

Peer review of city of Sundsvall



Peer Review, sustainable urban transport
City of Sundsvall
14th - 18th August 2006



Baltic Urban Sustainable Transport Implementation & Planning

12 European cities & Union of Baltic Cities &
Chalmers University

collaborating to improve the long term traffic
development of cities.

Interreg project, 2005-2007

Peer Review, sustainable urban transport
City of Sundsvall
14th - 18th August 2006



BUSTRIP goals

A sustainable 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:

- Sundsvalls 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

Mara Zeltina

University of Liepaja, Latvia

Elena Talockaite

ECAT, Kaunas, Lithuania

Alicja Pawlowska

BUSTRIP coordinator Gdynia, Poland

Stig Franzén

Chalmers University of Technology, Göteborg, Sweden

Gintaras Stauskis

Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania

Michael Koucky

Union of Baltic Cities - Transport Commission, Göteborg, Sweden

Peer Review, sustainable urban transport
City of Sundsvall
14th - 18th August 2006



The Work

We have...

- Analysed Sundsvalls 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 bus, foot and bike

...and during this learnt more and more about Sundsvall.

What did we find?

Our first impressions when we arrived:

**An economically active,
well managed city
that is
looking confidently
into the future.**

Now: Our first headline findings & discussion

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

Peer Review, sustainable urban transport
City of Sundsvall
14th - 18th August 2006



Development

The city has:

- Successfully improved its environmental situation in the past by systematically work under a long period
- Is taking further steps by integrating sustainability aspects in its development

We notice many signs of positive development & change, the city is transforming

However...

- ..some “traditions” are still waiting to be addressed.
- Travel in the city is still dominated by private cars.

We feel that so far, emphasis is mainly put on reducing the symptoms of previous, unsustainable development rather than addressing the causes and avoiding future problems.

Strategy & vision

The city is:

- Working with long term visions and goals for development
- Considering sustainable development and Agenda21 more and more in the city planning & decision process

However...

- We see no clear future vision for sustainable transport in Sundsvall (yet).

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

Inhabitants, stakeholders

Sundsvall:

- recognises the importance of public participation
- Makes good efforts and has routines for stakeholder involvement and public participation in planning

However...

- There is potential to involve the public more directly in specific transport issues by actively consulting inhabitants, e.g. on wishes of cyclists, pedestrians, bus-users etc.
- Results from surveys indicate that the city could be bolder in introducing traffic measures in the centre, even if this implies some restrictions to cars.

Cooperation & coordination

Sundsvall:

- Is taking an active and leading role in cooperating with neighbouring municipalities
- Has a formalised, long-term cooperation with the Road Authority, with clear goals, roles & financing.

But...

- Cooperation on sustainable transport issues could get (even) better between different municipal departments.
- Coordination between the municipal and regional level on transport has potential for improvement.

Gender issues

The municipality has:

- come a long way in gender equity, even though a majority of decision makers still are men

However:

- We found little evidence that indicates that gender issues are actively considered in transport planning and decisions

General

The city has implemented some good SUT-planning principles:

- New development along bus routes
- Re-developing central urban areas
- Good evaluation system of the environmental consequences of new plans

But...

General

- Is still in many regards a *car-city*
- We see opportunities to intensify working with attitudes and public awareness to change travel habits.
- Traffic safety in the city centre must be given higher priority in the sustainable transport planning process

Clean transport

- A large proportion of goods transport is using sustainable transport modes like shipping & rail
- This will be further improved by investments in rail infrastructure like new tracks (triangle-track) and Bottniabanan

Clean transport

Sundsvall is:

- A pioneer in alternative fuels for busses
- Has taken steps to reduce the impact of municipal journeys, e.g. by purchasing cleaner cars, car pools and its travel policy
- Innovative by providing bikes to new students
- Has an innovative approach to park and ride

However...

Clean transport

- The bicycle & pedestrian planning and infrastructure can be further improved
- There is potential for improved public transport to an within the Birsta-area. We applaude the planned train stop at Birsta.

Public transport

Sundsvall has:

- A very modern, clean and accessible bus-fleet
- A regional ticket system

However...

- city busses are not always coordinated with regional transport
- A travel centre would improve the link between rail & bus.

Management & communication

The city administration:

- Is good at initiating, organising & managing projects

But...

- Stronger focus could be put on continuity
- Monitoring of the progress could be improved
- The city should **inform** the public more about its positive transport initiatives and their success

Concluding

Sundsvall has taken up the challenge and has taken some outstanding initiatives and steps towards sustainable transport.

However, in some areas, traditional patterns of thinking still prevail.

We hope that our contribution and the BUSTRIP-project can support the city in its efforts.

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 great hospitality and support and we look forward to our partnership in the future.

Peer Review, sustainable urban transport
City of Sundsvall
14th - 18th August 2006

