

Press notice - for immediate release

21/07/2006

## Vilnius transport ambitions - fit for a capital!

An international team of sustainable transport experts has spent the past week examining the transport and mobility issues in the city - assessing the progress the city is making towards sustainable transport. From their interviews with residents, businesses, political leaders and from exploring the city, their headline findings are that the city has

- A strategic plan that is delivering a prosperous city and includes a vision for sustainable transport
- An administration that is making great progress in remodelling and transforming an urban structure that was not designed for sustainable urban transport, through significant investments in new infrastructure, the use of technology and traffic management
- Is committed to delivering a modern efficient public transport system that meets the needs of business visitors and residents

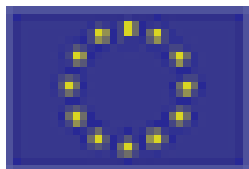
However the team feel that

- More resources are needed for campaigns, incentives and soft measures to change attitudes and persuade residents to reduce their use of private car transport
- The significant impact of the rapidly growing number of cars on air quality, pollution, and noise is not fully understood by the national and city government nor is it accepted as an important enough policy issue requiring urgent action
- There is a restrictive national framework of standards and laws that is frustrating the city's wish to adopt innovative and progressive new sustainable urban transport policies - particularly to reduce accidents and road fatalities
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By early September the team will have completed their report of the review of the city administration to use as it starts to prepare a new sustainable urban transport plan.

Gediminas Paviržis - Deputy Mayor at Vilnius Municipality said

*"We're very proud that the team has recognized the progress we are making, as you would expect criticism is always tough to receive, but we will look closely at the detail of issues they have raised, and we are committed to reducing the impact of traffic on the city, its people and the environment and we will do everything we can to address these issues"*



The expert team:

- Mr. Michael Frömming - City of Bremen, Germany
- Mr. Sakari Saarinen, Union of the Baltic Cities, Commission on Transport
- Mr Mikko Laaksonen - City of Turku Finland
- Alla Back - City of Örebro Sweden
- Kristiina Karu - University of Tartu Estonia
- Christer Tarberg - City of Sundsvall Sweden
- Mr. Hannu Koverola, Kouvola Region, Finland
- Mr. Allen Creedy - Union of Baltic Cities - Environment Commission ( team leader)

Contact :

### City of Vilnius

Danguole Vaitkiene. Vilnius Healthy City Bureau, Department director  
Telephone 0037052112589  
danguolev@post.omnitel.net

### Background information

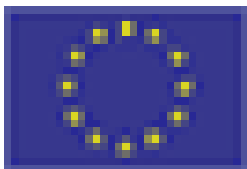
BUSTRIP (Baltic Urban Sustainable Transport Implementation and Planning - [www.bustrip-project.net](http://www.bustrip-project.net))

Bustrip will 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

Contact person: Mr Sakari Saarinen

Tel. +358 2 262 3201

E-mail: [sakari.saarinen@turku.fi](mailto:sakari.saarinen@turku.fi)

[www.bustrip-project.net](http://www.bustrip-project.net)