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Sustainable Mobility Innovations

Our experts' choices Autumn 2014

The world of "*sustainable mobility*" is full of innovations. On a daily basis, new tools, approaches and concepts are developed, tried and implemented to make the life of pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users more comfortable.

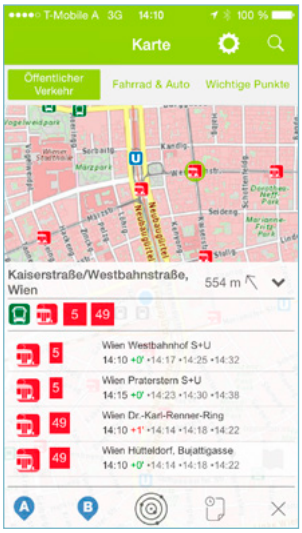
As part of their daily routine, our mobility experts around the world are constantly looking for such innovations – please find below their discoveries. Some of these innovations are not new or innovative on a global scale, but are adapted to suit local conditions and hence worthwhile to be included in this list and shared.

The "Green Man +" Says Go

An ageing population needs more time – also to cross the street. Singapore has reacted to its citizens' needs and provides elderly and disabled persons the possibility to extend the green phase at traffic lights in order to make crossings both more convenient and safe. Citizens of more than 60 years of age and disabled persons can enable a device on the pedestrian crossing with a smart card. Depending on the length of the crossing, the green light is extended between 3 to 13 seconds. Already in 2011 Singapore's Land Transport Authority (LTA) re-equipped about 260 traffic lights with the system "Green Man +". The city will add about 240 additional devices until 2015.
Please read more at http://www.onemotoring.com.sg/publish/onemotoring/en/on_the_roads/traffic_management/green_man_plus.html.

Multimodal Traffic Information

The "Verkehrsauskunft Österreich" (VAO) app provides multimodal mobility information and routing for Austria. To guarantee consistent and high-quality information for all of Austria, different providers of traffic information feed their dedicated data into VAO. Providers of such data are transport associations, different federal states as well as other cooperating partners. The Klima- und Energiefonds (KliEn) funded project aims towards including information on all modes of transport comprehensively for each region in Austria. The overall idea is to present alternatives to motorised individual traffic and spur a shift to more sustainable modes of transport. ITSworks has indicated that up to 6 % of all car users might switch to alternative modes of transport by using the new VAO app.
Please find more information at http://www.verkehrsauskunft.at (in German language).



Graphic: © Verkehrsauskunft Österreich (VAO)

Kutsuplus – Demand Responsive Transport

Despite all of its benefits public transport can be fairly annoying when you wait for service, miss a transfer or look for stops in foreign cities. Many car users refuse to switch to public transport while voicing concerns towards both its reliability and flexibility. Helsinki Region Transport (HSL) in cooperation with Aalto University and Ajelo Ride has recently launched a new type of on-demand public transport which offers a maximum in flexibility. Customers decide when and where they want to start and end their trip. All requested trips are processed in real-time and fully automated to enable the best schedule and route for each individual trip. Kutsuplus is intended to incorporate benefits of both cars and public transport. To make the service as convenient as possible to users, trips are requested and paid for by smartphone. In its pilot phase the new service has been living up to its expectations. However, it remains to be seen if

Photo: © Ajelo

Kustsuplus eventually will pave the way for a reform towards a more flexible and more dependable type of public transport. For more information please see https://kutsuplus.fi/home.

"Fahrrad2go" – An Innovative Linkage Between Bus and Bicycle

In August 2014, the project "Fahrrad2go" (bicycle2go) has started in the in the region of Stuttgart, Germany. The goal of this project is to better connect eco-friendly modes of transport – the bus and the bicycle – with a quick, safe and easy solution: a new daily operated bus service can carry up to ten bicycles – five inside the bus and five attached to the rear end. The innovative

Photo: © Verkehrs- und Tarifverbund Stuttgart GmbH (VVS)

storage system for bicycles in busses was developed in close collaboration between the bus company Omnibus-Verkehr Ruoff (OVR), the University of Applied Science Esslingen and the district of Rems-Murr. The project is supported by the district as well as by the region of Stuttgart in the framework of the regional climate protection strategy.

For further information please visit http://www.nationaler-radverkehrsplan.de/neuigkeiten/news.php?id=4435 (in German language).

Truck-Park App

44 fatalities and 1 430 injuries – this are the numbers of accidents caused by careless parked trucks in the European Union in 2013. There are too many trucks for too few parking facilities, therefore every evening trucker face the problem of finding appropriate parking. Free of charge app 'Prepark' now provides real-time information on available parking along highways. Of course, the app does not change the general lack of parking but it might help to avoid risky parked vehicles as truck driver now have information on available parking spots along their route. 'Prepark' might not be a fully functional truck park routing system, it is however cheap and can be easily enhanced to include more valuable information for truck driver such as for example on sanitation at parking facilities.
More information in German language: http://www.spiegel.de/auto/aktuell/lkw-parkplaetze-prepark-app-weist-auf-freie-autobahn-parkplaetze-hin-a-959779.html

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