

Press Release For Immediate Use

28/04/2006

Excellent Cycling Network and Road Safety Record was the headline verdict of a team of European transport experts as they completed their week long assessment of the progress Örebro is making towards a Sustainable Transport system. They **presented their headline findings at a meeting with City Municipality Representatives on Friday 28th April.**

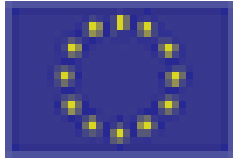
Örebro is one of twelve pioneering cities in the BUSTRIP project – a European Commission supported initiative to test the idea and practice of using “Sustainable Urban Transport Plans” (SUTP’s) to manage urban transport and investments for urban transport problems.

The team has examined transport investments, partnerships, plans, achievements, and failures in Örebro city and have spent a full week in the city meeting with politicians, business leaders, members of the public, and transport experts. Their headline findings are that Örebro -

- Provides a very good cycle network across the city and its outer suburbs but still needs a clear vision for the future development and improvement of this
- Has produced a number of detailed and specialist plans, strategic reports and research documents to help improve transport modes – but needs to consider better coordination between departments and steering committees that produce them
- Has a public that are very much aware of the issues and problems – but also a public that does not believe that politicians listen to their thoughts and opinions.
- Provides a good mix of different modes of urban transport – but needs to consider a stronger approach to making public transport more attractive and relevant to a wider group of passengers

Örebro is part of the European Commission sponsored project that is testing new ideas and developing new tools for European cities as they tackle the need to improve living standards whilst managing the ever increasing impacts of transport.

“The traffic sector is one of the biggest challenges we have to face in seeking success in sustainable development. The BUSTRIP project provides us with access to experts from other European cities as well as a clear and focused methodology for strategic urban transport planning. The findings of the team of experts here in Örebro this week will



certainly help city planners and politicians identify the key areas where improvement is necessary.

BUSTRIP project will clearly provide Örebro with a great opportunity to deliver a sustainable urban transport plan with key roles and responsibilities. We hope to turn this plan into a clear and focused form of action that will provide citizens with a much improved range of clean and sustainable transport options in Örebro.”

Jonas Karlsson – Vice Mayor

The experts wanted to hear from the whole community and provided opportunities for the general public and pressure groups to ask questions and raise their own issues. The conclusion of the weeks work was a presentation of the peer review teams' initial findings. By early June they will have completed their review and will provide a short report for the city administration to use as it starts to prepare a new sustainable urban transport plan.

The expert team:

- Mr Sönke Behrends – Chalmers University of Technology
- Ms Mari Kinttula - Kouvola Region Federation of Municipalities, Finland
- Mr James McGeever – Kaunas City Municipality, Lithuania
- Imre Antso - Stratum OÜ, Tartu, Estonia
- Jacek Oskarbski - Gdynia City Municipality, Poland
- Ms. Dace Liepniece - Liepaja City Municipality, Latvia

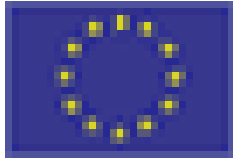
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Background Information

BUSTRIP (Baltic Urban Sustainable Transport Implementation and Planning – www.bustrip-project.net)



Bustrip will help provide practical solutions and tools for European cities and municipalities to deliver Sustainable Urban Transport. The 12 partner cities in the BUSTRIP project are the first in Europe to start preparing and implementing Sustainable Urban Transport Plans. – SUTP's are advocated in the European Commissions' Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment (6th Environmental Action Plan). BUSTRIP is uniquely positioned to show European cities how to deliver sustainable transport whilst generating economic growth.

Each of the 12 partner cities will receive a peer review that will assist them in understanding their current progress towards Sustainable Urban Transport. They will use this to prepare their SUTP and revise existing plans; from this they will implement pilot actions that will make tangible progress.

BUSTRIP will produce a SUTP toolbox of techniques, collecting all the learning experiences and best practices from the cities. The toolbox will assist European cities to understand SUTP and the opportunities available to move towards sustainable urban transport.

The project is coordinated by UBC Commission on Environment Secretariat. Two other core partners are UBC Commission on Transportation and Chalmers University of Technology (in Gothenburg). These three main partners form the Project Steering Group (PSG). Twelve local and regional authorities from Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden will be receiving the peer reviews and preparing the sustainable urban transport plans

The project is co-funded by European Union (ERDF- European Regional Development Fund) within the BSR INTERREG III B Neighbourhood Programme, Finnish Ministry of the Environment and the partner cities. The total project budget is 3,1 MEUR. The project duration is July 2005 - December 2007.

Partnership: UBC Commissions on Environment and Transportation, Chalmers University of Technology, local and regional authorities from Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden.

Approximate total project budget: 3,1 MEUR / ERDF: 1,73 MEUR

Duration: July 2005 - December 2007

Lead Partner: Union of the Baltic Cities, Commission on Environment, Finland

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