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ADVISORY: FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY

All Materials Presented at this Event Are Embargoed Until 7:01pm (COT—Medellin), 9 April, 2014

Global Survey and Interactive Map Score Urban Developments that Embrace Low-Emission Transportation to Grow Cities of the Future

***Press Conference at World Urban Forum in Medellin, Colombia:
11:30 AM (COT), 8 April, 2014 in the Forum Press Conference Room***

A global catalog of 50 urban developments on six continents maps out the growing trend of Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) and will be released at the World Urban Forum. The survey, compiled by the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) using its *TOD Standard* evaluation tool, show which projects connect people conveniently, affordably, and safely to jobs, shopping, education, and other opportunities that cities provide.

The best of these developments were placed into [an interactive online map](#) that highlights projects embodying the Standard's eight primary categories. With the urban share of the world's population expected to [increase to 70% by 2050](#), the entire package helps urban planners, government regulators, and real-estate developers meet the needs of their burgeoning cities without worsening regional climate change impacts.

WHO:

- Andre Dzikus, Coordinator, Urban Basic Services Branch, United Nations Human Settlements Programme
- Luc Nadal, Technical Director for Urban Development, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, and the lead author of the *TOD Standard*
- Maurits van der Staay, Architect, Renzo Piano Building Workshop

WHAT:

Press conference to release a global survey and interactive map of 50 urban developments on six continents that have been scored on their climate footprint—how well they plug into mass transit options, how walkable they are, how accessible they are by bicycle, and how much they reduce automobile use. The 50 projects have been scored according to ITDP's *TOD Standard*.

WHERE:

World Urban Forum Press Conference Room—1st Floor
Plaza Mayor Medellín Convenciones y Exposiciones, Calle 41 N° 55-80, Medellin, Colombia

When:

11:30 AM (COT), 8 April, 2014

WHY:

The TOD Standard captures growing trends in public sentiment, even in the car-centric U.S. A National Association of REALTORS® annual survey found that [60 percent of U.S. respondents](#) prefer neighborhoods with a mix of houses, stores and businesses within walking distance, rather than neighborhoods that require driving between home, work and recreation.

Transit-Oriented Developments also provide substantial cost savings. [A recent World Bank report](#) found that China could save \$1.4 trillion in urban infrastructure costs if its comprehensive efforts for urban growth focused on density, not sprawl—which will cost China \$300 billion annually in health problems caused by air pollution.

TOD also addresses the growing toll from car traffic. According to the World Health Organization's [2013 Global Status Report on Road Safety](#), 1.24 million people worldwide die every year in road traffic accidents. As urbanization continues to increase, TOD helps reduce the dependence on cars that urban planners once subscribed to and addresses the problems that this dependence has wrought.

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The Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) is a global nonprofit that helps cities design and implement high-quality transit systems to make communities more livable, competitive and sustainable. ITDP works with cities worldwide to bring about transport solutions that cut greenhouse gas emissions, reduce poverty, and improve the quality of urban life. Please visit www.itdp.org for more information.