

Bike Tower – Automatic Parking System for Bikes

Effective measures for SUMP implementation

Czech Republic – Hradec Králové

→ Context, objectives and target group

Hradec Králové (population 100,000) aims to increase the share of cycling. One constraint is the lack of secure bicycle parking facilities in the city centre, especially at the main railway and bus stations. It was therefore decided to build the “Bike Tower” to provide a high number of secure bicycle parking within a small amount of space. This measure has been implemented as part of the city’s preparations to initiate its first SUMP in 2017.



→ Description of the activities

The city of Hradec Kralove has a relatively high share of cycling, exceeding 15 % of modal share. Many residents, visitors and students use their bikes on a daily basis. The Elbe Cycle Route crosses the city, attracting cycle tourists. The natural hub of cycle trips is the city centre, especially the railway and bus stations, which did not offer appropriate infrastructure for long term bike parking. Cycle racks close to the stations are overcrowded and unprotected from rain and snow and cannot offer safe long term parking for expensive bikes. The municipality was aware of the problem and due to the lack of space decided to build an automated bike parking tower for 116 bikes, which does not require a crew to operate it.

→ Communication

The Bike Tower is situated in front of the main station, so every traveller can see it. Because this type of parking is the first such installation in Central Europe, there was a lot of media interest and coverage at the time of the launch.

→ Costs and who paid them

The Bike Tower cost around €220,000 and was financed by a private company. The land was provided by the municipality for free. Operation costs are less than €500 per month. Parking a bike costs €0.20 per day. The business plan of the owner is to use this tower to promote and introduce the system.

→ Project objectives, indicators, data and impact/results

OBJECTIVE	INDICATOR	DATA USED	IMPACT/RESULTS
Number of secure, weather protected bike parking spaces	Total users in 2014	Number of incoming bikes in a peak month (July 2014)	Bikes parked in the first year of the operation
116	18,116	2,014	11,500

The Bike Tower is 10.75 m high and requires a ground space of approx 8x8 m, and can be built in a few weeks. After the success of the Bike Tower in Hradec Králové, the possibility of subsidy for future Bike Towers was announced in a call of the Czech Ministry of Regional Development.

→ Barriers

- The automatic system had difficulty in accepting some unusual bikes and child seats attached to the bikes; this problem was solved in a new version of the system.
- The time of the operation (to load or unload the bike) was more than 26 seconds, which caused problems with cyclists waiting at peak times; after improvement it was shortened to 18 seconds.

→ Drivers

- Cooperation between the city and a private company (municipality provided land for free; company invested)
- The first installation in Central Europe; significant media interest and coverage
- Attraction of new tourists and cyclists (for some cyclists, the Bike Tower is the reason to visit the city)

→ Contact information

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→ Details

Source: Presentation of the Bike Tower Project
20/01/2015 in Cernigov Hotel in Hradec Kralove
<http://slideplayer.cz/slide/2669821/> (only in CZ)
<http://www.systematica.cz/index.php?id=0&lang=en>



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