

# 2007

## New Partners for Smart Growth Lifetime Achievement Award

### Dan Burden: Passionate Innovator, Ambassador for Walkable, Livable Communities

**D**an Burden hardly needs an introduction with a smart growth audience. For the past 11 years, the man with the broad mustache, infectious laugh, mischievous twinkle in his eye and energetic step has been roaming North America – about 350 days of the year – preaching the gospel of walkable, livable, healthy communities.

His signature brightly colored shirts, photographer's vest (with multiple cameras and other gadgets attached) and Nike shoes have been spotted in towns and cities across the continent, north and south from Fairbanks, Alaska, to Key West, Florida, and east and west from Chula Vista, California, to Montpelier, Vermont. At last count, Dan had conducted walkability audits, community workshops and design charrettes in more than 2,100 communities across the U.S. and Canada.

In 2001, "Time" magazine cited Dan as one of six international "civic innovators." He is considered a national expert on traffic calming, street design, walkability and bicycling. However, in his own modest way, Dan often points out that a large part of what he does is to use his skills as a former National Geographic photographer to observe and to help local residents learn how to see what works and what doesn't work in their own communities.

Dan received his B.S. in recreation planning from the University of Montana, and has more than 30 years experience in urban design and transportation planning. Since 2005, he has served as Senior Urban Designer with the firm of Glattig Jackson Kercher Anglin Lopez Rinehart, Inc., as well as the founder and executive director of Walkable Communities, Inc., a nonprofit corporation that helps develop walkable communities, since 1996.

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF A DISTINGUISHED CAREER

- Florida's first state bicycle and pedestrian coordinator (1980-96)
- Founder and executive director or president of three national, non-profits, including the Adventure Cycling Association, America's largest bicycle touring organization (formerly named Bikecentennial, 1973-77) and Bicycle Federation of America, Inc. (1977-80)
- Founder and original publisher of "Bicycle Forum" magazine (1977)
- Expedition leader of "National Geographic"-sponsored Hemistour – an Alaska-to-Arentina bicycling expedition (1971-73)
- Distinguished lecturer at Transportation Research Board, 2001, Washington, DC.
- Course developer and trainer for the National Highway Institute, Federal Highway Administration/National Highway Traffic Safety Administration topics in pedestrian/ bicycle safety, planning, engineering and related topics
- U.S. representative for United Nations' six-member world team to the People's Republic of China, providing technical support in bicycle safety program development (1994)
- Prolific author of many articles, manuals and books, including the State of Florida's "Bicycle Facilities Planning and Design Manual" (1981) and "Pedestrian Facilities Planning and Design Manual" (1996); the bicycle section of ITE's "Traffic Safety Toolbox," and the Local Government Commission's "Street Design Guidelines for Healthy Neighborhoods" (1998), "Streets and Sidewalks, People and Cars: A Citizens Guide to Traffic Calming" (1999) and "Emergency Response, Traffic Calming and Traditional Neighborhood Streets" (2000)

“Cars are happiest when there are no other cars around. People are happiest when there are other people around.”

– Dan Burden

