



Ring Mastered The city of Eindhoven is using circular reasoning. An elevated 360-degree bike circuit is the Netherlands city's answer to traffic congestion. Pedaling is not just a pastime in the region: About one-quarter of all transportation is by bicycle. Since bikes can't go as fast as cars, they can precipitate jams, especially along the A2, the Netherlands' most traveled north-south speedway. Open since last June, the bridge gives the local population of about a quarter million the option to ride above the gas-fueled fray.

The bridge's cable design with just one central

support ensures that no sides are obstructed. "Users can connect in every direction," says Adriaan Kok, one of the ring's engineers. Though it seems to hover, the ring's no pushover. Counterweights line the white inner ring to keep the structure stable, allowing locals like Peter Termeer to ride it regularly, "even though it's always windy in the Netherlands," he says. City officials estimate that 5,000 cyclists pedal on it every day, making it one of the busiest bicycle ways in the country, while 25,000 cars share the space below. Bottleneck alleviated. —Johnna Rizzo