

Carfree Cities News



How did we grow in 2025?

Interns at CCA

We've operated two different internship programs. One of them was through the University of Birmingham (UK) and here we received three excellent interns, Lara Gold, Sally Abdulel-Qader, and James Cox, who were active this past Fall. Their main focus was researching and mapping carfree places around the world. In our South Asian program, interns were exposed to the concept of carfree cities in depth, engaged in various assignments to explore what carfree cities could mean in their locales, and created presentations and videos.

Community Connectors

This past year we started a new program called community connectors. These are active persons in their respective communities who act as liaisons to CCA, also forming a new CCA community connectors group. Currently we have the following countries represented: The Netherlands, Czechia, Palestine, Egypt, Uganda, Tanzania, Botswana, South Africa, Cameroon, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Maldives, Brazil, and the UK. If you would like to join this group, please let us know! It is possible to have more than one connector from the same country. Get in touch at downtown@carfreealliance.org.

Aerial tram in Wuppertal, Germany. Photo by Mila Zanforlin

Looking back

As this is our first issue in 2026, we would like to take a look at the ways we have grown over the past year. We are quite thankful for a number of new elements in our collective work. A big thank you to all of you who were with us last year, or who have joined us newly.

Looking forward

And where are we going this year and beyond? We are also shining the light on those regions and areas where we expect to be active, and are looking forward to good things happening.

Going to WUF?

CCA and several partners will attend the World Urban Forum (WUF) this year, in Baku, Azerbaijan, May 17-22. We are planning some sessions too. Going? Let us know!

[WUF website](#)

[WUF info sessions](#) - can register



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How did we grow in 2025? (continued)

[New experts page](#)

Welcome, CCA experts!

We have a new page on our website: "Meet our experts" which is our first roster of experts associated with the Carfree Cities Alliance and working in areas of shared interest. Please check out the page. We will continue to grow this page, and include more wonderful people!

<https://www.carfreealliance.org/experts>

Working Groups kicked off

In 2025 we kicked off two new working groups. The group "Urban Strategies - how to shift away from car culture" and "Carfree Places - the future of carfree cities" have both been launched. The urban strategies group looks at how we can shift planning and design in current cities, while the carfree places group explores possible scenarios for future cities or new neighborhoods. We are still early in the life of these working groups and welcome new members. If interested, get in touch at downtown@carfreealliance.org.

What are we looking forward to this year? -

Local Projects

One thing we have been preparing for in 2026 is a stronger focus on local community engagement and local projects. That is why we are working with a few key allies on helping develop and co-create various projects together. CCA is aiming to provide as much collaborative support as possible. The next section jumps around the world in a sneak preview of some of the anticipated collaborative projects.

Egypt - 6th October City

There are exciting new developments for the implementation of last mile solutions for the 6th of October City, which is a western suburb of Cairo. The initial planning phase has involved the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) and set the stage for 6th of October City to embrace sustainable transportation, including a new BRT line linking to central Giza, as well as cycling corridors. CCA is following along closely, and has offered its availability to play a role as events unfold.

--Background information on 6th October City: [ITDP article](#)



Bethlehem. Photo by Lucija Ros

Local Projects in 2026 continued

Palestine - Bethlehem

This new year, the goal is to create a community-led public space process in Bethlehem and Beit Jala that starts from residents' everyday experiences of the street and positions the community as an active partner in shaping public space. The project will work directly with residents, shop owners, street vendors, youth, women, and elders. Through research, dialogue, and on-the-ground testing, community knowledge can translate into practical insights that guide municipal action and strengthens community ownership of public space.

Uganda - Kampala

The main goal for the new year is the increased engagement in a stakeholder process aimed to support walking, cycling, and placemaking, in Kampala. Open street events often include children's play spaces, walking and cycling sessions, skating, board games, and painting competitions. Other events include cycle tourism, fun cycling, acrobatics, short videos and exhibitions.

Bangladesh - Dhaka

The main hope is to convert a dead-end road into a permanent, full-time carfree street for games and activities. There is also the plan to convert an unused field into a permanent play space for children. The carfree streets program should continue, and include handing over to the community three different temporary carfree streets programs and explore new areas for temporary street conversions. Other planned activities involve working with youth through internships and Camp Cool, and generating attention through social media.



Low-traffic street in Dhaka, by Sazzad Aryan



Street mural. Photo by Alex Duffy

Announcements and News

Survey on carfree events

CCA is a member of the EU **CONIFER** project, which looks at understanding the role and impact of carfree events around the world. The International Federation of Pedestrians (IFP) is also on the project, and has prepared a survey related specifically to carfree projects. Please help by taking the survey - it should only take between 10 and 15 minutes to fill in, and will be used in the project results. If you happen to know of other local, regional or national organisations or individuals that you believe are of interest for this survey, please do share it.

[The link to the carfree events survey.](#)

New Toolkit!

CCA is proud to release a new toolkit - a guide to resources for the carfree cities researcher and practitioner. The toolkit is divided into sections and contains numerous listings of books, publications, podcasts, films, and more, that are of interest to any urbanist. Research was aided by our cooperation with the University of Birmingham.

[Download your copy of Toolkit #12](#) (pdf)

New York Congestion Charge after one year

After one year of running New York City's congestion charge, it is time to take stock. According to reports, the congestion charge program has been a major success, despite efforts by the federal government to shut it down. 27 million fewer vehicles came into New York, while much-needed money is being raised for transport upgrades of the subway and bus systems.

[Read the article on The American Prospect](#)

All in for Berlin !

In Berlin, Germany, there is an exciting initiative underway to create a massive car-lite zone in all of central Berlin. The campaign is currently in the final three months of gathering signatures, and then it can go for a vote. Anyone with friends in Germany, and Berlin in particular, please urge all to get behind the campaign. There are numerous ways to engage.

[Read the background story on Streetsblog.](#) (English) **[Here is the campaign update](#)** (German)

SPOTLIGHT - CCA Member

Every month, we profile one person from the wider CCA network. This month we're shining the light on Razan Abudalu from Jerusalem.

Who are you, and where do you live?

My name is Razan Abudalu. I am a Palestinian architect and urban planning researcher based in Jerusalem, working across Jerusalem, the West Bank, and internationally. My everyday life is shaped by fragmented geographies, borders, checkpoints, and permit regimes. Traveling short distances often means crossing military checkpoints, navigating uncertainty, and spending hours waiting — experiences that deeply shape how I understand mobility, access, and public space.

What is your daytime job?

I work at the intersection of research, planning practice, and community organizing. I currently work with Al-Bayader, focusing on systemic and structural change in local Arab authorities, including planning policy, capacity building, and the implementation of government programs in areas such as housing, infrastructure, and public space. Also, I am deeply involved in Placemaking Palestinians.

What is it that you like about the carfree concept?

For me, the car-free concept is deeply tied to freedom, dignity, and justice. Living in a place where movement is controlled, where crossing from one city to another can involve questioning, waiting, or denial, makes it impossible to see mobility as neutral. Car-free and people-centered environments shift power back to the human scale: to walking, meeting, lingering, and belonging. In Palestinian cities, walkable streets are not only about sustainability; they are spaces where people can gather without permits, children can play safely, elders can sit without fear, and community life can exist beyond controlled roads. Car-free thinking allows us to reclaim public space as a right, not a privilege.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

Because of checkpoints and borders, I've learned to measure distance not in kilometers, but in waiting time, emotional energy, and uncertainty.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The major problems in the world are the result of the difference between how nature works and the way people think."

- Gregory Bateson, in his book *Steps to an Ecology of Mind*. He went on to explain that the shift in thinking necessary would be "the difference that makes the difference."

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

This newsletter is Volume 4 Issue 16. It was prepared by the Carfree Cities Alliance.

www.carfreealliance.org/newsletter.

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Contact us at downtown@carfreealliance.org