



Photo: Paul Voorham

# Sustainable Mobility: how about road safety?

**Mobility and sustainability are of vital importance for modern society. The two are combined in the concept Sustainable Mobility; an environment-friendly form of mobility. Recent SWOV research looked at road safety in this context.**

Generally, Sustainable Mobility uses two core concepts: accessibility and the environment. Road safety mostly does not play a role in the decision making, but can benefit all the same. SWOV has investigated if and how road safety profits from the Sustainable Mobility measures and what extra road safety benefits may be achieved.

## Implicit benefits

In the Netherlands, Sustainable Mobility is realized by measures aimed at traffic management, mobility management and vehicle management. Usually these measures also have an effect on road safety. Some examples: teleworking can reduce mobility and thus lessen the risk of crashes; reducing congestion can prevent certain crash types, e.g. rear-end crashes; a shift from transport with high risk transport modes to lower risk transport modes, e.g. from

passenger cars to public transport, will result in fewer casualties.

## Extra measures

There is no need for road safety to just 'ride along' with the Sustainable Mobility measures. Paying explicit attention to road safety when Sustainable Safety measures are being taken could result in extra road safety benefits. Taking extra measures can save extra casualties without this being at the expense of traffic flow or the environment. Examples are:

- In mobility management and chain transport attention could be paid to safe bicycle facilities.
- When infrastructural measures are taken in urban areas for environmental purposes safety experts may be consulted to ensure that the infrastructure will also be safe.
- When Ecodriving is introduced, compa-

nies can be stimulated to keep a registration of damages and crashes in addition to the fuel registration.

- The use of safe logistic routes and the use of low cabin trucks for urban transport can be stimulated.

## Included in decision making

Irrespective of whether road safety is included implicitly or explicitly in Sustainable Mobility measures, SWOV advises to always let road safety be part of the decision making concerning Sustainable Mobility. This can be done by expressing the safety effects of variants of Sustainable Mobility measures in the number of casualties that will be saved.

**Sustainable Mobility: also point out the road safety effects.**

C.C. Schoon (2011).

R-2011-23. SWOV, Leidschendam.