

# SESSION 4E: MANAGING THE CURB, IMPROVING PARKING

From parking standards to mobility requirements in project development.  
Recommendations and practices from Flanders

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with Inge Caers and Wout Baert, Fietsberaad



# Dirk Lauwers

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Recommendations and practices from Flanders



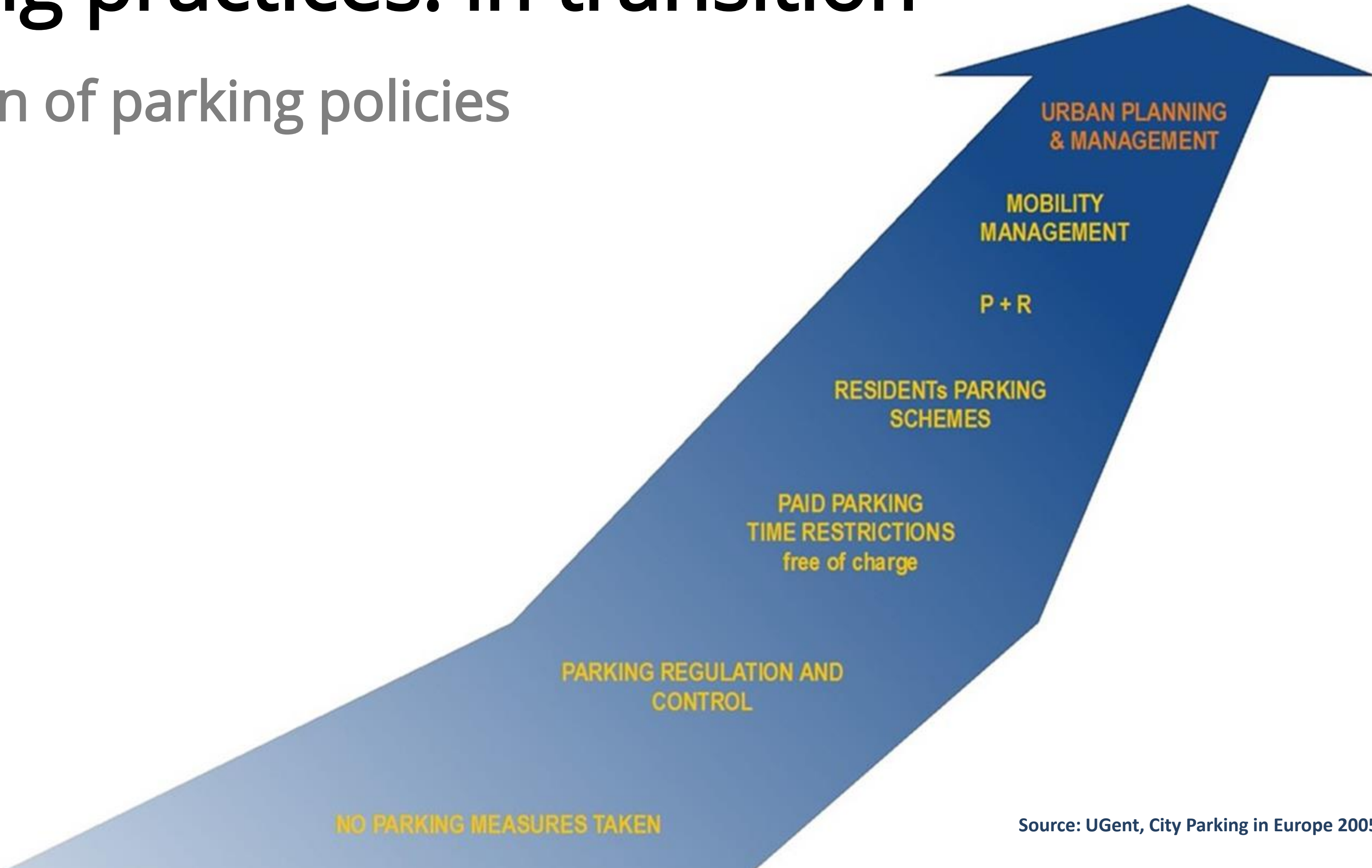
 **SPEAKER**

 @POLISnetwork #POLIS22



# Parking practices: in transition

Evolution of parking policies



# Parking standards: in transition

Traditional definition of the parking problem  
User – Provider issue (demand and supply)

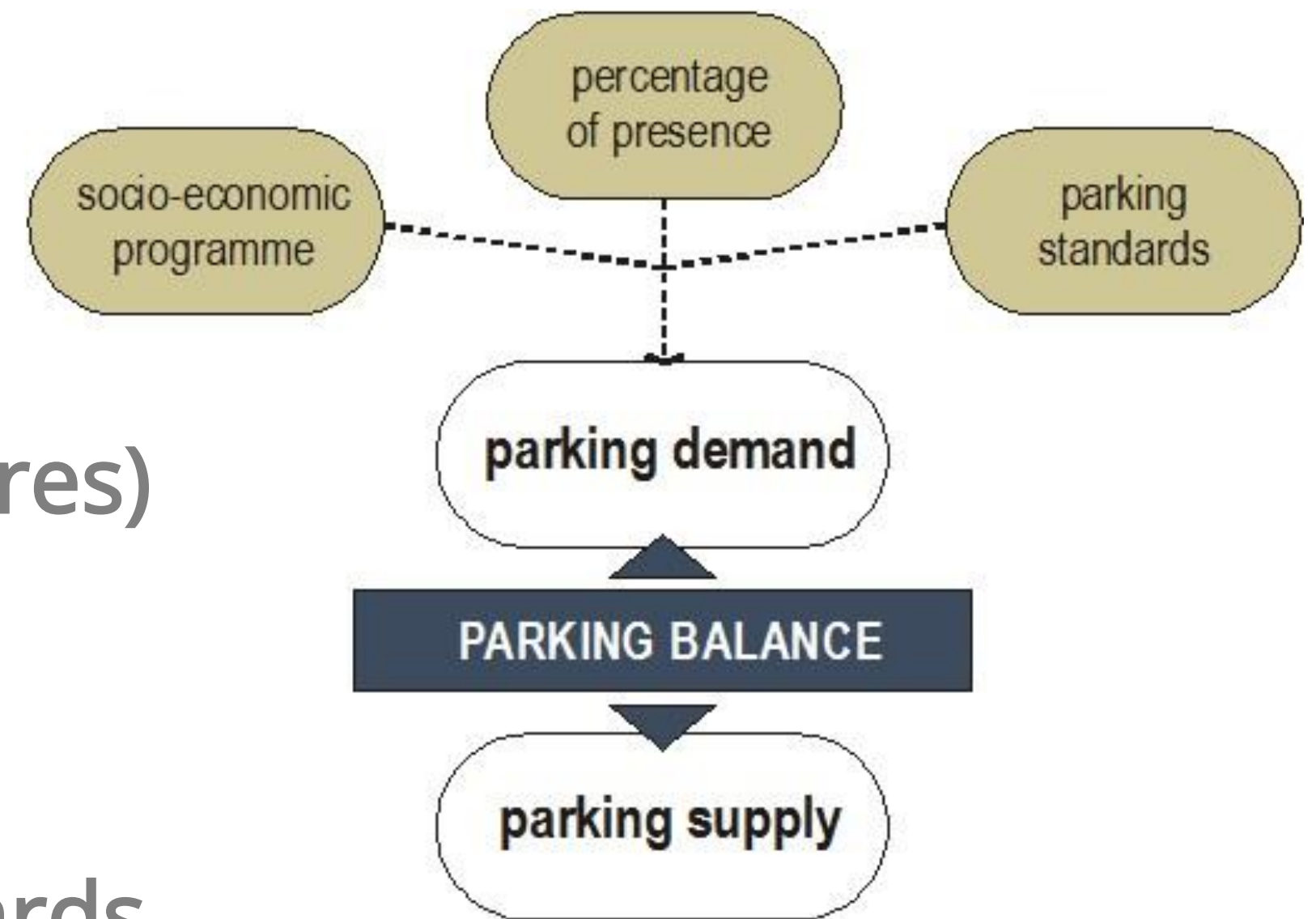
+

Avoiding  
(newly) generated parking  
demand to be transferred to  
the public domain (streets, squares)



## Minimum parking standards

Despite their unique character, most cities follow the same

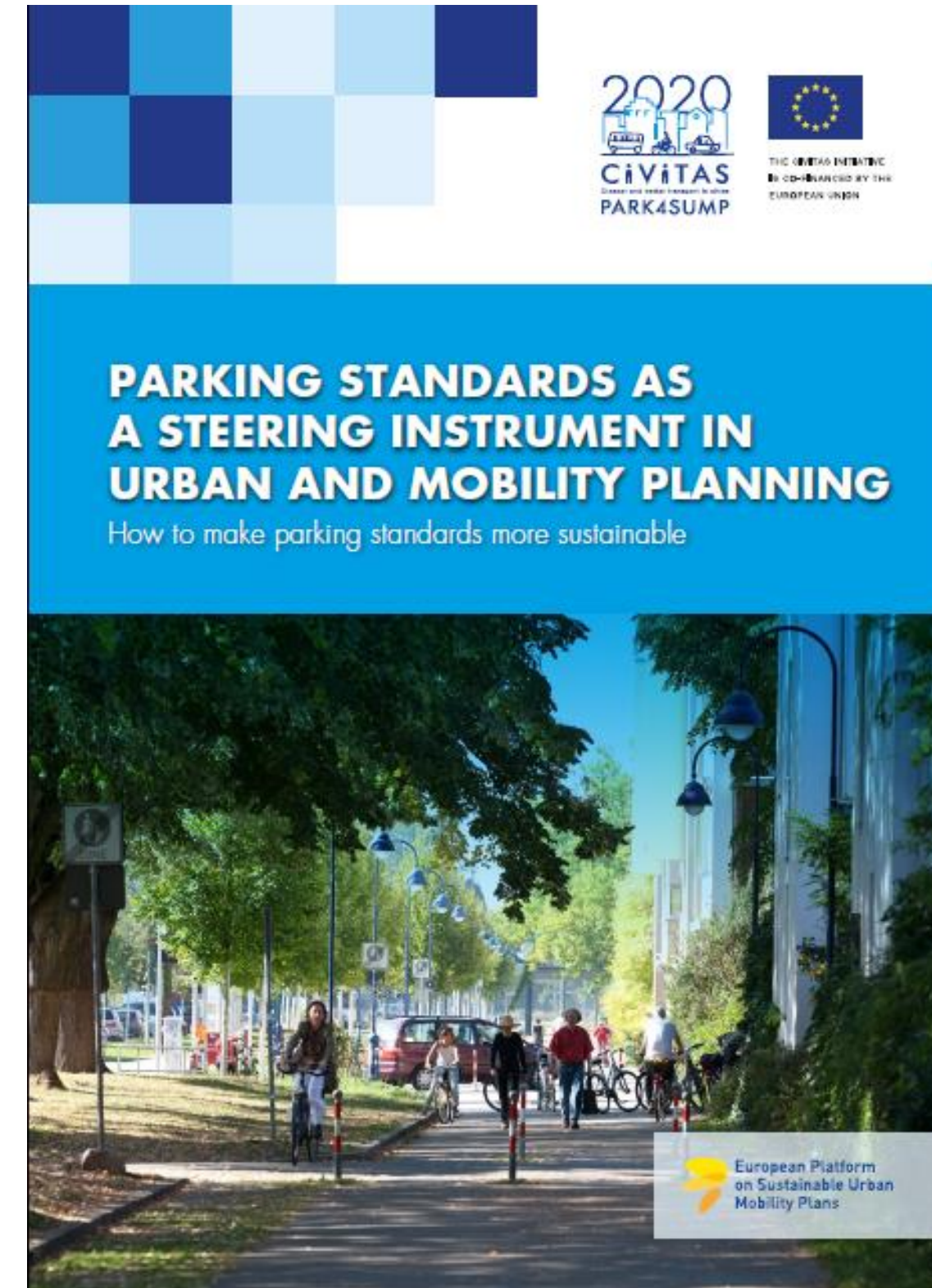


# Towards standards for push and pull modal shift policy

How to make parking standards more sustainable?

[www.PARK4SUMP](http://www.PARK4SUMP) Civitas2020

‘Parking spaces in new urban development projects may no longer be oriented to expected future demand, but should achieve modal split targets with a view to sustainable urban development’





# Towards standards for push and pull modal shift policy

How to make parking standards more sustainable?

[www.PARK4SUMP](http://www.PARK4SUMP) Civitas2020'

High level meeting on parking standards - a summary

More than 30 stakeholders from across Europe have attended the Park4SUMP high level workshop on parking standards, which took place on 18 May 2022. Thanks to the great cooperation between POLIS, ECF, DIFU and the CIVITAS Handshake Project awareness about the European discussions about parking standards was raised. You can find a summary of the event and the presentations below.

STANDARDS



2020  
CIVITAS  
PARK4SUMP

THE CIVITAS INITIATIVE  
CO-FINANCED BY THE  
EUROPEAN UNION

**PARKING STANDARDS AS  
A STEERING INSTRUMENT IN  
URBAN AND MOBILITY PLANNING**

How to make parking standards more sustainable



European Platform  
on Sustainable Urban  
Mobility Plans



# Relationship between parking standards for cars and bike and mobility

## Changing insights into car parking standards

ECF (European Cyclist Federation, 2018, 2021)

Referring to Climate goals


Recommendations: formulate on national level:

*Maximum car parking standards*

*Minimum bike parking standards*


Avoiding development in areas with low density (car oriented)


Coordination with parking policies on public domain



**ECF**  
EUROPEAN CYCLISTS' FEDERATION

**Making buildings fit for cycling**  
by revising the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

 ECF gratefully acknowledges financial support from the LIFE Programme of the European Union

 ECF gratefully acknowledges financial support from the cycling industry via Cycling Industry Europe

[www.ecf.com](http://www.ecf.com)

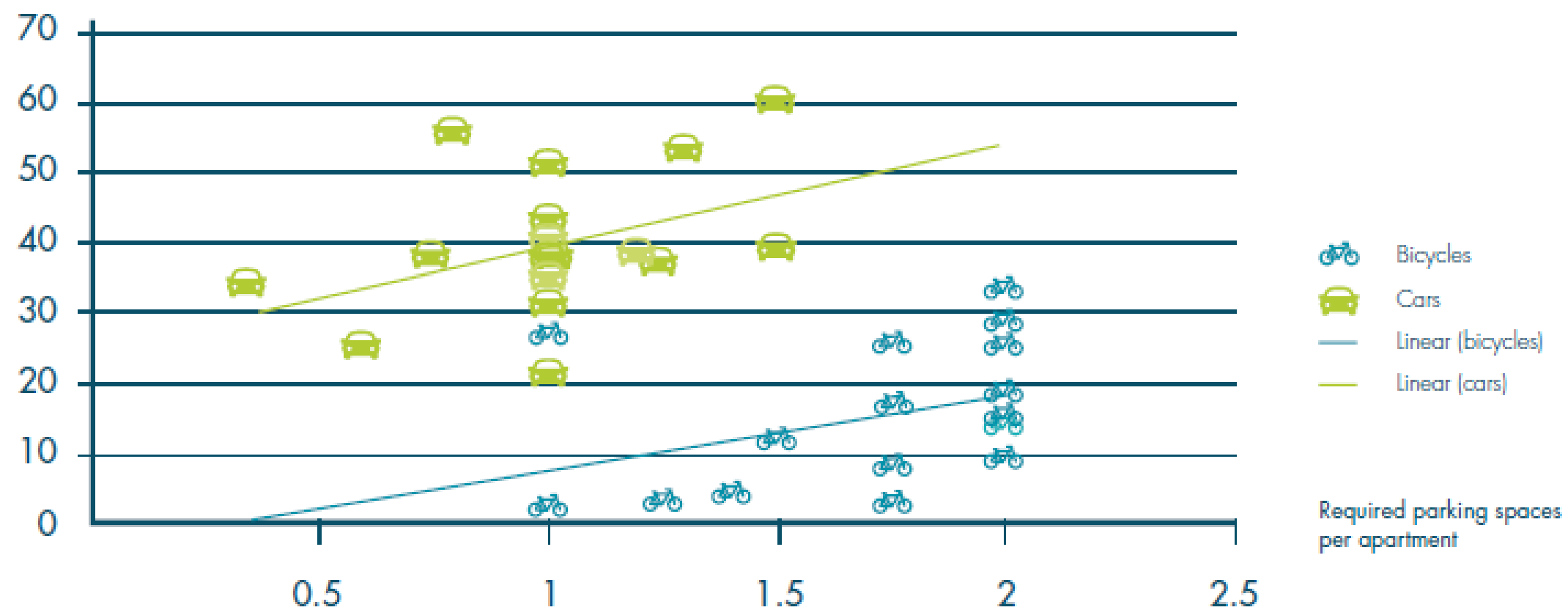
# Relationship between parking standards for cars and bike and mobility

## Changing insights into parking standards

Correlation between Parking Spaces and Mode Share

ECF

Mode Share



**Making buildings fit for cycling**  
by revising the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

ECF gratefully acknowledges financial support from the LIFE Programme of the European Union

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[www.ecf.com](http://www.ecf.com)



# Presentation based on paper:

‘From car and bicycle parking regulations to mobility standards’

Developed and published by Fietsberaad.be  
(Flemish knowledge centre for cycling)

<https://fietsberaad.be/documenten/cahier-nr-5-parkeer-en-stallingsnormen/>



# Presentation based on paper:

‘From car and bicycle parking regulations to mobility standards’

And further research and recommendations

- On building regulations as a climate tool
- On standards for schools, offices, supermarkets and sports areas

“De toolbox biedt een kapstok om met verschillende diensten en de bevoegde schepenen een grondige oefening op de bouwcode te maken. Het leidt tot een heel interessante oefening waar iedereen aan tafel uitgedaagd wordt over de sectoren heen na te denken over lokaal ruimtelijk klimaatbeleid.”

JAN DE GOLS  
[ DUURZAAMHEIDSAMBTENAAR MEISE ]





# From parking standards to mobility requirements in project development

Approach is dealing with

- ✓ Analysis of policy evolution regarding parking standards and what is known about the relationship between mobility – parking policy and new practices
- ✓ Specified guidelines for car and bike parking standards for residential and traffic attracting projects – depending on the location
- ✓ An integrated approach on accessibility provision:  
parking spaces (bicycle and cars)  
& mobility services (public transport, shared mobility)
- ✓ A methodology leading at determining an integrated accessibility package for urban development projects



# Parking standards for cars and bikes and mobility: modal shift

Aim is more bicycle trips – fewer car trips

Flemish Government Policy Agreement 2019: #modalshift from 70% (car)/30% (sustainable modes) now to 50/50 share in metropolitan areas and in the rest of Flanders 60/40 by 2030

New covenant between government, provinces and municipalities aims at 20% modal share of bicycle trips in Flanders by 2025 (2019: 14%)

So facilitate cycling and discourage car traffic

*Also applies to parking for cars and bikes!*





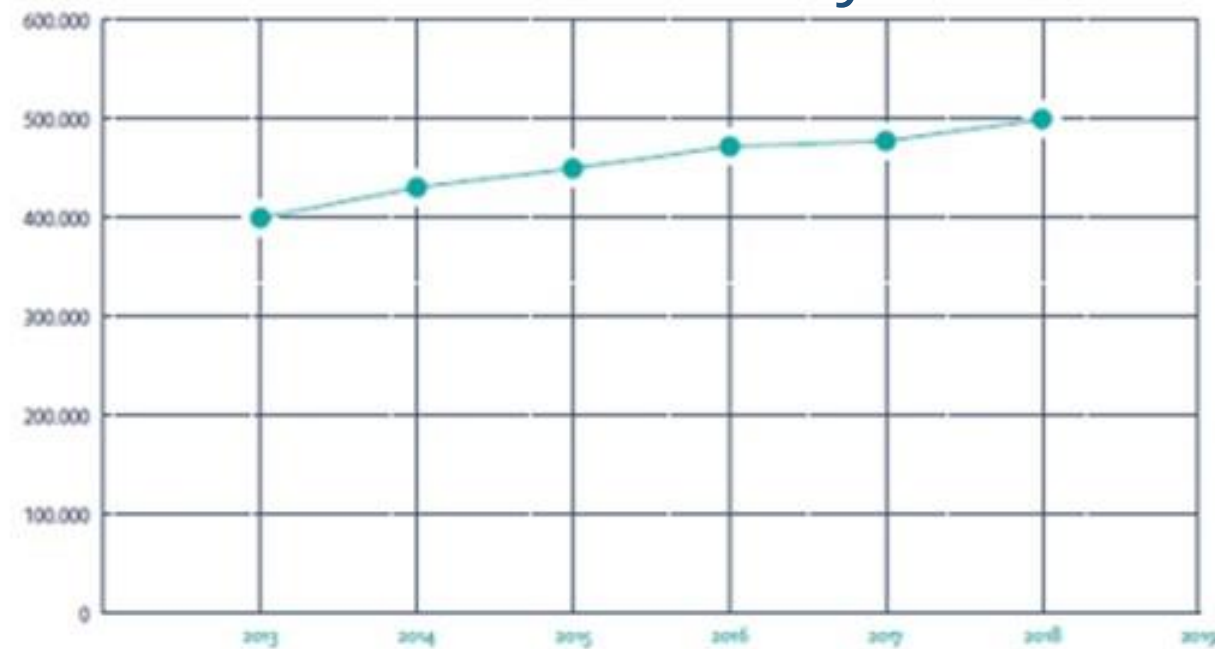
# Changing approach parking standards for cars and bikes and mobility

## Parking standards for bikes: a recent phenomenon

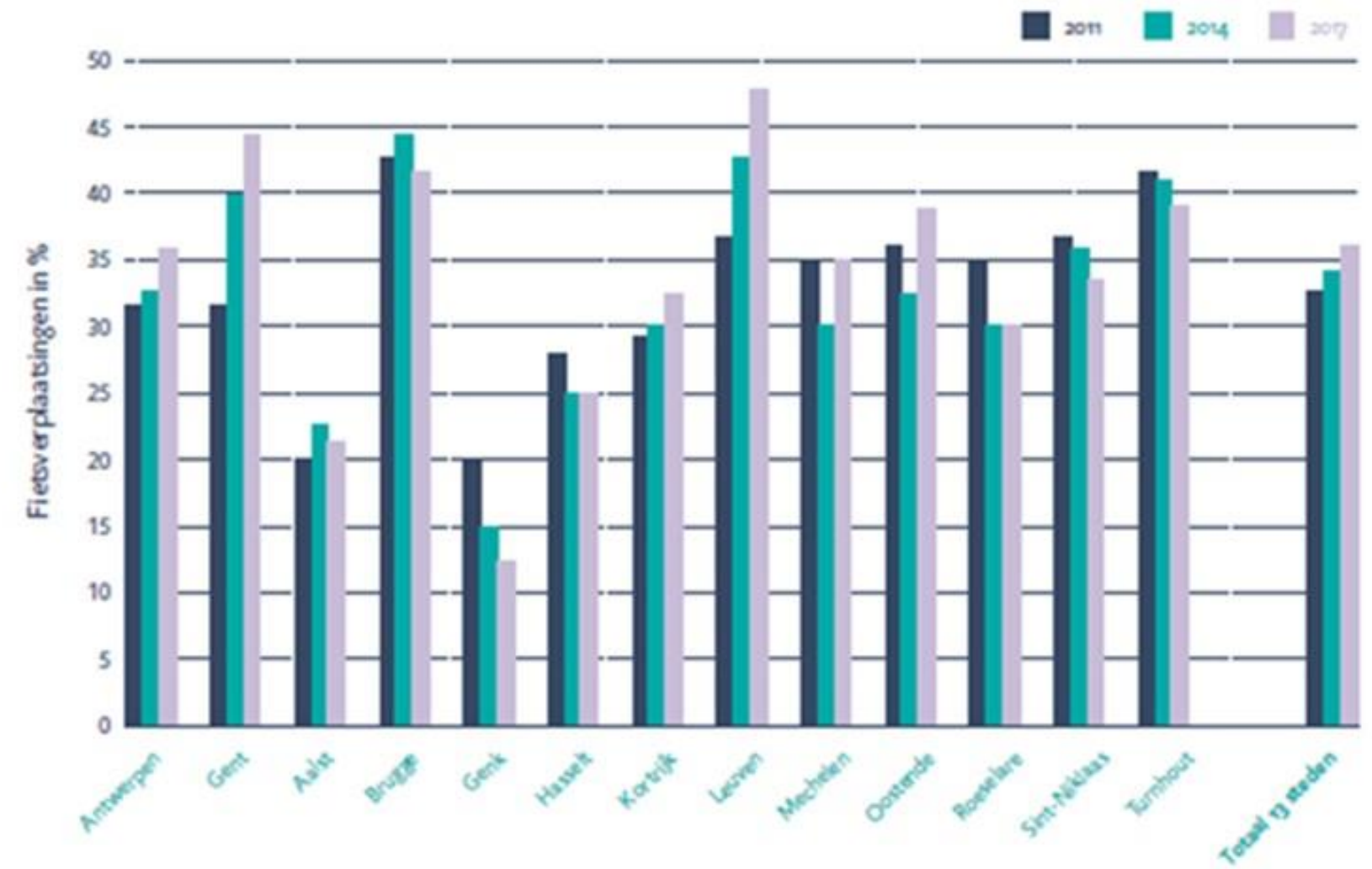
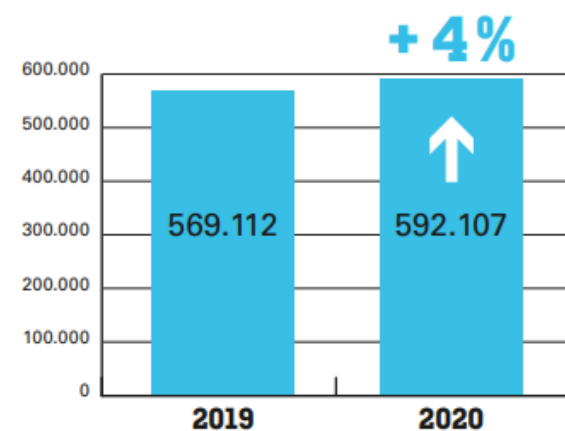
Attention to bicycle parking standards in Flanders is related to rapidly increasing bicycle use and bicycle ownership

evolution of bicycle trip in mid sized cities in Flanders

evolution of bicycle sales in Belgium



Figuur 2: Evolutie Belgische fietsverkoop. Bron: Velofolies cijfers 2019-2019



Figuur 1: Evolutie fietsverplaatsingen in de centrumsteden voor woon-werk en woon-schoolverkeer. Bron: Gemeente- en stadsmonitor 2017

# Changing approach parking standards for cars and bikes and mobility

## Changing insights into car parking standards

First national traffic regulations in Belgium January 1900: parking not allowed on public roads  
(so parking always on private property)

In municipal regulations: both loading and unloading when vehicles (carriages, cars) with (waiting) coachman/driver in allowed

Allow parking was a requirement of motorists-associations but only allowed when reviewed in 1925 (after 'experiments' in Brussels, including Rue de la Loi, with growing list of allowed streets)

Only in 1934 'more technical' regulations: distinction between 'stationary' (with driver in car) and 'parking' (without driver in car)





# Changing approach parking standards for cars and bikes and mobility

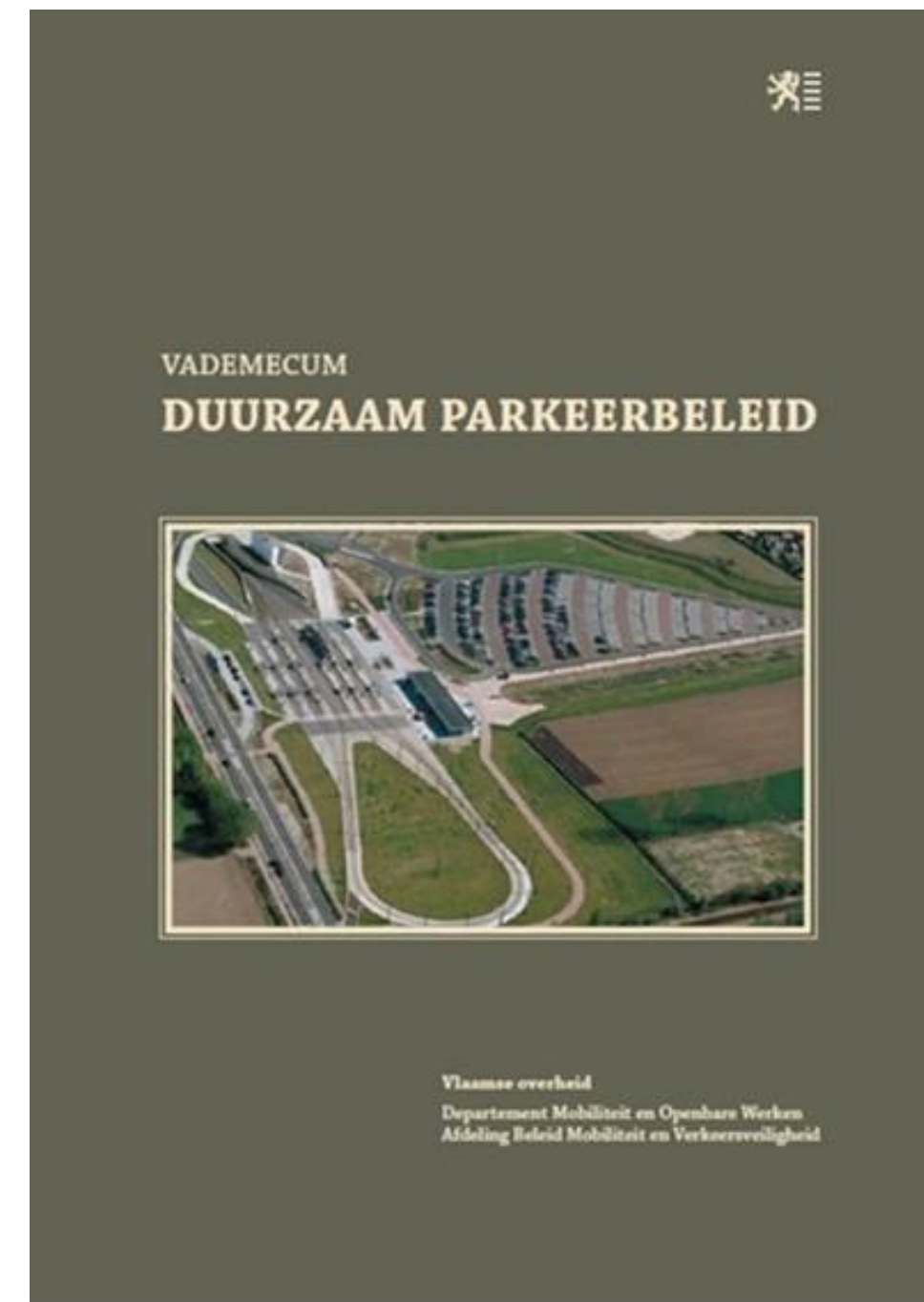
## Changing insights into car parking standards

Following the (first) *National Urban Planning Act (1962)* the binding 'Administrative letter Minister De Saeger' provided *minimum car parking standards* for new constructions to be applied in special zoning plans and allotment permits

After the transition of spatial planning to regional competence (*1981*) the Flemish Government took over the guideline but abolished it at the beginning of this century.

*Since then parking standards are a full municipal competence.*

*Most municipalities adopted higher minimum car parking standards.*



# Changing approach parking standards for cars and bikes and mobility

## Cost of mobility infrastructure

Flemish research



Food for thought: why only payed on street parking in urban areas and free parking in suburban areas?  
Quid infrastructure cost in sprawl area?

*= 9,5 times higher than in urban core areas!*





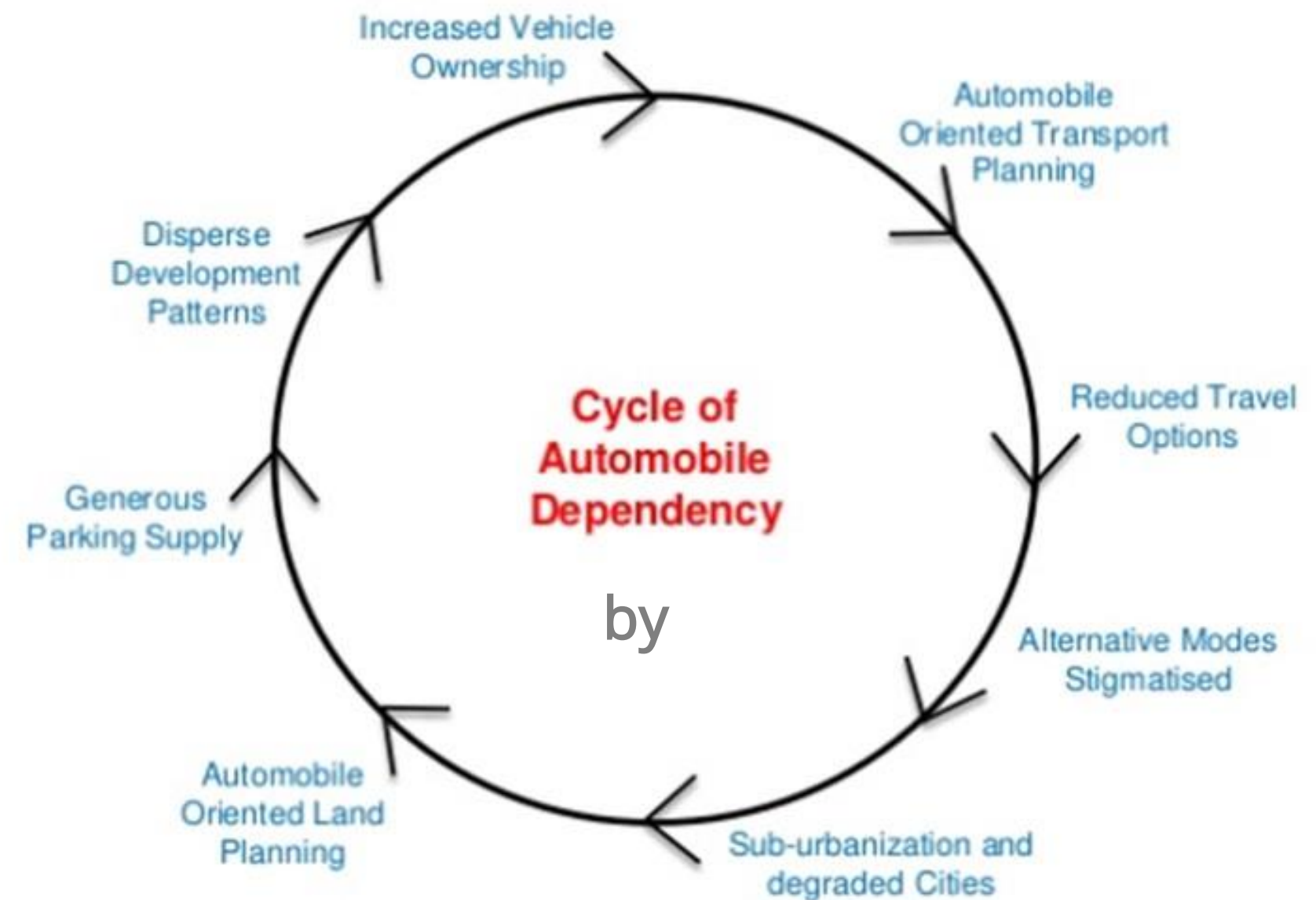
# Changing approach parking standards for cars and bikes and mobility

Changing insights into car parking standards – car dependency

Flemish & international research  
Car trips and car availability

besch	Frequency	Percent
ja	416.4618	31.62
neen	894.7891	67.94
geen antwoord	5.821601	0.44

In Flanders only 1/3 of people travelling public transport or bike are ‘free choice travellers’  
2/3 don’t have a car available when they start their trip





# Changing approach parking standards for cars and bike and mobility

## From vehicle ownership to shared mobility

Two most successful shared bike systems in Flanders introduced 2011

Best score for Antwerp Velo: 26.850 trips/day, in average each bike is used for 4,5 trips/day. Since 2011 more then 40 mio trips made in total

Blue bike near (more than 50) railway stations in B.



*Brand new innovation:  
regional  
shared e-bike system  
in Antwerp region*

1.650 deelfietsen voor regio Antwerpen dragen bij aan een modal shift

7 juli 2021 Eddy Geuvels Fiets, Openbaar vervoer, Urbanisatie, Wegverkeer





# Changing approach parking standards for cars and bike and mobility

## From vehicle ownership to shared mobility

Fast growing niche market – substituting potential individual parking (e.g. city Ghent regulation: 1 shared car parking = 4 individual parking)

### Car sharing is on the increase

• 25 JANUARY 2022

In five years, the number of car sharers has risen to 194,000, a sevenfold increase. According to Autodelen.net, this is just the beginning. Currently, 2.5% of driving license holders in Belgium are already car-sharing, while in Brussels the figure is as high as 8%. All figures, facts and trends from 2021 can be found in the annual report of Autodelen.net.

## PARKEERPLAN GENT 2020

Nota Parkeerrichtlijnen Fiets en Auto



# Changing approach parking standards for cars and bike and mobility

Towards flexible and shared parking facilities



Flexible car and bike parking regulation



Figuur7: Evolutie monofunctioneel gericht parkeren naar parkeren gericht op meerdere functies. Bron: City parking in Europe, 2004



# Towards integrated mobility standards

## A conceptual framework for housing projects

Provide balanced multimodal accessibility level

Per type of area : location in the municipality: core/station area, fringe area around core/sub-core and other areas distinguished between cities and smaller towns and villages

**Car parking requirement tailored to the project but not 'a la tête du client' therefore within minimum and maximum range of the parking standard**

Car parking requirement also depending on

accessibility profile of area  
carrying capacity of roads for additional traffic  
(modal shift ...) ambition of the municipality  
car and bike sharing – public transport offer



# Towards integrated mobility standards

## Recommended standard values for housing projects

Provide balanced multimodal accessibility level

### Proposed mobility standards for car parking dwellings/flats < 100m<sup>2</sup>

Type of municipality	Regional city		Small city or town	
	min	max	min	max
Core / Station area	0	0,75	0,50	1
Edge around core area / Sub-core	0,25	1,25	0,75	1,50
Other (dispersed settlements)	0,50	1,50	1	1,75

### Proposed mobility standards for car parking dwellings/flats > 100m<sup>2</sup>

Type of municipality	Regional city		Small city or town	
	min	max	min	max
Core / Station area	0	1	0,50	1,50
Edge around core area / Sub-core	0,25	1,50	0,75	1,75
Other (dispersed settlements)	0,50	1,75	1	2





# Towards integrated mobility standards

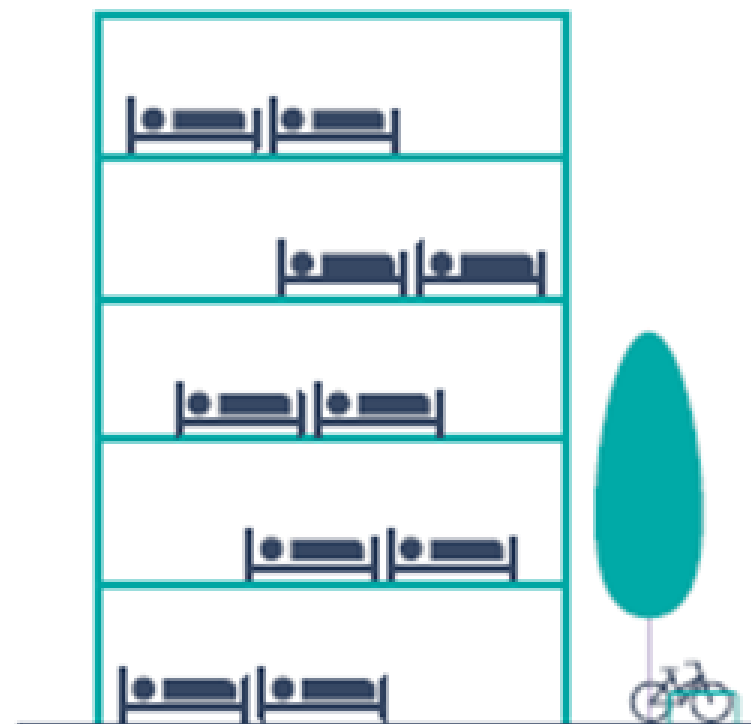
## Recommended standard values for housing projects

Provide balanced multimodal accessibility level

Bike parking standards – minimum – overall value

‘1 bike parking per pillow’

larger projects: provide extra places (10%)  
for outsized bikes (cargo-bikes, e-bikes etc.)

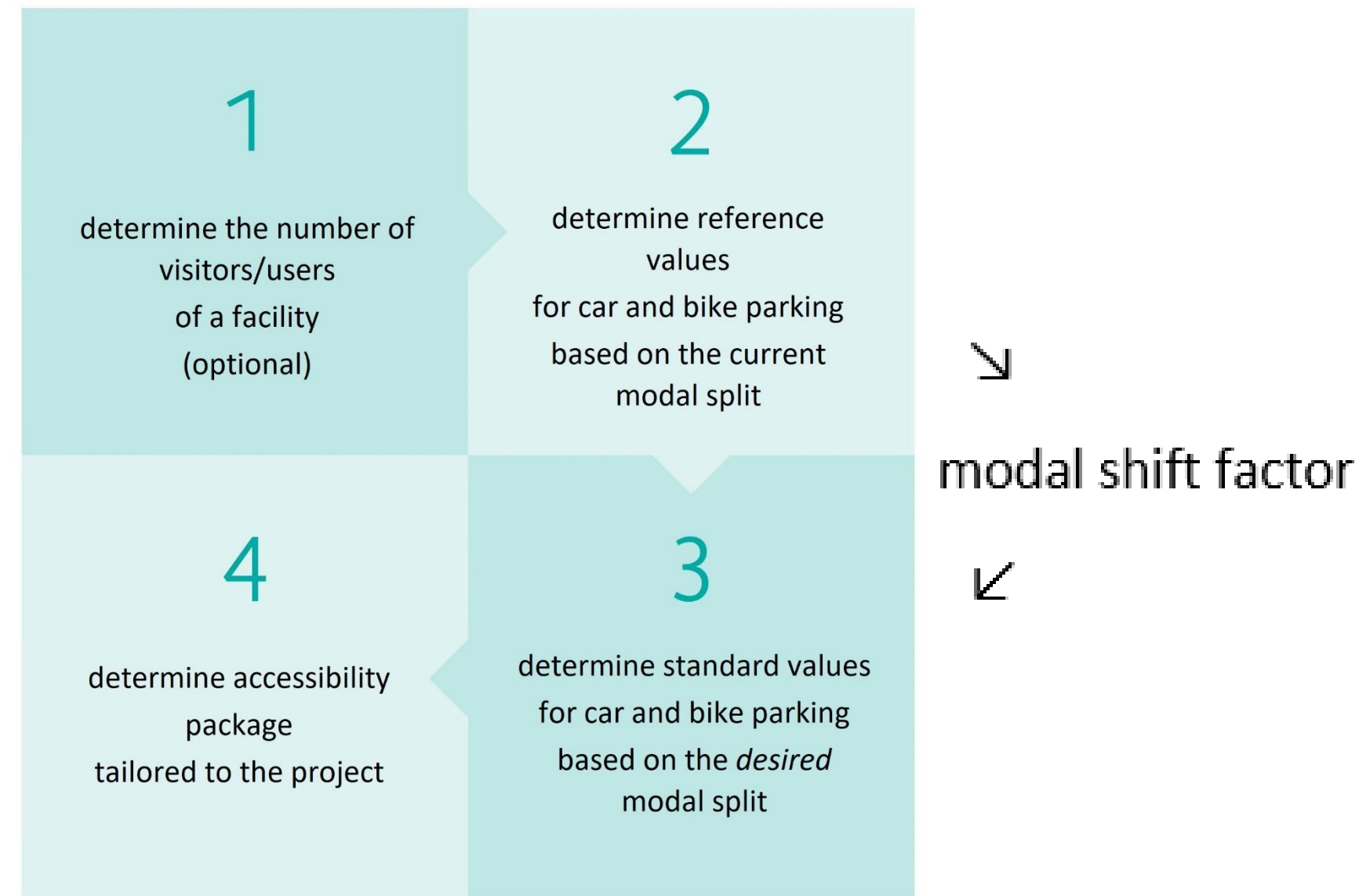


# Towards integrated mobility standards

## A conceptual framework for traffic-attracting projects and facilities

Car parking standards – minimum and maximum range + Bike parking standards – minimum values

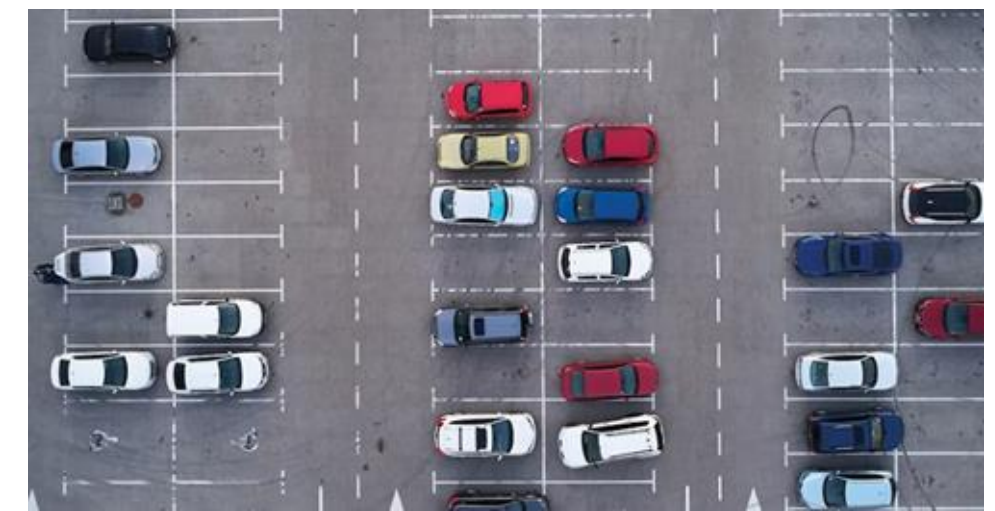
### Four step methodology



### Methodology proposed for step 4

- ✓ Project-specific parking and parking space requirements based on standard values
- ✓ Align with parking supply in the neighbourhood (private, public, on street)
- ✓ Possibilities of shared mobility (supply of shared cars and bicycles)
- ✓ Facilitating cycling (building new cycle facilities)
- ✓ Facilitating public transport - collective transport use (extra public transport services)
- ✓ Facilitating sustainable goods transport (logistics programme)
- ✓ Reducing accessibility by (individual) car (downgrading car infrastructure)

Tables proposed in paper with standard values (step 3) for schools, offices, supermarkets, sporting areas





# Towards integrated mobility standards

## A conceptual framework for traffic-attracting facilities

Car parking standards – minimum and maximum range + Bike parking standards – minimum values

### Use of step-by-step plan by municipalities

Method 1: (e.g. smaller municipalities)

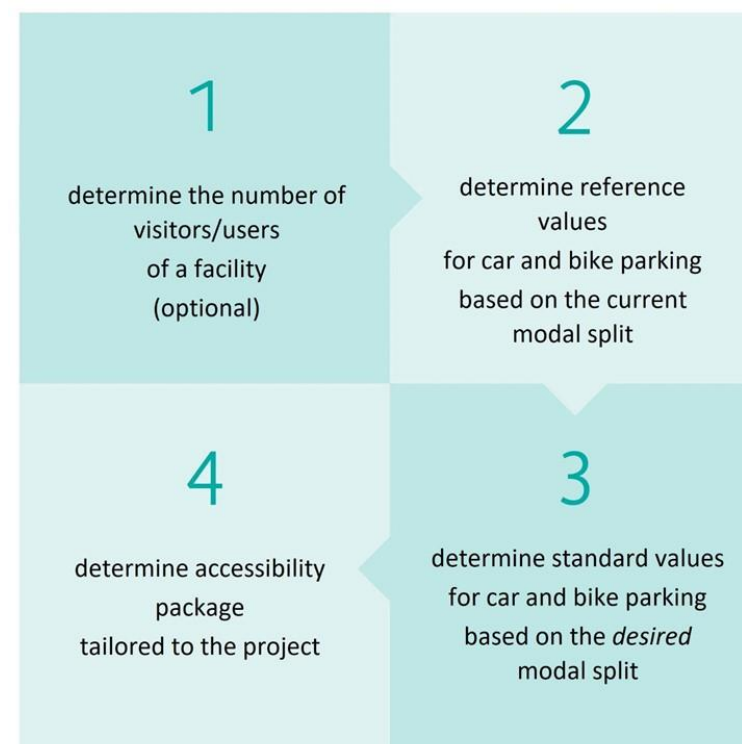
Take over relevant standard values from step 3 tables

=> own municipal regulation/building code

Method 2:

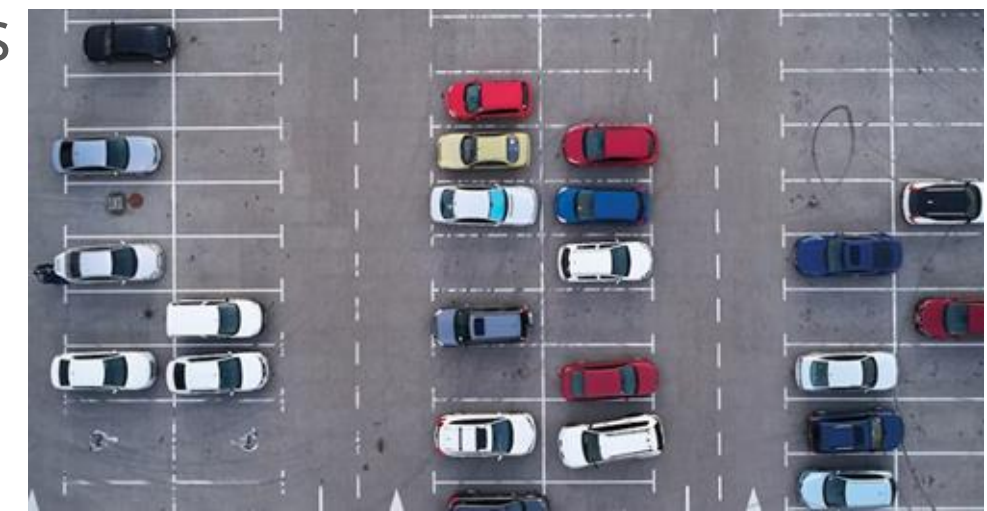
Determine own values based on application of steps 1, 2, 3 of the step-by-step plan

=> own municipal regulation/building code



In all municipalities (after defining parking standards by method 1 or 2):  
apply step 4: define parking requirements per project (accessibility package tailored to the project)

For special projects/locations, a specific study has  
be carried out, e.g. standardized EIA



# Towards integrated mobility standards

## Recommended standard values for traffic-attracting facilities: example secondary schools

Bike parking standards – minimum values short and long term

Car parking standards – min and max range

Places /100 students

Proposed mobility standards for bike parking secondary schools				
Type of municipality	Regional city		Small city or town	
Location	Short term	Long term	Short term	Long term
Core / Station area	45	55	30	37,5
Edge around core area / Sub-core	50	60	27,5	35
Other (dispersed settlements)	30	37,5	20	25

Proposed mobility standards for car parking secondary schools				
Type of municipality	Regional city		Small city or town	
Location	min	max	min	max
Core / Station area	0	2,5	0	3,5
Edge around core area / Sub-core	2,5	4,5	3,5	4,5
Other (dispersed settlements)	4,5	5,5	4,5	5,5



# Towards integrated mobility standards

## Recommended standard values for traffic-attracting facilities: example offices

Bike parking standards – minimum values  
 Car parking standards – min and max range  
 Places /100 m<sup>2</sup> gross floor area

Proposed mobility standards for car parking offices				
Type of municipality	Regional city		Small city or town	
Location	min	max	min	max
Core / Station area	0	2,9	0	3,6
Edge around core area / Sub-core	1,8	3,6	2	3,9
Other (dispersed settlements)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Proposed mobility standards for bike parking offices		
Type of municipality	Regional city	Small city or town
Location		
Core / Station area	0,75	0,5
Edge around core area / Sub-core	0,9	0,6
Other (dispersed settlements)	n.a.	n.a.

# Towards integrated mobility standards

Some practices: Ghent  
 Building code with min-max range  
 car parking & min. bike parking standards  
 Projects e.g. Gantoise housing (300 units)  
 standard 0,6 pp/dwelling



## PARKEERPLAN GENT 2020

Nota Parkeerrichtlijnen Fiets en Auto

Tabel 2 Autoparkeerrichtlijnen

	FUNCTIE	normslag	rode zone	oranje zone	gele zone	groene zone	witte zone	zuidelijke mozaïek	Aandeel bezoekers in totaal
wonen	sociale huurwoning	wooneenheid	max. 0,4	0,4 - 0,6	0,4 - 0,6	0,4 - 0,6	min. 0,4	-	excl. bezoekers
	studentenwoningen	wooneenheid	0	0	0	0	0	-	excl. bezoekers
	serviceflats/assistentiewoningen	wooneenheid	max. 0,4	0,2 - 0,6	0,2 - 0,6	0,2 - 0,6	min. 0,4	-	0,15 per woning
	woning / studio's	wooneenheid	max. 0,6	0,6 - 0,8	0,6 - 0,8	0,6 - 1	0,8 - 2	-	excl. bezoekers
	bezoekers	wooneenheid	0	0	0	min. 0,1	0,2 - 0,5	-	
werken (incl. bezoekers)	kantoren zonder baliefunctie	100 m <sup>2</sup> bvo	max. 1,5	0,7 - 2	0,7 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	max. 2,7	5%
	arbeidsintensieve/bezoekers-extensieve bedrijven (industrie, garagebedrijf, laboratorium, werkplaats, etc.)	100 m <sup>2</sup> bvo	max. 0,7	0,3 - 1	0,3 - 1	0,9 - 1,5	1 - 1,9	max. 0,9	5%
	arbeidsextensieve/bezoekers-extensieve bedrijven (loods, opslag, groothandel, transportbedrijf, etc.)	100 m <sup>2</sup> bvo	max. 0,3	0,1 - 0,4	0,1 - 0,4	0,3 - 0,4	0,4 - 0,9	max. 0,36	5%
commercieel (incl. bezoekers)	detailhandel, supermarkt	100 m <sup>2</sup> verkoopsopp	0	1 - 2,5	1 - 2,5	2,5 - 4	3 - 4,5	max. 2,7	85%
	grootschalige detailhandel	100 m <sup>2</sup> verkoopsopp	/	/	/	4 - 6	5 - 7	max. 4,5	85%
	commerciële dienstverlening (kantoren met baliefunctie)	100 m <sup>2</sup> verkoopsopp	max. 0,7	0,3 - 1	0,3 - 1	1,5 - 3	2,5 - 4	max. 2,25	20%
	Andere (vb. showroom, weekmarkt, winkelcentrum e.d.)	100 m <sup>2</sup> verkoopsopp	per ontwikkeling te bepalen						
Andere	per ontwikkeling te bepalen								

## ECOWIJK GANTOISE GENT 2016 — 2018





# Towards integrated mobility standards

Some practices: Turnhout, Sint Pieters  
(Secondary and primary school)  
Built on second floor extra bike parking  
Place for more than 1000 bikes  
Car free school street  
Modal share students: 90% bike



Sint-Pietersinstituut Turnhout



# Towards integrated mobility standards

## Some conclusions regarding the Flemish recommendations

The proposed methodology and standard values can serve as inspiration for municipal building codes. To move away from a demand-driven (or even growth-enhancing) car traffic policy and towards modal shift

**Link with urban spatial planning remains a local challenge!**

Location policy is a crucial factor that, in addition to mobility standards, also determines the modal split in a municipality.

**The proposed methodology and standards are still in a phase of development.**

They have been tested by a number of experts, but further practice will have to show whether they are feasible and what the preconditions are for the broader mobility and land use policy.

**Internationally, there are experiences in some cities (Rotterdam, Utrecht, Stockholm, Freiburg, Umea, ...) with low standards for parking, especially near homes. In our own country, there are interesting examples of modal shift policies at destinations (e.g. Ghelamco stadium in Ghent) through parking requirements and multiple use of space (Sint Niklaas, also with a view to greening the streets).**



# Thanks for the attention

Let's talk

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