

Cooperation process to the local public transport plan at the city of Hamm

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The local authority of Hamm drew up a new local public transport plan during 2004 and 2005. Key points were the future of the routes, the frequencies of buses and the introduction of new bus stops and the building of new rail stations, in addition to special measures like bus lanes. The plan was passed in May 2005 and came into effect in August 2005 with a comprehensive change of timetables by the transport operators.

Highlights of the many different improvements are:

- All buses connect with the main railway station;
- Night buses run to all districts of the city;
- Simple and easily memorised bus routes;
- Better service to big shopping centres
- All services connect with the centre of the suburbs

Because of the importance of the plan for the mobility of the citizens of Hamm, there was wide consultation on the wishes of everyone concerned from the very beginning. The city introduced an entirely new concept of consultation, both over the internet and at the actual locations, in all seven districts of the city.

The possibilities for the public to obtain information and to participate in the discussion were as follows::

- Public information presentation at the Gustav-Lübcke-Museum (01.04.2004);
- Possibility to present written comments for organizations and representative groups (May/June 2004)
- Exhibitions in all local administrative offices (May 2004)
- Presentation and online participation on the internet (April – December 2004)
- Public meetings in all seven districts of the city (November/December 2004)

In particular the citizens of Hamm made use of the public meetings and the online-questionnaire. More than 100 suggestions came by internet alone..

The Hamm city web-site (www.hamm.de/verkehr) was open to everybody who was interested in this topic. It was possible to send questions or proposals online. Under the heading “Busnetz 2005” a vast amount of information on the proposals for the local public transport plan was brought together.

The main page included an overview of the “consultation and participation procedure” for the local public transport plan. Under the button “Bestandsanalyse (analysis of the current situation)” facts, figures and information on current offers on buses and trains in Hamm can be found. Under “Stadtbezirke (city districts)” the future bus network and the accompanying measures for every area of the city, can be down-loaded as a plan and a tabular overview. In addition, the planned bus lanes, the new bus stops and railway stations and the future night bus network are also presented. The “Prognosen” (prognosis)” button focuses on the economic aspects of local public transport Passenger prognoses are set out alongside estimated costs of the services.

The local public transport plan web site also offers the possibility of sending suggestions and criticisms by email directly to the responsible person. A large percentage of the suggestions which came by internet or at the public meetings. could be seriously considered and were integrated into the plans made for the individual districts.

In July 2004, the largest German passenger association “Pro Bahn” reported on the participation procedure followed in the local public transport plan for Hamm, In its regional magazine „Ruhr Rail“. Under the heading „Swiss standards in Westfalen“ the information, consultation and participation possibilities were emphasised. According to “Pro Bahn” such direct and individual comments are only possible in Hamm..

For Hamm this comprehensive participation process, much wider than was legally required, has proved of immense value. The possibilities of participation using the internet have proved to be such a successful exercise that they will be exploited again in any future consultations on local transport planning. Currently there is a web presentation “Masterplan Verkehr” (Transport Master Plan) a new plan for all forms of transport for the whole city..

Table: Survey participatory scheme NVP

Masterplan local public transport (NVP) Hamm - conciliatory and participatory scheme-

<u>Steps:</u>	<u>timetable:</u>
Publication of NVP in citizen´s offices and in city planning bureau	08.03.-08.04.04
Public informatory event for the NVP	01.04.04
Participation of transport enterprises and public authorities	May 2004
extensive citizen´s information, a.o.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation at transport authorities • Internet-Forum • Presentation at special station event 	April until Oktober 2004
Citizen´s assemblies in all city quarters	November / December 2004
Debate of the NVP in authority councils and thematic committees ; Decision in assembly	March / April 2005 May 2005
<u>Implementation of the NVP</u>	
Production of time- and duty schedules by transport enterprises	June 2005
passenger and citizen´s information about change of schedule	July - September 2005
Fahrplanwechsel zur implementation of the NVP	22.August. 2005