

Appendix 2

City of Turku
Regional Council of Southwest Finland

Projects connected with New Bridges pilots in the Turku Urban Region

The pilot projects in the Turku urban region are interconnected with other projects in the urban region. The pilot projects in many cases provide content or guidance for these other projects. Also, because the other projects exist, the pilot projects can be far more substantial in scope and content than they ever could without the other projects.

PARAS project for municipal and service structure reform in Turku urban area

The PARAS municipal and service structure reform project in Finland was started in 2005 by the government and its framework was defined by the Law on municipal and service structure reform (169/2007) or so called framework law. It is in force until 2012. It aims to develop municipal and service structures. By the law, municipalities in the Turku region were required to produce an urban region plan to co-ordinate land use, housing and transport and improve use of services over municipal borders. The municipalities of Turku, Aura, Kaarina, Lieto, Naantali, Raisio, Rusko and Vahto were required to participate. In addition, the municipalities of Paimio, Piikkiö and Sauvo voluntarily participated in the plan. The urban region plan was approved by the municipal councils in August 2007 and was sent to the government. It has since been evaluated and some parts have been implemented. The process of implementation is still ongoing.

As one result of the PARAS law, from the beginning of 2009, the municipalities of Askainen and Lemu have merged with Masku, Merimasku, Rymättylä and Velkua with Naantali, Vahto with Rusko and Piikkiö with Kaarina.

All the activities of New Bridges project are connected with the PARAS process and are parts of its implementation.

Structural model for Turku region 2035

As one result of the PARAS project, the municipalities of Turku urban region, Turku, Aura, Kaarina, Lieto, Länsi-Turunmaan, Masku, Mynämäki, Naantali, Nousiainen, Paimio, Raisio, Rusko, Sauvo and Tarvasjoki and the Regional Council of Southwest Finland and the Economic Development, Transport and the Environment Centre of Southwest Finland have agreed to produce a joint structural model for Turku region 2035. The model will define the land use, transport and service centre structure of the region. The model will serve as basis for regional and master planning in the region. The work with the structural model was started in April 2010 and the actual work will be completed by the end of 2011 and the model will be approved in early 2012.

All the activities and results of the New Bridges project within the themes of housing preferences, services and mobility will be used in the structural model.

Regional public transport authority and public transport development

As one result of the PARAS project, the municipalities of Turku urban region, Turku, Aura, Kaarina, Lieto, Länsi-Turunmaan, Masku, Mynämäki, Naantali, Nousiainen, Paimio, Raisio, Rusko

and Sauvo have in the spring 2009 agreed to negotiate on start of a regional public transport authority, which would organize public transport in the region, decide on the service levels, routes, timetables and ticketing system and procure the operations. As the first part of the start-up the service level for the public transport in the municipalities is being defined. Due to the EU law on public transport (1370/2007) and the Finnish law on public transport, both in force from 3th December 2009, the current public transport system will continue to operate with intermediary period public transport contracts until they expire, mostly by 30th June 2014. After this, the regional public transport will be procured according to the new legislation, most likely almost completely by competitive tender. The regional public transport authority needs to begin its activities in 2012 in order to procure new services so that the new contracts can start in beginning of July 2014.

In addition, the central municipalities of Turku, Kaarina, Lieto, Naantali and Raisio have produced a plan on the public transport in the region by 2020, which has proposed a staged development of the main routes first as trunk bus routes and the most used lines later as tram system, which was approved by the City Council of Turku on 14th December 2009 as the public transport development strategy. The Regional Council of Southwest Finland has set the reopening of local train services on lines from Turku to Salo, Uusikaupunki and Loimaa as a priority in the transport strategy of Southwest Finland.

In New Bridges pilot work, the public transport work provides solutions to be used in the development of the new regional public transport system. However, the activities will be almost solely planning, as new solutions cannot be put to practice before the intermediary period public transport contracts expire on 30th June 2014.

Regional mobility management

Comprehensive regional mobility management activity, the regional mobility service centre, will be started by the VALONIA, the Southwest Finland sustainable development and energy expert and service organization, in the autumn of 2010. VALONIA has previously organized mobility management campaigns, and has now been granted a ministry of Transport grant for start-up of more permanent mobility management activities until the end of 2011. The activities will be part-funded by the City of Turku and Regional Council of Southwest Finland.

Master planning

Several municipalities involved in the pilot actions are updating their comprehensive municipal master plans, including Turku, Masku, Mynämäki and Nousiainen. In addition, the municipalities of Turku and Lieto are producing a joint master plan for the Maaria-Littoinen area.

The New Bridges pilot projects use material produced by the master plans and the results are part of the studies for the master plans.