

# Changing behavior amongst motorists and cyclists by measuring passing distances

## Author

Jens Peter Hansen

## Co-author 1

Christopher Stanton,  
christopher@codaxus.com,  
Ghisallo Cycling Initiative

## Summary

Perception is reality! Many everyday cyclists voice concerns that cars perform close passes, resulting in the impression that the cars almost hit them. This perception needs to be addressed as the narrative related to feeling unsafe will keep people off their bikes. Therefore, in Randers, the local branch of Danish Cyclists Federation will run a campaign from November 2016 to May 2017 to raise awareness about the importance of keeping a safe distance when overtaking a cyclist. The aim of the campaign, which are funded by TrygFonden, is two-fold: a) Getting from feelings to facts about distances of passing vehicles and b) Producing stories about passing distances for different media so to initiate public discussions. Our current hypothesis is that most passing is done with a safe clearance between vehicle and cyclist and that we only will experience few close passes. Collecting accurate real-world passing data and documenting the actual unsafe pass rate, we will be able to calm nervous riders and through public forums, raise awareness among drivers about the importance of sufficient passing distance. To get data about passing distances, we will use two C3FT devices. C3FT is a bicycle-mounted electronic system designed for the purpose of detecting, capturing, and displaying - on video - the lateral proximity of passing vehicles. Our plan is to collect data using different riders, clothing and bicycle types, on various road configurations, times of day, and days of the week. All results will be available for presentation at Velo-City 2017.

## Formats

Lecture

## Themes

People, Governance

## Keywords

Safety, campaign, behavior change, passing distance, clearance, C3FT

## Organisation type

Cycling association

## Abstract type

What

## Country

Denmark

## Continent

Europe