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Cycling Practices through the Lens of Innovation Biographies

Background
High shares of cycling in local mobility are generally attributed to good infrastructures, often in combination with behavioural factors. We contend that good cycling territories are established by means of practices, material and social (including policy practices). Because of the bottom-up nature of cycling support (even in a cycling nation like the Netherlands), the main challenge lies in shaping, adapting and aligning practices in a multi-stakeholder context. One core driver is the role of innovation in putting new practices on the map, and evolving and distributing them across.

Objective
To understand how innovative ideas are seeded and transformed into successful cycling practices, and how they transform from niche to more mainstream.

Approach
Innovation Biography. Stakeholder mapping.

Case Study
Bicycle Highway – RijnWaalPad, connecting twin cities of Arnhem and Nijmegen in the Netherlands

Results
A key role in aligning practices is played by policy ‘entrepreneurs’, through linking information, finance and media in multisite/multilevel contexts.