

A documentary by David Chernushenko



About the Film

Bike City, Great City is an uplifting ride through cities that are embracing cycling as a liberating, convenient and healthy way to get where you want to go.

David Chernushenko is a citizen, cyclist and city councillor in Ottawa, Canada, which received a “Silver” Bicycle Friendly City designation in 2011. That’s pretty good. But for David — and all cyclists and aspiring cyclists — Silver is not good enough. They want Gold. They want their city to be a place where people of any age, gender and income level see the bicycle as a practical, appealing and affordable choice for travelling to work, to school, to the shops, to everywhere.

In North American cities, less than two percent of people choose the bicycle as a regular mode of transportation. In great European cycling cities, more than 30 percent do. But in the last five years, dozens of major American and Canadian urban centres have figured out what Copenhagen has long known: When you give people a real choice — by making cycling a safe and appealing way to travel — they flock to it in droves and transform the city into a better place for everyone. Even drivers.

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Executive Producers Terry Kimmel & the Tucker House Renewal Centre

Edited by Ben Walker

Directed by David Chernushenko

Produced by Living Lightly Productions / Green & Gold Inc.

Length: 40 minutes

Year of completion: 2013

Director's Statement

For as long as I can remember, I have either been riding a bicycle or wishing that I was. To me, the bicycle is quite simply the most elegant and pleasurable way I have ever found to get around. It is fun, fitness, independence, thrift and speed all mounted on two wheels.

But the pleasure and liberty of riding a bike in the city can be severely restricted by the conditions for riding. North American cities have mostly been built for the car above all else. Walking and public transit have not gotten much respect, and cycling has too often been relegated to something for weekend recreation or for spandex-wearing athletes.

Although the bicycle was a common mode of urban and rural transportation 60 or even 100 years ago, its use dwindled with the ready availability of cars and roads to drive them on. I think it is time to reverse that trend. So do millions of other Canadian and American city dwellers who are increasingly voicing support for more investment in safe and convenient cycling infrastructure and revamped education programs for cyclists and drivers alike.

We have seen what cities like Copenhagen and Amsterdam are like, and we want to be more like them, at least in the sense of the quality of life benefits achieved by designing or redesigning cities to encourage more cycling and walking. More and more people are also doing something about it. They are riding in greater numbers and speaking out louder the more they sense their collective voice is making headway.

I made *Bike City, Great City* to tell the story of my city, Ottawa, and its gradual but steady progress to become a great bike city. In the process, I hope to inspire decision-makers across the continent and around the world to make their cities great cities as well, by transforming them into great places for cyclists and everyone else.

David Chernushenko

About the Director

David Chernushenko has directed two films on sustainability and energy issues: *Be the Change* (2008) explores the challenges and rewards of trying to live more lightly. *Powerful: Energy for Everyone* (2010) examines alternatives to conventional energy systems. He directed *Bike City, Great City* both as a citizen and as a city councillor (since 2010) in order to promote the universal benefits of active transportation and better city building. He lives, works and does most of his cycling in Ottawa, Canada.

About the Executive Producers

Terry Kimmel is a semi-retired professional with global expertise in alternative fuels, notably hydrogen. He is active in a range of Ottawa community initiatives. Producing *Bike City, Great City* is his first foray into the production of documentary films.

Tucker House Renewal Centre is a charitable retreat and environmental learning centre that works to promote sustainable living by:

- Providing interactive ecological programs for children, youth and adults in Prescott-Russell and Ottawa, Ontario, and in Gatineau, Quebec.
 - Operating and maintaining an environmental and spiritual retreat facility and organic garden in a natural, healthy and historic setting.
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About the Creative Team

Editor **Ben Walker** is an emerging filmmaker and video artist. He is currently working as a freelance videographer and editor in Ottawa, Canada. Ben prefers two wheels over four.

Don H. McMillan, who is responsible for the film's animation and graphics, is a freelance computer animator and graphic designer in Ottawa. He has worked on a wide variety of broadcast, government and private industry animation projects. As a regular cyclist, Don was very happy to be a part of this project.

Full Credits

Director

David Chernushenko

Producer

Living Lightly Productions /
Green & Gold Inc.

Executive Producers

Terry Kimmel
Tucker House Renewal Centre

Editor

Ben Walker

Music

Evalyn Parry
The Sultans of String

Script

David Chernushenko

Camera

David Chernushenko

Story

David Chernushenko and
Anouk Hoedeman

Animation & Graphics

Don H. McMillan

Colourist

Ben Walker

Audio Post-Production

Bartmart Audio

With special thanks to Wayne Bartlett

Photos

Hans Moor and the Embassy
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands,
Ottawa

David Chernushenko

Momentum mag (various magazine
covers courtesy of Mia Kohout)

Kathleen Wilker

Featuring

Tricia, Zoe and Isaac Wind

Colin Simpson

Catherine Henry

Ralph Buehler

Andy Clarke

Janette Sadik-Khan

Jesse McDonough

Cristina Furlong

Dina Cintin

Mia Kohout

Douglas Meyer

Manny Sanudo

Greg Ballard

Tom Bowden

Rob Ford

Eleanor McMahon

Dwayne Hodgson

Veronica Davis

Judi Varga-Toth

Randy Kemp

Shane Norris

Bruce Katz

John Burke

Jim Watson

Marie-Odile Junker

Anna Chernushenko

Eric Chernushenko

Special Thanks to

Anouk Hoedeman

Hans Moor

Dick Louch

Emmanuelle Erny-Newton

James Newton

Gaia Chernushenko

Alex de Vries

Pierre Sadik

Kristina Inrig

Kara Stonehouse

Anneka Bakker

Bike the Big Apple

Tucker House Renewal Centre

Share the Road Coalition

League of American Bicyclists

Right Bike

Sustainable Eastern Ontario

Thanks to Chris McKhool and
the Sultans of String for
permission to use their music:

- *El-Kahira*
- *Kitchen Party*
- *Rumba Norte*

Special thanks to Evalyn Parry for use of her music and
video scenes from her live show “evalyn parry’s SPIN”

- *She Rides*
- *Amelia Bloomer Sings for Fashion Reform*
- *Progress*