

Safety and accident prevention plan in Burgos/Spain

The safety of pedestrians and cyclists on the roads is a indisputable issue. A safety and accident prevention plan helped to coordinate road safety policies and activities between all municipal departments and social agents and helped to plan training in road safety education on codes of conduct to improve awareness of road safety.



Objectives / Innovative Aspects

Objectives

Provide training and public information campaigns to improve road safety for pedestrians and cyclists in the city.

- Coordinate safety policies between all municipal departments and among social agents.
- Provide road safety training on codes of conduct and safe behaviour.

- Development of educational road-safety campaigns in schools and at the workplace (according to measure 11.2).
- Data collection and studies of accident frequency and their locations.
- Implementation of the information system.
- Improvements to road signs and speed-calming measures.
- Improvements to the timing of traffic lights at pedestrian crossings.

Innovative Activities

- Assure the safety of pedestrians in the city by means of road signs and well designed access, as well as through awareness of new codes of conduct to improve road safety.

Innovation and Dissemination Activities

- Public information campaign to promote road safety and accident prevention for all citizens.

The Measure

Burgos is a city with a high accident rate. There were 1,827 accidents in 2002 which resulted in 400 injuries and 12 fatalities. These numbers reflect the heavy traffic flows both within and through the city en-route to other destinations. Imprudent behaviour by drivers also contributes to accidents, particularly excessive speed, but so do rash actions on the part of pedestrians and cyclists when crossing the road at inappropriate places without looking carefully for oncoming traffic, crossing when traffic lights are red or between moving cars and using the road as a sidewalk. Unsafe behaviour and lack of concern regarding the consequences of dangerous conduct contributes directly to accidents involving pedestrians.

Training activities

- Training workshops for police officers.

Evaluation

- Evaluation will rely on monitoring activities throughout the life of the project.

Research and Technical Development (RTD) and Innovation Activities

Research will be conducted into the precise circumstances of the majority of accidents in Burgos, especially in terms of their frequency and locations so as to develop a model that will allow improvements to be made to pedestrian safety at the precise points

Implementation Status

Planning of expenditure necessary for this measure in the annual budgets:
The scheduled actions were planned and following the analysis of various types of software, a modified version of the software used in the city of Barcelona was proposed.

where accidents have taken place. Through data collection and analysis, patterns will emerge of pedestrian behaviour and the exact circumstances that contributed to the cause of the accident. This analysis will lead to modifications in pedestrian facilities identified as weak in the demonstration phase.

Demonstration activities

The CIVITAS-CARAVEL project will promote road-safety education for the public, working towards a reduction in the number of accidents involving pedestrians and cyclists by modifications in behaviour patterns associated with urban mobility.

The planned actions include:

A visit of municipal technicians was organised so that they could familiarise themselves with the programme and its possible application in the city of Burgos. At present, its installation is being evaluated by project staff in conjunction with the municipal technicians.

Improvement of pedestrian crossings and introduction of traffic calming measures to reduce speed and danger of life: Steps have been taken by the traffic department at pedestrian black spots . They have consisted of better signposting at pedestrian crossings, adapting kerbs and pedestrian access to the road and even speed reduction measures. Moreover, raised pedestrian crossings are under study, their structure being modified so that they are effective as traffic calming measures. Likewise, electronic speed controls have been introduced at some points.

Results

The number of injures deserves a special attention due to the enormous decrease thanks to the project, less than 200 per year.

The number of children injuries has decreased (a 10% of the total injures) because of the workshops organized with them.

Thanks to the pedestrians condition improvements (traffic lights, calming measures...), the number of injuries of this sector has been reduced in more than 20%, meaning that thanks to the project more than 200 people have saved from accidents, and so the society and the city.

More than 2,000 children attended the workshop on security.

Author

José Escalante (jescalante@aytoburgos.es)

Contact

José Escalante (jescalante@aytoburgos.es)

Posted: 16-01-2009

In cooperation with:

