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## TRANSFORMING OBSTACLES INTO ICONS BRIDGES AS KEY ELEMENTS IN CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

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In the Netherlands, cycling networks are continuously being developed and improved to accommodate an ever growing population of cyclists. Being one of the world's most populated countries located largely in a river delta, road and water crossings are inevitable in almost any cycling route. In recent years a new phenomenon has been introduced in Dutch cycling networks: cycling highways. Dedicated cycling routes that provide fast, safe and conflict-free connections. Needless to say, bridges are key elements in cycling networks and cycling highways. They help to overcome obstacles, shorten travel time and can potentially become landmarks that invite and attract people to take the bike to their office instead of using a car. But they can also be expensive and complex to fit in. Tackling these issues early-on in the planning and design process is the key to success. ipv Delft would like to share examples of various projects and design strategies (based on the Dutch Design Manual for Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridges), such as:

- Finding the right location.
- Cost-effective and low-impact ramp design.
- Maximizing stakeholder support.
- Selecting the best bridge type.
- Transforming obstacles into icons.



Fig. 1. Bicycle bridge Onderbanken, the Netherlands



Fig. 2. Nigtevecht bridge, the Netherlands