

**Notes on meeting with Dar es Salaam City Council Transport Unit
10 March 2008**

Attendance

Mrs Mlamba	Dar es Salaam City Council
Elaine Baker	UWABA
Filbert Mbecha	UWABA
Jumanne Idd	UWABA
Juma Ally Salehe Jongo	UWABA
Paulo Atibu	UWABA

Mrs Mlamba described the DART project and assured UWABA that it places a high priority on cycle lanes and on mainstreaming cycling as a mode of transport. The plans for Morogoro Road include cycle lanes. She said that even putting cycle lanes on isolated roads is not enough but that the plans for cycling facilities have to be joined up throughout the city. She also said that the plans were put through a Road Safety Audit. She showed us a video about the DART project. It said that it includes plans for 120 km of cycle lanes.

Mrs Mlamba said we should work with AALOCOM which is an organization of transport professionals which also promotes cycling. UWABA has already worked with AALOCOM on organizing the cycle caravan.

Mrs Mlamba encouraged UWABA to campaign on the issue of tax on bicycles together with other organisations. She said that in Kenya there is no tax on import of bicycles and we should campaign for this here also. UWABA members said they would campaign on this.

Elaine raised the issue of ensuring the cycle lanes are also suited to disabled cyclists and three wheeled cycles (gutas). Mrs Mlamba said she had reservations about three wheeled cycles and would not recommend them as a mode of transport as they do not fit in with other modes of transport. Elaine said that gutas are a type of cycle and many of our members transport goods on gutas to earn a living. Elaine said that banning gutas would just encourage the use of pick-ups which take up more space than gutas, cost more and use fuel as well as increasing poverty of guta drivers. Mrs Mlamba said that she thinks other cyclists such as disabled cyclists are intimidated by being together with gutas. Paulo said that this was a matter of education and encouraging guta drivers to respect other road users, and that UWABA has already started this as guta drivers were among the UWABA attendees at the road safety seminar at the National Institute of Transportation.

On the issue of cycles for disabled people Mrs Mlamba said that she would look at the designs and the width of bollards to ensure that these types of cycles are catered for.

There was a discussion about appropriate dress for the office place as some UWABA members wore t-shirt and shorts to the meeting. Elaine explained that it is normal to cycle in t-shirt and shorts and that she didn't know of any washing or changing facilities in the building. UWABA members agreed to come to future meetings in shirts and trousers.

Elaine and Paulo expressed concerns about vehicles using service roads and cycle lanes as car parking spaces and to skip the queues. Paulo also expressed concerns about the lack of respect for cyclists from motorists and said this was the main reason that most women do not cycle. Mrs Mlamba agreed with this and said she did not like the aggressive way some motorists treat cyclists. Mrs Mlamba said that she would ensure that vehicles are not able to or allowed to use the cycle lanes on Morogoro Road when they are built.

There was discussion about cycling conditions in Europe. Elaine said that some cities in Europe have good cycling conditions but some have very bad cycling conditions and these should not be copied. Mrs Mlamba said that as Dar es Salaam is a developing city we have a chance to promote cycling more than cities which have already been built around cars. She also said there is a world wide movement towards cycling especially due to the problem of climate change.

Mrs Mlamba expressed concern that when the cycle lanes are put in place that they should be used by many cyclists to show that the Government has got value for its money. UWABA members said they are sure the cycle lanes will be well used and they will continue to promote cycling as a mode of transport through the cycle caravan and other events. Elaine showed the photo of Azzan Zungu MP cycling to parliament and said that leaders like him show a good example to people and that office works and leaders should also cycle to encourage others.

Elaine showed Mrs Mlamba some UWABA news and materials including a printout of our website and photos of the cycle caravan.

Mrs Mlamba said she would continue to involve UWABA in stakeholder consultations including consultation on the Dar es Salaam Master Plan, and she said it is important to bring the point of view of cyclists to these meetings.

UWABA members thanked Mrs Mlamba for the meeting.