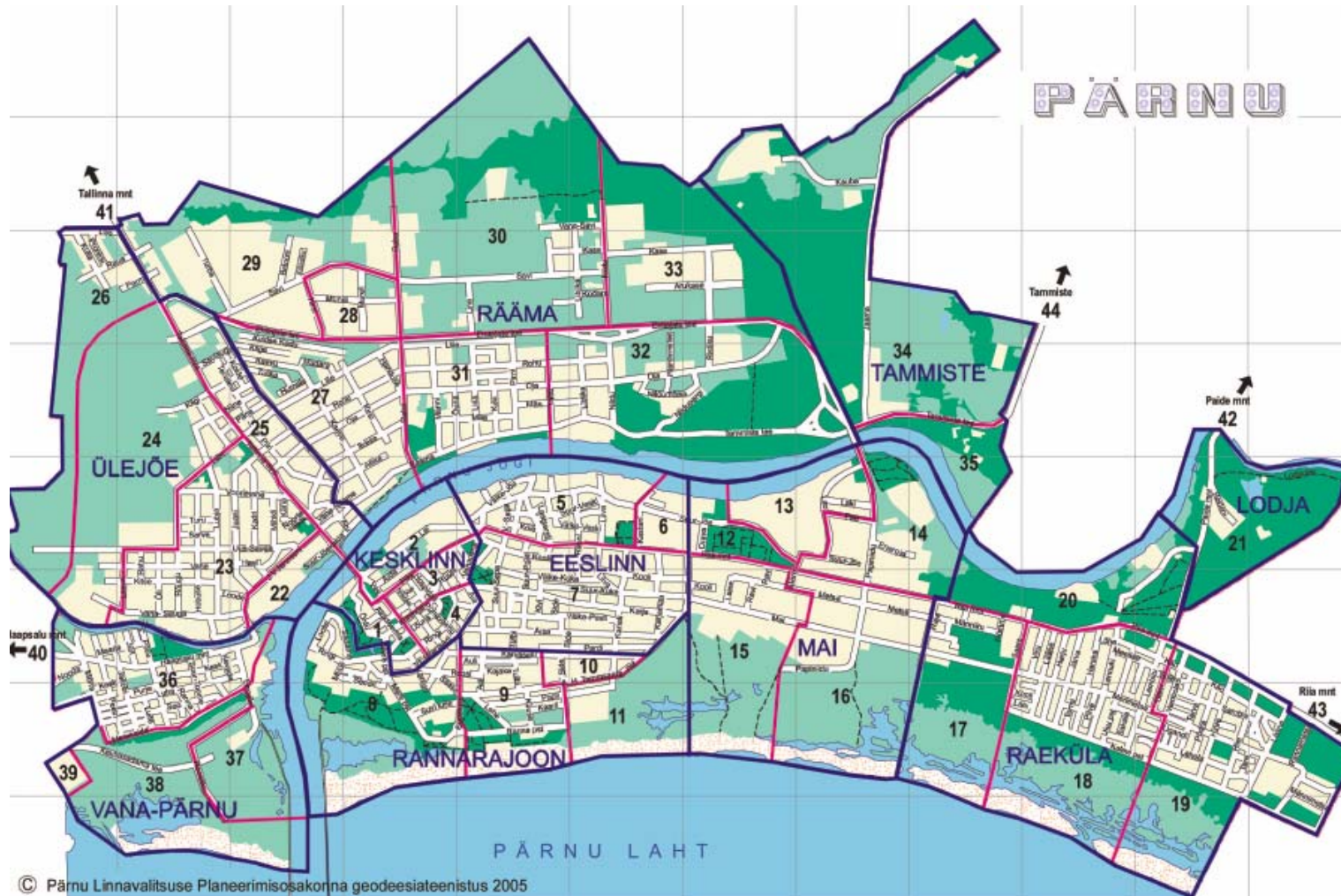


Peer review of city of Pärnu



Peer Review, sustainable urban transport
City of Pärnu
22nd - 26th May 2006



Baltic Urban Sustainable Transport Implementation & Planning

11 European cities & Union of Baltic Cities
collaborating to improve the long term traffic
development of cities.

Interreg project, 2005-2007

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BUSTRIP goals

A transport system that:

- Allows good access for individuals & business
- Is environmentally friendly
- Is affordable, fair & efficient
- Allows a high quality of life in the city

Step 1:

Understand & analyse:

- The current situation of the transport system
- The city's planning & working methods
- Development trends

This is a basis for finding possibilities to improve, develop, fight negative trends and innovate.

Step 1:

Based on:

- Pärnus own analysis, research and self assessment
- Peer review - group of experts from other cities

A team of “critical friends” that looks at your city with fresh eyes

The Team

Olle Bertillson

Sustainable Transport, Sundsvall, Sweden

Anrijs Balcus

Latvian Road Administration, Liepaja, Latvia

Fredrik Idevall

Head of infrastructure unit, Örebro, Sweden

Taavi Prinipuu

Planner, Tartu, Estonia

Michael Koucky

Union of Baltic Cities - Transport Commission, Göteborg

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The Work

We have...

- Analysed Pärnus self assessment report - great report and many thanks!
- Met and discussed your plans, ideas and concerns
- Interviewed city experts, stakeholders, politicians, inhabitants...
- Explored your city - by car, foot, bike and bus

...and during this learnt more and more about Pärnu.

What did we find?

Our first impressions when we arrived:

Pärnu is a nice, green, and friendly city!

Now: Our first headline findings & discussion

In some weeks: A written report as a tool for you

Facts, plans & strategies

The city has:

- Good knowledge and understanding of current travel patterns, demands & travellers wishes
- Ideas and plans for future development of the city (e.g. comprehensive plan, city development plan, public transport development strategy)

However...

Facts, plans & strategies

What city would Pärnu want to be 2030? We miss a **long term vision** of city development and goals

Plans and strategies could be **coordinated** in a better way to support each other

Measurable goals and methods to **follow up** would support the implementation of plans and strategies

Pärnu lacks an **integrated strategy** on transport and how to actively manage transport development in the city

... but this are goals of the BUSTRIP-project, so you are on your way!

Inhabitants, stakeholders & neighbours

The city has:

- Inhabitants that are engaged and care about Pärnu
- Many groups, clubs, societies
- A university section and active business life
- Is member in regional municipality organisation (Union of Pärnu County Municipalities)

However...

Inhabitants, stakeholders & neighbours

These networks and resources could be used more systematically by the city

If stakeholders are actively involved and collaboration with neighbouring municipalities is intensified, it can create:

- More ideas
- Better acceptance
- Stronger support and backing
- Better solutions

Summer traffic

Pärnu is an attractive summer city with many beach visitors.

Visitors are positive... *but*

their cars create congestion and parking problems, especially in the beach area.

This makes Pärnu less attractive and is limiting the development potential of tourism!

Explore alternative solutions to travel to the beach and to attract visitors that leave their car outside town or at home!

Public transport

Pärnu has:

- Extensive bus network in the city & surrounding
- Good, regular connections to some neighbouring villages
- Many opportunities for public transport - on rail, road, water and in the air

However...

Public transport

- The ticket system in the region is not coordinated
- The busses are old
- Difficult to use with weelchair or baby carriage
- Land use development is not coordinated with public transport

The coming bus trafic tender is a great opportunity for improvement. Use it!

Walking & cycling

Pärnu has:

- Good infrastructure for walking
- Some good bike lanes, especially along the river
- Is committed to develop cycling infrastructure

However...

Walking & cycling

- The system of bike lanes in the city could be better connected and expanded
- The quality of existing bike lanes is varying
- Safe cycle connections to neighbouring living areas are often lacking
- Lacks a comprehensive cycle strategy

For Pärnu, cycling can create many opportunities and solve problems, especially during the busy summer months!

Competence & resources

Pärnu has:

- Competent and motivated professionals

However...

- This knowledge & experience could be used more efficiently
- Might need some reinforcement in critical fields

General

- The new housing developments in the neighbourhood of Pärnu risk to create growing car traffic. This is a challenge the city needs to address.
- There are unexploited opportunities for mobility management and traffic flow management-

General

- Plans and budgets react on traffic development and prognosis, rather than **control and manage** them. There are opportunities for the city to influence the development more actively.
- The consequences of developments and plans on traffic and the city as a whole are not always systematically assessed.

Concluding

Pärnu is today an attractive city with many qualities that attract both tourists, business and inhabitants.

However, there is a risk that the city loses its competitive advantages if traffic development is not properly managed in a sustainable way.

But you have already taken first steps by joining the BUSTRIP initiative and being here today.

Questions?

- Did we miss anything essential?
- Did we get anything wrong?

What next.....

- For us:

Write up our assessment as a report which will be with you in some weeks

- For you:

Comment and correct our report

Continue and strengthen your work on systematically moving towards a more sustainable urban transport system.

Thank you for your hospitality and support and we look forward to our partnership in the future.

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