



### Biking for a better city

Anders Swanson is a Winnipeg bicycle mechanic at a community-focused cycling shop, but he has helped to catalyze what may be a defining moment in how people move around his city. Thanks to his job, he discovered many people either didn't think about cycling around Winnipeg or they wanted to but felt unable to do so for a range of reasons. In the summer of 2006, he decided to help. "The key is to stay positive," he says. "Don't blame people for not riding their bikes. Find the reasons why they can't and address them."

He started onegreencity.com as a first step in creating a comprehensive cycling infrastructure. The project actually came out of a painting. Anders is also an artist, and after creating a mural for Winnipeg's 2006 Mural Fest about the relationship between people and the environment and human impact on the landscape, he realized how powerful a visual image could be and how it could be used to bring people together. Following this line of thinking, he decided to create a bike map, highlighting established and proposed routes throughout the city, and put it up on his website. In addition to bike lanes on existing roads and off-road bike trails and paths, Swanson's website includes access and crossing points,



priority traffic signals, clear signage, parking, end-of-route showers and, of course, detailed maps. The site also includes resources such as examples of successful urban cycling designs from different cities around the world and links to other cycling organizations and community groups. Swanson has talked to neighbourhood groups around Winnipeg, has helped each area map out its own local bike routes and then has combined them with adjoining routes in adjacent communities. Winnipeg is now on the cusp of incorporating these maps into one official map and moving to make this cycling infrastructure a reality.

### ANDERS SWANSON WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

He not only repairs bikes and promotes biking but also volunteers for cycling-related groups.