

Smart upgrading of cycling infrastructure

The new railway station Tullnerfeld along the western high speed railway corridor in Austria will be opened in December 2012. As a result the use of public transport will increase because local, regional and international trains will stop at this station. The close proximity to Vienna and other bigger cities will attract an increased number of railway passengers and commuters.

In order to increase the sustainability further local residents should have the opportunity – apart from using their private car – to access the station on cycling routes with a high quality. Therefore a study has been carried out that focused on identification of potential cycling routes and cycling infrastructure upgrades in the region that. Connections from individual townships to the railway station and other townships were covered.

The attractive and direct routes should be usable by different cycling groups such as commuters on their daily way to work and school, tourists and recreational cyclists. The new railway station could also be a major cycling tour start point in the region.

During the study the following actions were carried out:

- Analysis of local situations, existing infrastructure and existing cycling connections
- Consideration of already known projects of local authorities
- Estimation of potential cycling traffic volumes
- Planning of the cycling route concept, priorities and required provisions

For the area outside a 5 km boundary around the railway station the connections also considered access points of local bus services and train lines.

Apart from attractive cycling connections the concept also considered locations for the installation of secure cycle parking locations.

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The concept has been presented and finalized mid 2011. Since then the first connections were constructed through funding of the local and provincial authorities and the klimafond.

An innovative step regarding the cost efficient construction of new cycling connections was the use of old road surface material that was extracted and processed during road upgrade projects. Furthermore one cycling connection was constructed in conjunction with a horse riding trail which is an example of sharing road sections and interest of different user groups.

At the speed dating session the participants are asked for input regarding modern and innovative concepts and measures for implementation of cycling connections. Especially within times of economic crisis and reduced funding capabilities these concepts should focus on alternate partnerships and agreements or innovative and cost reduced techniques.