



----- MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT – CITY OF DRESDEN -----

Truck guidance plan for Dresden

When it comes to truck traffic, particularly in cities, some issues often under current discussion are those of fine particles, noise and safety risks. The focus is, however, less on trucks and other vehicles delivering for local needs, and more on heavy through traffic or origin and destination traffic, often made up of articulated trucks and truck trailers.

As the volume of goods traffic on roads has risen, it has become increasingly important to keep this type of traffic out of sensitive urban districts and to reroute truck through traffic onto effective ring roads – an aim pursued by various European towns, including Dresden. Achieving this requires not only an adequate infrastructure (yet one which is ecologically defensible and proportionate to the size of the town), but also, increasingly, intelligent traffic management.

For this reason, over the last few years, modern traffic management has begun to focus more on truck guidance systems, now used in several towns and cities. As a prosperous economic area, Dresden is currently in the process of addressing this topic as part of its new air quality action plan.

In this context, Dresden's city administration department held a discussion back in early 1996 to which it invited various parties representing the interests of commercial transport, such as Dresden GVZ logistics centre, the Chamber of Industry and Commerce and many more.

In constant and highly constructive dialogue with representatives of the forwarding and logistics industry, the main elements of a concept have now been developed which aims to reduce the impact on the environment and improve transport safety, while nonetheless ensuring that commercial transport can work efficiently and is not held back by any direct restrictions.

The central idea of the truck guidance plan is to set up a system to guide goods vehicles (vans and trucks) along routes which have a less critical effect on the people of Dresden. The plan is aimed specifically at origin and destination traffic, i.e. all goods traffic coming from outside Dresden (or leaving Dresden) and stopping at one or more commercial sites in Dresden to deliver or pick up goods. The plan is made up of the following components:

- city truck map,
- online interactive city map for forwarding agents / truck drivers,
- truck navigation system taking the city's interests into account,
- physical truck signage system.

Ten thousand copies of Dresden's city truck map have already been published in five languages (German, English, Russian, Czech, Polish) and they are extremely popular. More than 1,000 copies, for example, have already been distributed for the Czech Republic's transport industry.

The interactive city map for truck drivers and forwarding agents can be found at www.dresden.de/Lkw-Stadtplan.

Some time is still required for the physical signage system to be completed. At the same time, the City of Dresden has been closely involved in the rapid development of a truck navigation system as part of the European project ViaRegiaPlus. This system concentrates on cities' needs without necessarily following the much-trodden path of the "shortest, fastest, cheapest route". Instead it aims to find routes which meet the above requirements while at the same time protecting city residents better from noise, fine particles and exhaust fumes.

The ViaRegiaPlus project is run by the City of Wroclaw (Poland) and involves cities in Poland, the Ukraine, Slovakia and Germany. The range of topics covered by the project extends beyond that of truck guidance, as described here, to include these other work packages:

- sustainable mobility and regional cooperation in Pan-European Corridor III,
- analysis and effects of demographic change in cities and their surroundings,
- sharing experiences and developing concepts for public relations in the cities and their surroundings, as well as running individual model projects.

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Trucks on Waltherstraße bridge in Dresden (photographs: Dresden City Planning Office)