



# Berlin's Bicycle Referendum Initiative

---

and some other direct democratic approaches to shape urbanization  
processes

**Denis Petri**  
**Initiative Volksentscheid Fahrrad**

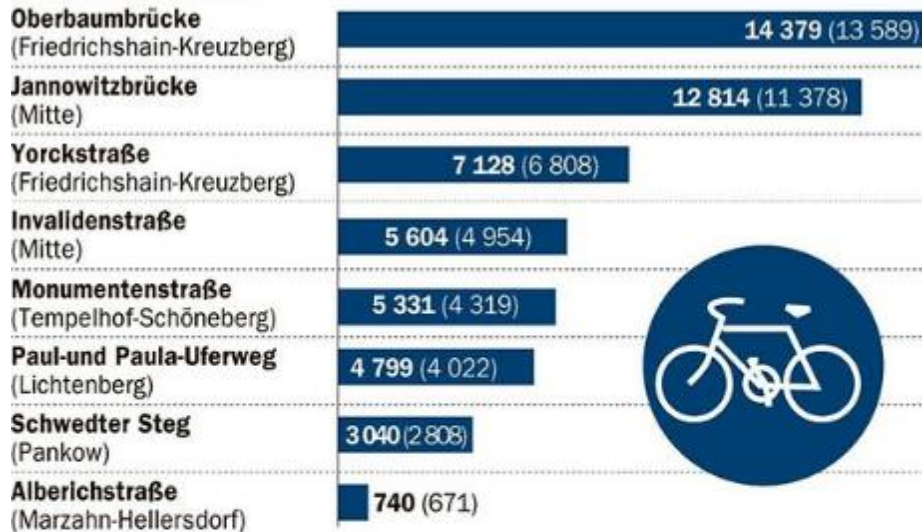
Berlin, 2016/11/2

# The situation ...

## Cycling as an every day means of transport



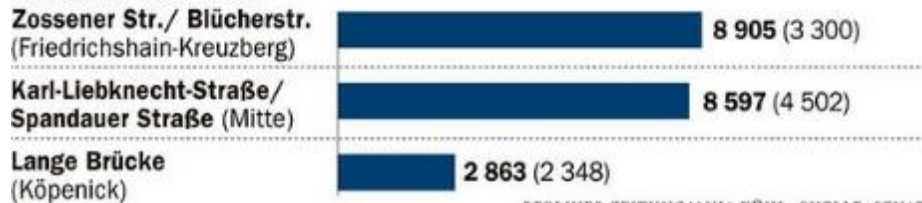
**Ergebnisse der neuen automatischen Zählstellen** Zahl der Radfahrer in beiden Richtungen pro Tag (Durchschnittswert für Montag bis Freitag), im Juli 2016, in Klammern: Juli 2015



VS.



**Ergebnisse der Zählungen per Hand** Zahl der Radfahrer zwischen 7 und 19 Uhr (Durchschnittswerte mit Ausgleich für besondere Wetterlagen) im Jahr 2015, in Klammern: Jahr 2001



BERLINER ZEITUNG/ANIA KÖHL; QUELLE: SENAT



**14 fatal accidents in  
2016**

# Safe and comfortable bicycle infrastructure





# Ten goals aiming for a modal split of 35% bicycle traffic

## Overview of advantages for car drivers, public transport and pedestrians<sup>1</sup>

The 10 key goals of the Volksentscheid Fahrrad	For cardrivers	For users of public transport	For pedestrians
(1) 350 km of new cycle streets	✓	✓	✓
(2) Safe cycling infrastructure for every main road		✓	✓
(3) Safer junctions and crossroads	✓	✓	✓
(4) Better maintenance of cycleways			✓
(5) 200,000 new, safe and practical bicycle stands	✓	✓	✓
(6) Giving cycling the green light: optimized traffic signals		✓	✓
(7) 100 km of fast cycleways	✓	✓	
(8) Bicycle squads and bicycle theft taskforce	✓	✓	✓
(9) Specialized departments for bicycle planning	✓	✓	✓
(10) Prepare Berlin for an increase in cycling	✓	✓	✓

1) [More detailed information: www.volksentscheid-fahrrad.de](http://www.volksentscheid-fahrrad.de)



## Referendum How-to: Proposing a law



- 48 h Hackathon with 35 experts
- Publicly discussed twice via internet
- Proposals of allied organisations incorporated
- Well-balanced
- Minimum standards for safe, attractive and comfortable cycling infrastructure
- Concept for a growing, climate-friendly city worth living



# Referendum How-to: Forging alliances





# Referendum How-to: Raising scientific support



Prof. Dr. Stephan Rammler; Prof. Dr. Oliver Schwedes; Prof. Dr. Andreas Knie; Prof. Dr. Hermann Knoflacher; Prof. Dr. Miranda Schreurs; Prof. Dr.-Ing. Udo Becker; Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Jonas; Prof. Dr. Nikolai Roskamm; Prof. Dr. Beate Klutmann; Prof. Dr. Gebhard Hafer; Prof. Dr. Katrin Großmann; Prof. Dr. Jörg Knieling; Prof. Dr. Ines Carstensen; Prof. Dr.-Ing. Markus Hecht; Prof. Dr.-Ing. Michael Häßler; Prof. Michael Mönninger; Prof. Martin Lanzendorf; Prof. Heiner Monheim; Prof. Philipp Oswald; Prof. Antje Stokman; Prof. Rainer Bergmann; Dr. Konrad Goetz; Dr. Hermann Ott; Dr. Benjamin Stephan; Dr. habil Weert Canzler; Dr. Ing. Tim Lehmann; Dr.-Ing. Thomas Sauter-Servaes; Dr. Marita Radeisen; Dr. Ute Scheub; Dr. Saskia Hebert; Dr. Christian Schuster; Dr. Dörte Ohlhorst; Dr. Sassa Franke; Dr. Dirk Hagen; Dr. Chris Kollas; Dr. Delf Rothe; Sophia von Berg; Dipl.-Ing. Toni Karge; Dipl.-Ing. Benno Benjamin Bock; Dipl.-Ing. Sven Lißner; Dipl.-Umweltwiss. Sebastian Heilmann; Dipl. Ing. Michael Glotz-Richter; Dipl. Ing. Marius Gantert; M. Sc. Tom Assmann; M.A. René Bienert; M.A., PhD Student Kerstin Stark; M.Sc. Daniel Jobstfinke; M.Sc. Mareike Blum; M.Sc. Ilil Beyer Bartana; M.Sc. Jenny Böhm; MSc Simon Mader; MSc., Dipl.-Psych. Rachel Michels; Malte Schmidhals; Jan Lutz; Eric Puttrowait; Kain Glensor; Oliver Lah; Jürgen Schultheis ; Kristina Fromm; Susanne Thomaier; Bernhard Fehr; Susann Ullrich; Stefanie Schwerdtfeger; Marie Kleeschulte; Walter Kahlenborn; Alexander Carius; Felix Hartenstein; Julia Senft

**More than 100 scientists signed the „New urban agenda statement“**





## Referendum How-to: Mobilizing relevant peer groups



3 ½ weeks

More than  
1.000 activists

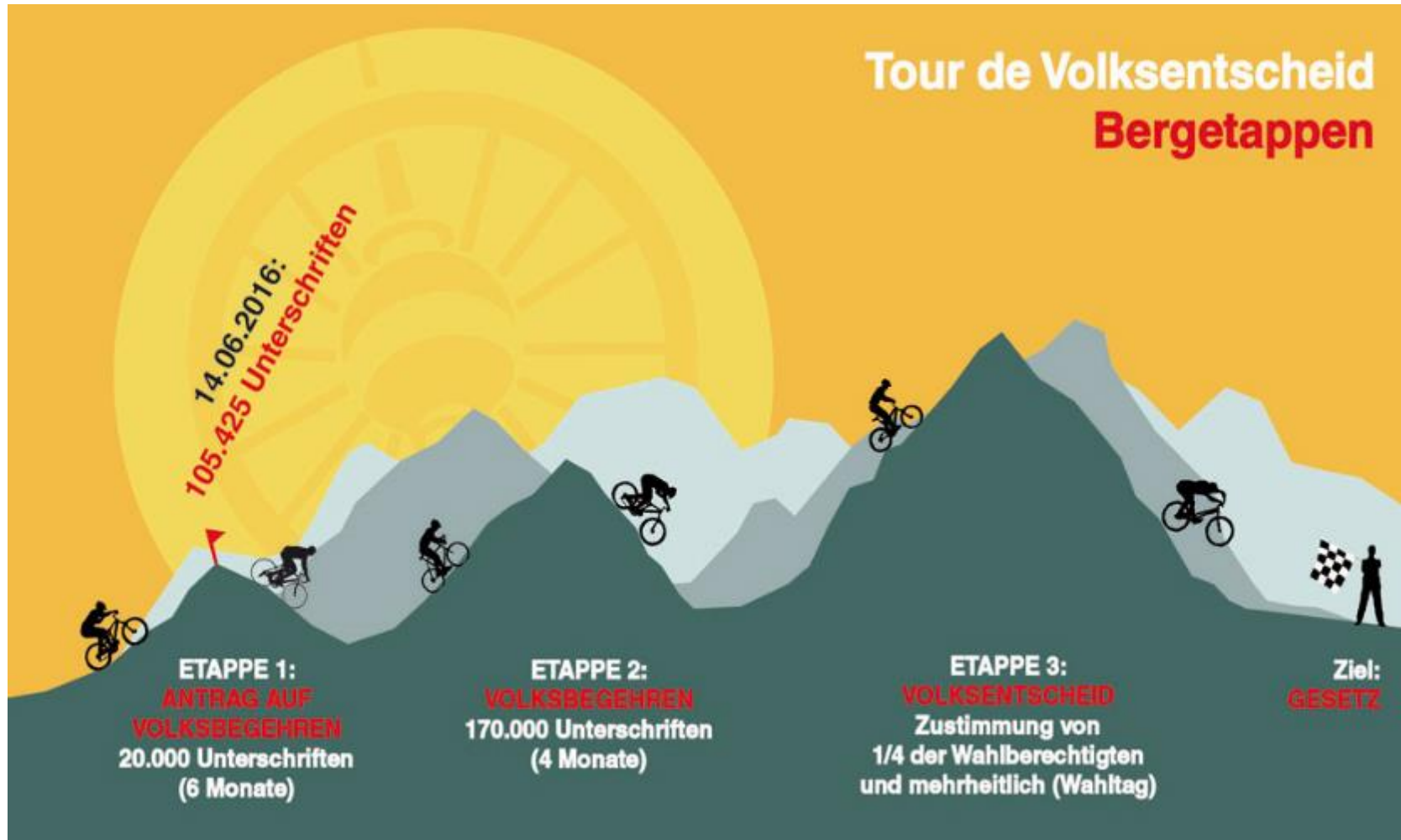


105.425



# Sabotage or procrastination?

Examination by Senate causes delay





# Various referendum initiatives in recent years



# Unsuccessful referenda



- Introducing obligatory choice between religious education and ethics classes in Berlin
- Supported by catholic and protestant churches, Jewish community, DiTiB, etc.
- Rejected by majority of voters
- Against closure of Tempelhof Airport
- Supported by political opposition and trade associations
- Approved by majority of voters, but failed to meet the quorum

# Successfull referenda



- Disclosure of secret deals between Berlin and Veolia concerning privatization of Berlin's water supply
  - Supported by globalization critics, several grass root initiatives
  - Approved by majority of voters
- Against opening for construction of Tempelhof Airport
  - Founded by neighbours, supported by political opposition
  - Approved by majority of voters



# THE RIGHT TO THE CITY

- Addressing actual problems of urban development and public property
- Initiated without established and well known organizations
- Activists share information and experiences
- Triggering city-wide debates using political actions and social media
- Raising political consciousness





**Thank you for your attention!**  
**Berlin dreht sich!**

Denis Petri  
Volksentscheid Fahrrad  
Berlin

web: [radentscheid.de](http://radentscheid.de) twitter: [/radentscheid](https://twitter.com/radentscheid) facebook: [/radentschied](https://facebook.com/radentschied)