



Traffic in a growing city

**Goals and guidelines
of traffic planning in Helsinki**

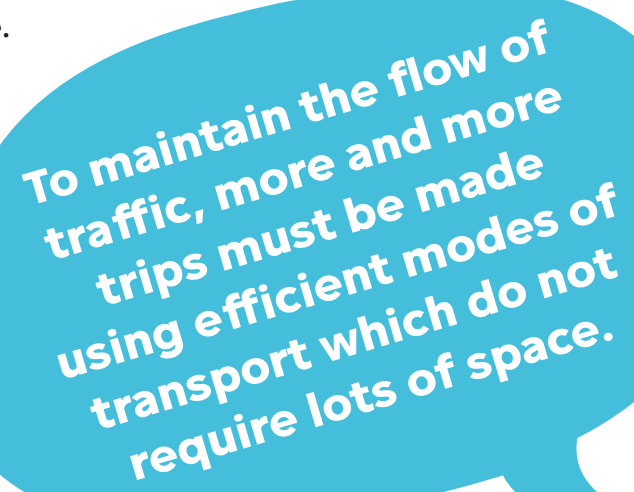
Growing city, increasing traffic

Helsinki and the Helsinki region are growing rapidly. The population of Helsinki is estimated to reach 860,000 inhabitants by 2050 and the population of the entire region, 2 million.

New inhabitants and jobs generate more traffic, which is a burden to the entire region, but especially to Helsinki's inner city, which already suffers from congestion. At the same time, international competitiveness and climate change place more stringent requirements for the transport system and the urban structure. The city must be functional, eco-efficient and pleasant, all at the same time.

As the urban structure becomes more dense, the need for mobility increases, whereas the space available for traffic does not. A dense urban structure needs an efficient transport system, capable of moving a maximum of people and materials in a minimum of space.

To maintain the flow of traffic in a growing city, more and more trips must be made using efficient modes of transport which do not require lots of space – walking, cycling and by public transport.




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What kind of transport system is our goal?

Helsinki's goal is to intensify the city structure into pleasant and versatile city centres and to connect such centres with each other by means of good public transport connections. The promotion of sustainable modes of transport aims at a pleasant environment, good accessibility and fluent transport as well as a reduction of environmental impacts. Successful business life also demands a well-functioning transport system.

The goals for the transport system are based on these goals for the city structure. They are divided into three themes: The goals for effortless everyday guarantee smooth everyday trips for inhabitants and workers. The goals for vitality aim at improving the conditions for business and the city's attractiveness, thereby improving the competitiveness of the city. The goals for resource efficiency aim at the efficient use of space, money and natural resources.

An aerial photograph of a city street in Helsinki. On the left is a tall, modern building with a grey facade and many windows. A red and white striped barrier runs along the sidewalk. The street is filled with cars and a bus. A red-paved pedestrian crossing is visible. In the background, more city buildings and a tall tower are visible under a clear sky.

The traffic system aims at an effortless everyday, a competitive city and an efficient use of resources.

Traffic in a growing city



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Effortless everyday

- Improve accessibility by sustainable modes to be competitive with using a car for everyday trips.
- Travel times must be predictable for all modes.
- Planning choices must decrease the harm caused by the transport system to inhabitants.

Vitality

- Ensure that workers and jobs and customers and commerce can reach each other.
- Pleasant streets and public places provide a basis for urban trade.
- Improve the efficiency of goods transportation and decrease delivery costs in cooperation with businesses.

Resource efficiency

- The planning of the transport system will be guided by the efficient use of resources and the functional needs of the city.
- Direct all traffic growth to sustainable modes.

How do we reach these goals?

The guidelines for traffic planning, based on the goals for the traffic system, are divided into four subject areas.

As a general planning principle, the needs of pedestrians shall be considered first. After that, the needs of cycling, public transport, goods transportation and private cars will be taken into account, in this order.

A well functioning transport system

- Increase efficiency with active guidance and real time information. Support mobility as a service.
- Ensure good accessibility for freight terminals and good links between them.
- Develop pricing in order to improve the balance of supply and demand.
- Lower speeds to improve flow, decrease incidents and traffic noise and improve traffic safety.

Urban centres

- Urban centres will be designed to a human scale: The public realm shall be planned comprehensively and the continuity, attractiveness, accessibility for all and safety of walking routes shall be ensured.
- Best practice on street cycling infrastructure will be provided in urban centres.
- The amount, speed and parking provision of cars shall be

determined based on the local environment in a way which increases the attractiveness of urban centres.

- Improve the efficiency of urban logistics in cooperation with business, including implementing an ITS solution for managing deliveries, ensuring suitable loading areas and regulating working hours and equipment.

Trunk connections between centres

- Fluent and frequent public transport trunk lines will be developed to provide a network, which is easy to comprehend. These lines will be isolated from congestion and connections will be planned as a whole.
- Key public transport transfer points will be designed with a focus on user needs and their local accessibility by all modes will be improved.
- The long distance cycling route network will be implemented.



Pedestrians first.

- The transport network will be developed in order to support the intensifying urban structure.

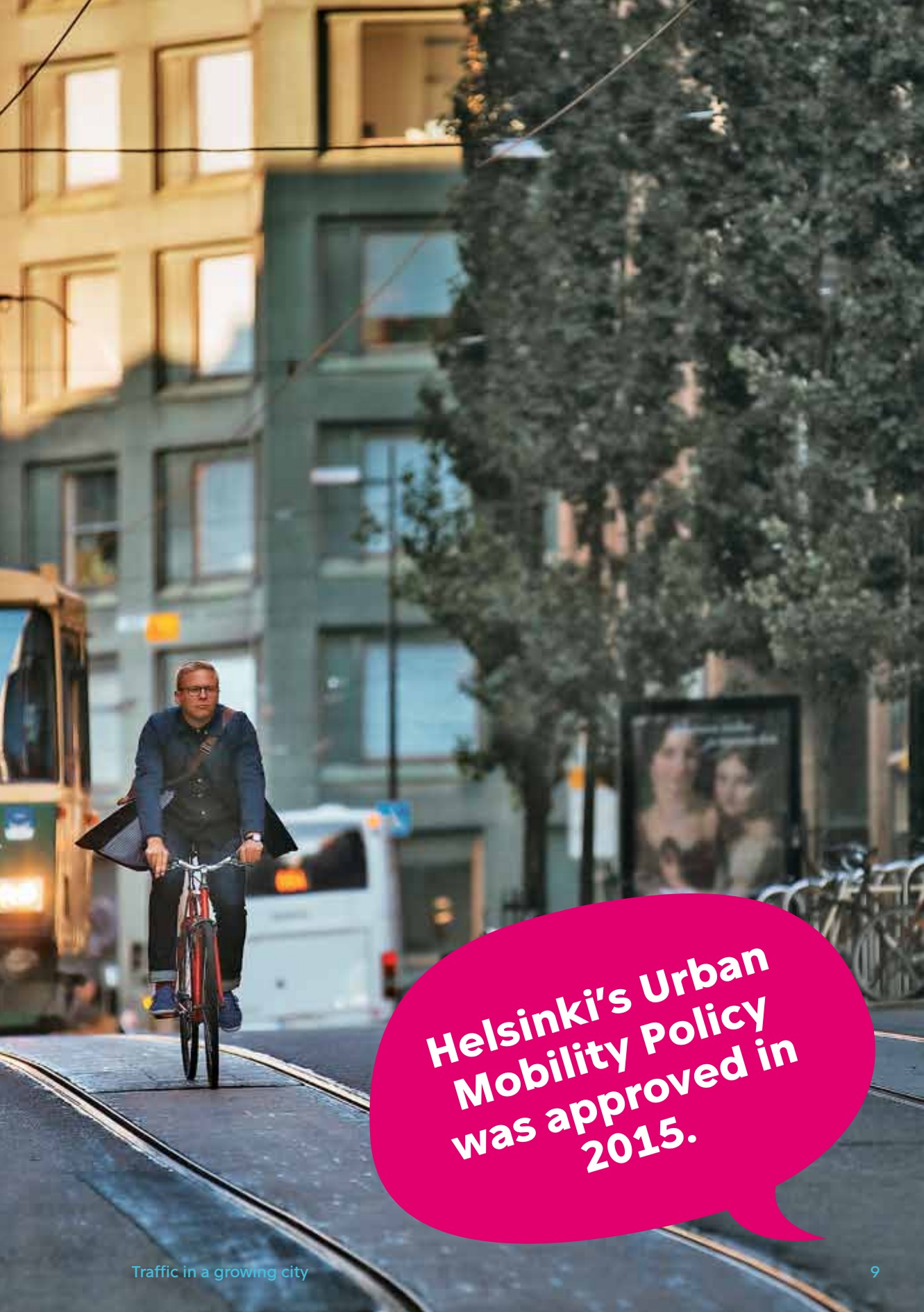
Planning practices

- Project appraisal will be developed to take account of land use effects and the functional needs of the city.
- Create and maintain a financially realistic long term action plan.
- Plans and decisions concerning the transport system will be based on strategic objectives and an understanding of financial constraints.
- Improve cooperation between regional and local authorities to better reach common goals.

Helsinki's Urban Mobility Policy

The goals and guidelines for Helsinki's transport system are defined in Helsinki's Urban Mobility Policy. It outlines the transport policy in Helsinki and ensures that the city's development goals also act as a guide for transport planning. The City Board approved the mobility policy in 2015.





**Helsinki's Urban
Mobility Policy
was approved in
2015.**

Additional information

Laituri is the Helsinki City Planning Department's information and exhibition space on Narinkka Square. It provides you information about how Helsinki will develop. The location in the very heart of Helsinki near Lasi-palatsi Square and Kamppi centre is superb; Laituri is easily accessible from all directions.

Laituri is open 6 days a week - on Weekdays from 10 am till 7 pm and on Saturdays from noon till 4 pm.

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