



Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany
Washington

BROOKINGS



cordially invite you to a panel discussion on

"Transatlantic Perspectives on Travel Behavior and Sustainable Urban Transportation: What the United States and Germany can learn from each other"

The German Embassy and The Brookings Institution will jointly host the presentation of two studies on travel behavior and sustainable urban transportation. A panel of authors and experts will discuss the findings of the reports, including Q&A from the audience.

Thursday, 16 April 2009

10-11.30 am

German Embassy, Carl-Schurz-Hall
4645 Reservoir Rd, NW
20007 Washington, D.C.

Introduction and overview:

Ralph Buehler, PhD, Assistant Professor in Urban Affairs and Planning, Virginia Tech

Panel participants:

Robert Puentes, Senior Fellow and Director, Metropolitan Infrastructure Initiative, Metropolitan Policy Program, Brookings Institution

Ralph Buehler, PhD, Assistant Professor in Urban Affairs and Planning, Virginia Tech

Dr. Uwe Kunert, Senior Research Associate in Energy, Transportation and Environment at the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin)

John Pucher, PhD, Professor, the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

Christian Kohlhase, First Secretary (Transportation), German Embassy

Moderator:

Anja Küppers, German Embassy

Please RSVP to: wi-s2@wash.diplo.de or phone 202 298 4346

Street Parking is available on Reservoir Road. The D6 bus stops at the corner of Foxhall Road / Reservoir Road

www.germany.info

www.brookings.edu

www.transatlantic-climate-bridge.org

Background:

***“Trends and Determinants of Travel Behavior in the USA and in Germany”
Research Report (2009) commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Transport,
Building and Urban Affairs***

Germany and the USA display many similarities in economy, political system, and culture. Over the last 60 years, both countries have experienced strong economic growth, increasing incomes per capita, and growing automobile ownership and use. In both countries the automobile industry is important for the national economy. This study shows that several factors help explain similarities and differences in travel behavior (such as income levels, population density, and spatial development). Differences in transport and land-use policies help explain dissimilarities. Compared to the U.S., car use in Germany is more expensive whereas use of public transportation is less expensive. German transportation and land use policies keep settlement patterns compact, and promote walking, cycling, and public transportation as feasible, attractive, and convenient alternative modes of transportation. In the eyes of German policy makers, this report confirms the effectiveness of Germany's transportation policy, which explicitly integrates and supports all modes of transportation.

***“Making Urban Transportation Sustainable: What the USA Can Learn from Germany”
A report by: Ralph Buehler, John Pucher, and Uwe Kunert
The Brookings Institution, Metropolitan Policy Program***

During the last decades, countries in Western Europe and North America have recognized the need to improve the societal impacts of their transportation systems. Transportation sustainability has become a pressing issue with the widely reached scientific consensus on the role of greenhouse gases in climate change. Most countries are far from achieving the goal of transportation sustainability, with the USA being one of the best known examples. Increasing transportation sustainability requires policies that foster changes in travel behavior, more difficult to design than improvements in technology. This report compares the transportation systems in the USA and Germany. Although car use is high in both countries, Germany has been far more successful than the USA in maintaining a more balanced transportation system. The purpose is to determine the applicable German transportation policies that could ultimately lead to a more sustainable U.S. transportation system.