Copenhagen Wheel Makes Your Bike Electric, Talks to Your iPhone

It might look like a regular bike wheel but it is far from it. The Copenhagen Wheel—developed by MIT researchers—is a new bicycle wheel that not only makes your conventional bike electric but it can keep track of friends, smog and traffic all while talking to your iPhone.

In order to promote cycling, the wheel extends the cycling experience for those who, well...don't like to cycle.

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The Copenhagen Wheel was developed by Carlo Ratti, associate professor of the practice in MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP) and director of the SENSEable City Laboratory, and his team. “Everything is controlled by your feet,” Ratti explains. Pedal backwards to engage the regenerative breaking or quickly pedal for assisted cycling. The design is simple with no pesky switches or dials.

“One of the applications that we have discussed with the City of Copenhagen is that of an incentive scheme whereby citizens collect Green Miles — something similar to frequent flyer miles, but good for...
the environment," says Christine Outram, who led the team of MIT researchers.

Along with smog, the sensors can also monitor levels of carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides, temperature, humidity and noise. Data that could be valuable to both scientists and the local government. More importantly, if your bike gets jacked, you can track it. Something quite important in an urban environment.

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Source: MIT

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It is “braking” not “breaking”- unless you break the brakes.

An excellent idea, with the right gearing this will change the way people commute - and much cheaper than a Segway!

how will this change the way people commute? It’s almost as if most people in this world bike already.

I can’t imagine that there’s enough batteries in this thing to store enough energy to produce an appreciable assist. And second, the motor couldn’t have much torque with all the batteries in the world. And third, how much energy could one possible store in braking unless you’re riding downhill all day? this thing sounds like an expensive solution looking for cheap problem.

You wouldn’t have to ride downhill all day to store enough energy. If you actually rode, you’d know one has to stop at lights and traffic, as well as braking to simply maintain a manageable speed. Thus, if this wheel cumulates the energy as one pedais— as seems to be the case—then it would, after a short span of time, build enough energy to give a noticeable boost. Additionally, while this may be expensive short-term, so are all breakthroughs. Any new invention—whether it be medicine, a car, an appliance, etc— is expensive after its initial creation. Therefore expense is obvious and not a viable source of complaint. Finally, the problem is not a cheap one. Even excluding global warming theories, cars cause drastic problems within modern civilizations; Problems like respiratory diseases, crashes, and heavy financial woes. In conclusion, Artiefx, if you actually thought for a moment, and compared this invention to those before it, you’d see it as a positive creation for a growing problem.