

# Peer review of city of Tartu



# A Sustainable Urban Transport Plan?

- The European Commission recommended and member states support the preparation by Cities of "*Sustainable Urban Transport Plans*" (SUTP's) as the key tool to manage urban transport problems and help to provide solutions to urban transport problems. (See the "*Thematic Strategy for the Urban Environment*")
- The European Commission is looking to the 12 Bustrip cities to be the first to prepare and implement SUTP's and to share their experiences and learning.
- European experts have helped to develop the model of a SUTP - the process of preparing the plan and the policies it should include - now lets see if it works!



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# Tartu - already ahead!

- The SUTP is a critical prerequisite to achieve the targets in the Tartu 2030 development plan (entrepreneurship, knowledge, creativity, caring and modern living environment).
- Already you have looked at your own progress and shared this with us - your "*self assessment report*".
- An expert team, including representatives from other Bustrip cities has carried out a peer review of your city over this week to provide friendly independent constructive criticism in support of your SUTP headline findings today - report in a month or so.



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# The Team

Mrs. Maria Lindholm - Chalmers University of Technology, Göteborg, Sweden (team leader)

Mr. Mikko Laaksonen - City of Turku, Finland

Mrs. Tea Nõmmann - Union of Baltic Cities - Environment Commission

Mr. Sakari Saarinen - Union of Baltic Cities - Environment Commission

Mr. Gunnar Spaak - City of Örebro, Sweden

Mr. Björn Abellsson - City of Sundsvall, Ramboll Sweden AB, Sweden

- ✓ Has carried out a desk review of your self assessment report before they arrived.
- ✓ Has met and discussed your progress, your concerns and your issues.
- ✓ Has met with business representatives, officials, politicians and stakeholders.
- ✓ Has tried out your public transport system and explored your city by bike - and we want to come back to see more!



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# What were we looking for?

A Transport system that:

- Allows the basic access and development needs of individuals, companies and societies to be met safely and in a manner consistent with human and ecosystem health, and promotes equity within and between successive generations;
- Is affordable, operates fairly and efficiently, offers a choice of transport mode and supports an competitive economy as well as balanced regional development;
- Limits emissions and waste within the planets ability to absorb them, uses renewable resources at or below their rates of generation, and, uses non renewable resources at or below the rates of development of renewable substitutes while minimising the impact on the use of land and the generation of noise.

EU transport council 2001)

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/trans/index.htm>



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# We found.....

The city of Tartu;

- Is a very nice, green and compact city which citizens appreciate - but, traffic flows, car ownership, emissions and risk on health impacts are increasing.
- Has a commitment and a readiness on a technical level to deal with the increasing transport problems in long-term plans - but, no evidence of clear commitment concerning sustainable transport planning on political level yet.
- Is a city with high ambitions and good thoughts about the future - but, Tartu need more short/medium-term actions to achieve long-term changes and improvements.



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# What were we looking for .....Does the city.....

Have a sustainable transport plan that is integrated with an overall sustainable development strategy that deals with:

*“ The movement of goods and people in a more sustainable way, comprehensively addressing public and private transport, motorised and non motorized transport, moving and parked vehicles and well as freight transport and logistics”.*



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# We found.....

- A draft development plan for Tartu 2030 that includes ambitious targets about public transport...
- Plans, ideas and strategic work in several transport related areas...
- Political agreement between coalition and opposition that makes long-term solutions possible.



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However:

- There is no integrated overall transport plan/strategy and clear link between transport and spatial development.
- Environment is not integrated in the sectoral action plans.
- **Modal split is rapidly shifting** towards more cars and less public transport nevertheless transport is not mentioned as a specific topic in the development plan!



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# Does the city.....

- Understand and effectively manage the implications of transport arising from **all** development in the city and in the region;
- Efficiently manage the infrastructure to achieve economic growth whilst restricting transport growth;
- Implement the principle of the polluter pays and ensure that users of transport infrastructure pay the actual and external (environmental and social) costs.



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# We found.....

- Tartu has a parking policy that encourages people working in the city to park outside the city centre.
- Relative to other European cities there are little traffic jams during peak hours for car traffic.



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However;

- The bus line system seems not efficient enough to be able to satisfy the needs of the users.

I.e. the system is not fast enough, buses crowded during peak hours, time tables needs revising etc.

- We see no clear effort in decoupling economic growth from transport growth.
- Car traffic in the city centre does not pay its external costs.

# Does the city.....

## Reduce the need for transport:

- Provide door to door access choices across the city;
- Promote a compact city with an efficient use of land and space;
- Strengthen the use of information and communication technologies.



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# We found.....

- Tartu is a very compact city with everything close by.
- Historical residential areas provide attractive alternatives for housing near the city centre.
- The Turu bridge has substantially increased walking and cycling between Annelinn and the city centre.



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However;

- Urban sprawl may be a problem in the long-term perspective. Regional cooperation is needed to avoid this.
- Private investments, like external shopping centres, increase the car dependence.
- Public transport, cycling and walking are not integrated in new or developing areas.



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# Does the city.....

- Reduce congestion
- Enhance modal shift and inter-modality
- Provide easy to understand traveller information
- Optimise the use of infrastructure
- Use financial incentives and taxes
- Promote behavioural change
- Optimise freight and logistics
- Use intelligent transport and management systems



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# We found.....

- Excellent information on public transport on the Internet.
- Well balanced restrictions for freight transport.
- Introduction of innovative idea to use external shopping centre parking lots for park and ride (tryout during a car free day).
- Development process for a modern integrated ticketing system for buses and trains (smart card).

However,

- Transport management (demand management) seem not to be the responsibility of any specific department.
- There seem not to be enough understanding of that new road infrastructure will increase traffic even more.

# Does the city.....

## Provide a clean and fair transport system

- With clean and energy efficient vehicles
- That meets the needs of all social groups
- That improves the quality and condition of the city's environment and contributes to reducing the impact of the city on the global environment
- That is improving road safety and security



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# We found.....

- Old buses and trains are planned to be replaced with more modern ones.
- Sidewalks will be built on all main streets.
- A general plan for a cycle path network.
- Pedestrian area in the city centre.

However;

- Environmental requirements on buses are not in place.
- A fear of cycle thefts and lack of safe cycle parking together with unsafe intersections and paths discourages citizens from cycling.
- The general cycle plan need to be revised and funded.
- The improved railway connections between Tartu and Tallinn should be prioritized in order to increase sustainable access to Tartu.



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# Conclusions...

- With its compact city structure Tartu has a very good opportunity and are on the right track to create a **sustainable transport system**.
  - I.e. Walking and cycling have the possibility to be more attractive than car use.
- Think "reducing the need for transport" instead of "reducing traffic flows on existing roads".
- See this project as an **opportunity** to try out new solutions, example: cycle network, car free day...



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# Questions?

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



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# What next.....

- For us:

Write up our assessment as a report which will be with you in a month's time

- For you:

Comment and correct our report

Start your work on preparing a Sustainable Urban Transport Plan!



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



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