The power of coalitions

Innovations for sustainable mobility

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Researching Coalitions
Theory

- Car dominated approach → changing institutions
- Under which conditions could innovations for sustainable mobility occur?
Research and methods

- Document analysis
- In-depth interviews
- Observations
Case I: Groningen, the Netherlands
Case II: Phoenix, Arizona, USA
Groningen: Three periods
“To support sustainability goals you need coalitions. Organizations that are comprised of leaders of other organizations representing different factors in a place that can rally around the cause, support it, and (put) pressure on local officials” – Academic, Phoenix
How to innovate?

- Leadership
- Vision
- Dedication
- Expertise
- Courage
- Universities
- Involvement

“You need visionaries in politics to guide the public opinion. To change is hard for people, especially in the city. So it is up to politics to activate the crowd and that requires a lot of courage. Democracy may be nice, but has its limitations as well.” – Expert, Groningen (translated)
Institutions

What makes Groningen successful and what does Phoenix need?

- Groningen
  - Trial-and-error
  - Intrinsically driven
  - Evolutionary approach
  - Educational institutes

- Phoenix
  - Involvement
  - Prove and best practices
  - Education
Concluding remarks

- Appropriate **governance**
- Complementary **institutions**
- Presence of **coalitions**

- Where Top-down Meets Bottom-up

- Trial-and-error
- Urgency
- Evolutionary approach

- Knowledge exchange
- Strengthen and perpetuating alternate discussions
Thank you

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