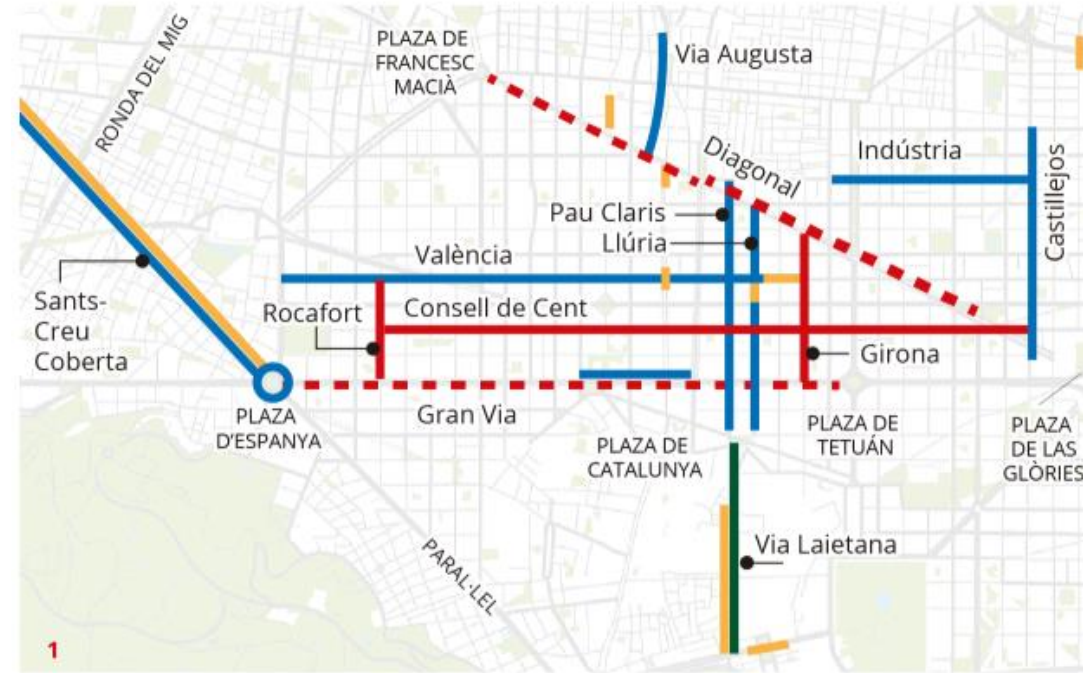
PROPOSED

A bold expansion of sidewalks by painting them instead of adding pavement.

The plan includes:

- Gran Via and Diagonal will lose lateral lanes and will gain 21Km more for bikes and last mile devices
- Some of these new lanes will be shared with bus and private vehicles, max speed will be 30Kph
- Consell de Cent, Girona and Rocafort will have one unique road traffic lane shared by bikes and cars at a max speed of 30Kph

PRINCIPALES ACTUACIONES



PACIFICACIÓN DE CALLES

Consell de Cent ROCAFORT / GIRONA

Girona DIAGONAL / GRAN VIA

Rocafort VALÈNCIA / GRAN VIA

- Reducción del espacio del coche a un solo carril (a 30 km/h) que compartirán con las bicicletas

- Ampliación de la acera 4 metros más con pinturasobre la calzada

- Elementos de reducción de la velocidad a la entrada de la calle

PEATONALIZACIÓN DE UNO DE LOS DOS LATERALES

Gran Via LATERAL MAR (DE ESPAÑA A TETUÁN)

NUEVOS CORREDORES BICI

Sants-Creu Coberta

Roger de Llúria

Pau Claris

Meridiana CAN DRAGÓ

P. Santa Coloma

Gran Via ARIBAU / P. DE GRÀCIA

València TARRAGONA / MERIDIANA

Vía Augusta DIAGONAL / LAFORJA

Indústria BAILÉN - CASTILLEJOS

Castillejos TRAVESSERA-C. DE CENT

AMPLIACIÓN DE ACERAS

Via Laietana HASTA 4,15 METROS MARCADAS CON PINTURA

MEJORAS DE LA RED



Milan: ambitious scheme to reduce car use after lockdown

FACTS

- Milan and Lombardy region are among Europe's most polluted, and has been especially hard hit by the Covid-19 outbreak.
- Milan is a small, dense city, 15km from end to end with 1.4million in habitants, 55% of whom use public transport to get to work.
- The average commute is less than 4km, making a switch from cars to active modes of travel potentially possible for many residents.

PROPOSED

- The city has announced that **35km of streets will be transformed** over the summer, with a rapid, experimental citywide expansion of **cycling and walking space** to protect residents as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

The plan includes:

- low-cost temporary cycle lanes
- new and widened pavements
- 30kph (20mph) speed limits
- pedestrian and cyclist priority streets.

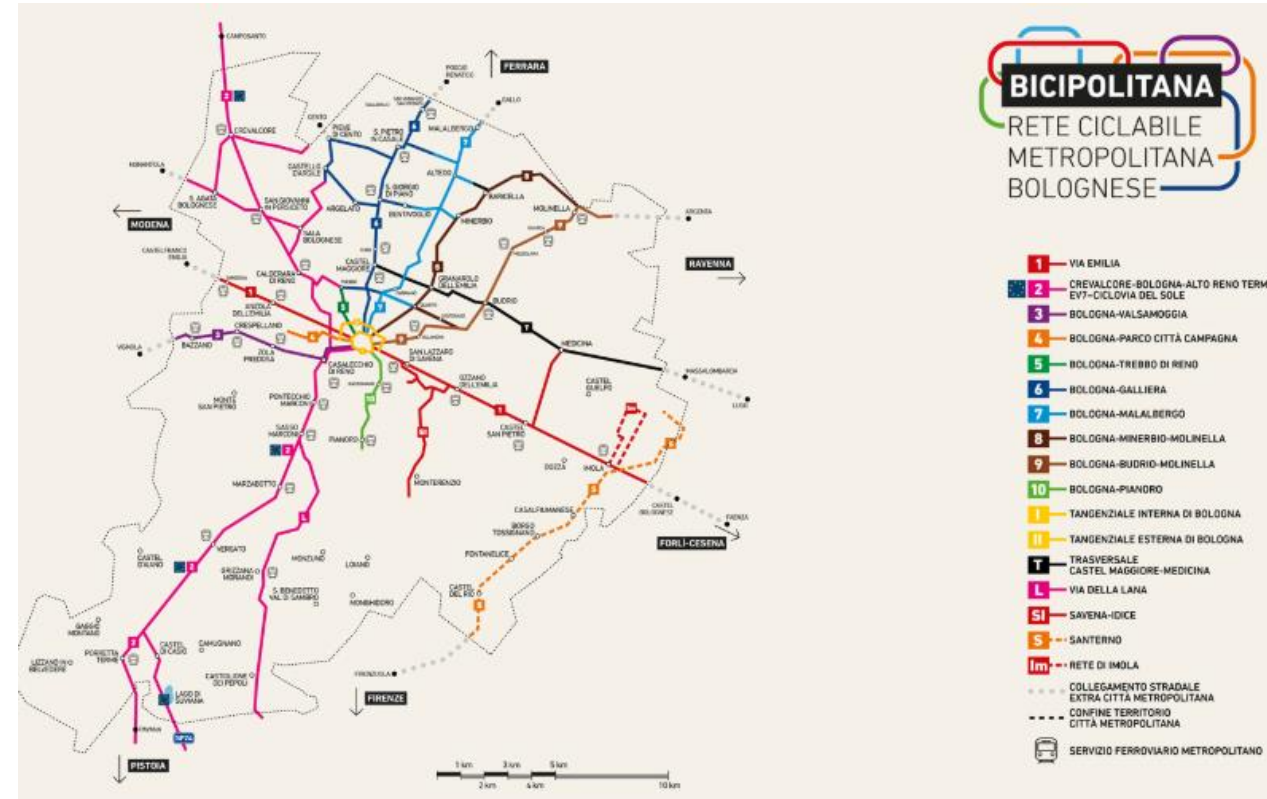


Milan has started the implementation of [#StradeAperte](#) [#OpenStreets](#) project for low-cost temporary bike lanes and widened sidewalks

Bologna speeds up 'Bicipolitana': bike network roll-out

PROPOSED

- 'Bicipolitana' network was already set out in the city's Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP). It was aimed to be completed in 2030, however to allow citizens travel safely after lockdown measures are eased, 60% of the network will be completed in 2020.
- The network will consist of a total of 493 km (of which 145 exist); 10 the main lines and 6 the complementary lines (275 km of which 84 exist) integrated with the Biciplan of the capital
- This metropolitan cycle network is strengthened by the announced regional and state funding to encourage the purchase of electric bikes and scooters

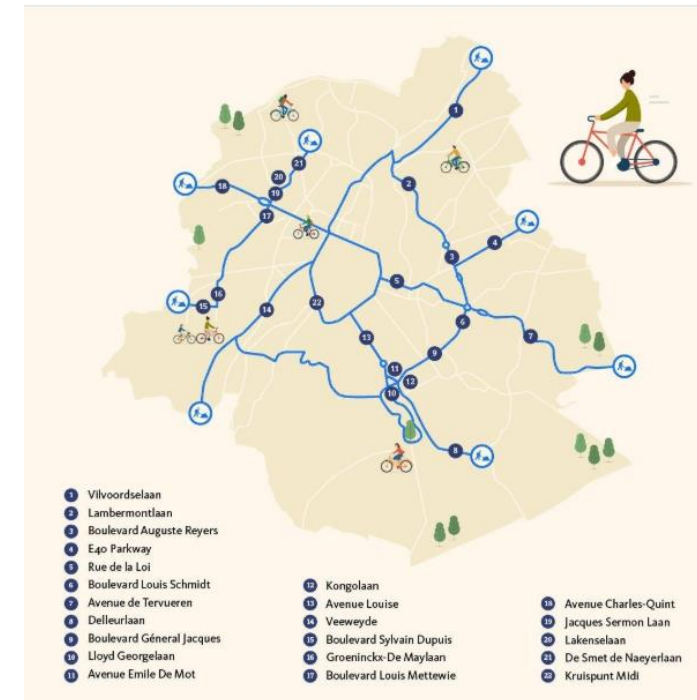


<https://twitter.com/pumsbologna>
https://pumsbologna.it/news/Ecco_la_Bicipolitana_il_piano_per_accelerare_la_realizzazione_alla_luce_dell_emergenza_sanitaria
[er.com/elkevdbandt/status/1255412954746544128](https://www.facebook.com/elkevdbandt/status/1255412954746544128)

Brussels: announces 20km/h limits and expanded bike network

PROPOSED

- Recently agreed to make 30km/h the default speed limit in the Brussels Capital region (exceptionally key roads will remain 50Km/h or 70Km/h)
- In the city centre, the 'Pentagon' (area located inside inner ring road) will become 20km/h zone → Pedestrians and cyclists will have more priority
- 40 km extra bike lanes in the city centre



<https://twitter.com/elkevdbandt/status/1255412954746544128>

London: Mayor's Streetspace Plan

FACTS

- With public transport capacity severely reduced, it is estimated that **up to eight million journeys a day in London will need to be made by other means**
- Modelling has predicted that **cycling could increase as much as ten-fold** once lockdown measures are lifted as people seek ways to travel safely and hygienically

PROPOSED

- Mayor's Streetspace Plan will fast track the transformation of London's streets to **enable millions more people to safely walk and cycle as part of their daily journeys**
- Roll out a strategic cycling network using temporary materials, building new routes to reduce crowding on underground and train lines
- Wider footways on high streets will facilitate a local economic recovery, with people having space to queue for shops as well as enough space for others to safely walk past while socially distancing.
- Work with boroughs to reduce through traffic on residential streets, creating low-traffic neighbourhoods right across London to further enable more people to walk and cycle

Cities in action around the globe

Global Mayors COVID-19 Recovery task Force (C40)

London, 29 April - 11 mayors from major cities worldwide will bring expertise and knowledge to newly formed Global Mayors COVID-19 Recovery Task Force

Task Force, chaired by Mayor of Milan, established to drive forward an economic recovery that improves public health, reduces inequality and addresses the climate crisis

Through thought-leadership papers, webinars and briefings from experts worldwide, the COVID-19 Recovery Task Force will provide mayors with data, best practices and analysis for how to achieve an economic recovery

Cities for Global Health (Metropolis)

Barcelona, 24 March- a collaborative online platform that offers access to knowledge, strategies and actionable plans implemented by local and regional governments around the globe regarding specific initiatives or plans to beat COVID-19 outbreak

Cities for Global Health is co-led by Metropolis and AL-LAs, and is part of the "Live Learning Experience: beyond the immediate response to the outbreak", developed by UCLG and supported by UN-Habitat and Metropolis.

Transportation Response Center to COVID-19 (NACTO)

NACTO provides to City governments and transit agencies:

- Rapid response tools for cities, with implementation strategies
- City transportation action updates from around the world
- Webinars, real-time forums and technical assistance on emerging issues
- Information about emergency federal assistance and stimulus funding