



2025



Reshaping spatial & mobility patterns to sculpt a futureproof urban landscape

★ Wednesday, 26 November 2025
🕒 9:00 - 10:30

SESSION 1G

Thinking ahead: Innovative steps forward
in Small and Medium-Sizes Cities

SPEAKER

Wim Schuddinck, City of Gent

POLIS25
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

26-27 November 2025

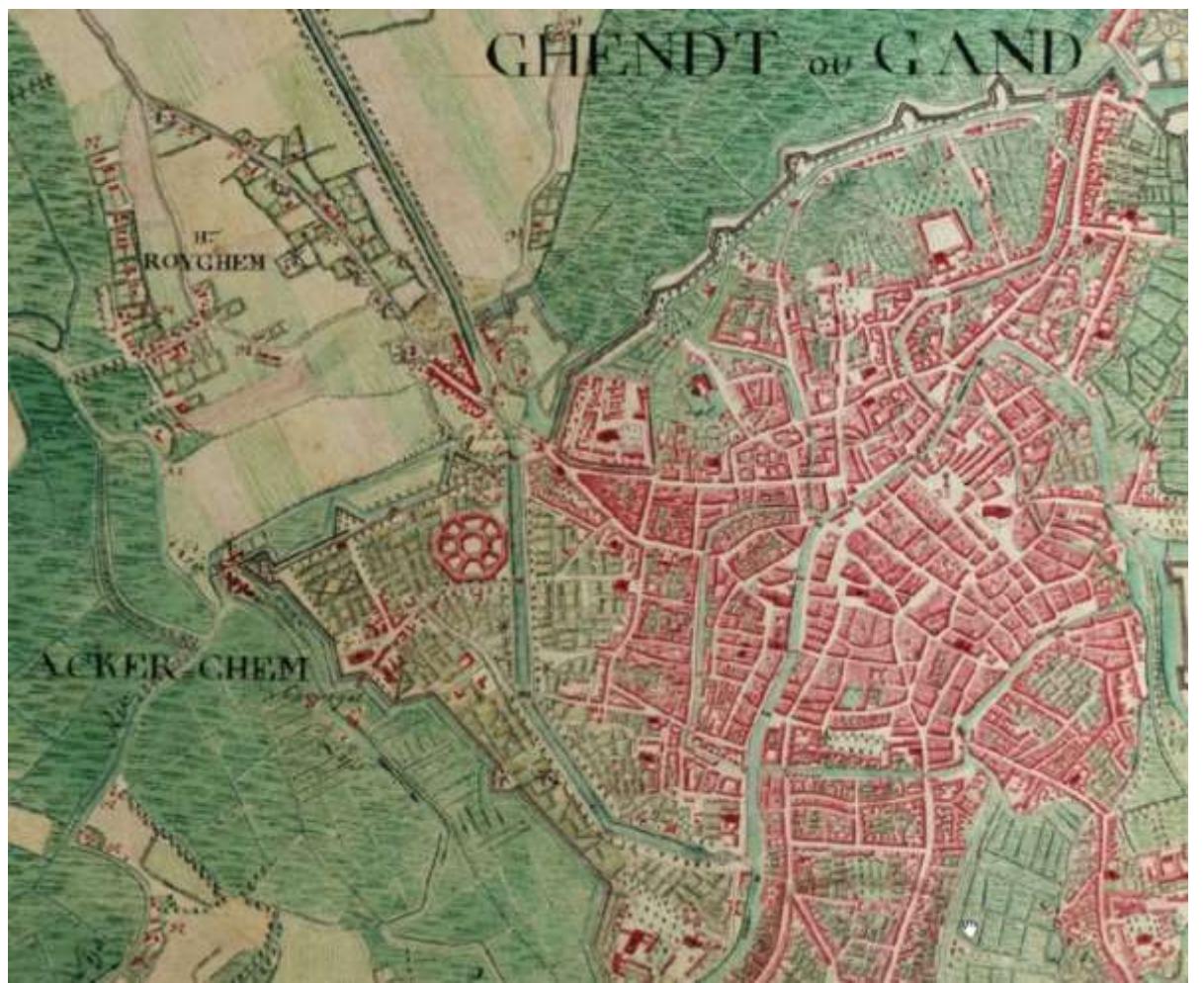
Royal Jaarbeurs | Utrecht, Netherlands

Previously in Gent (630 - 1997)

Historic city without cars

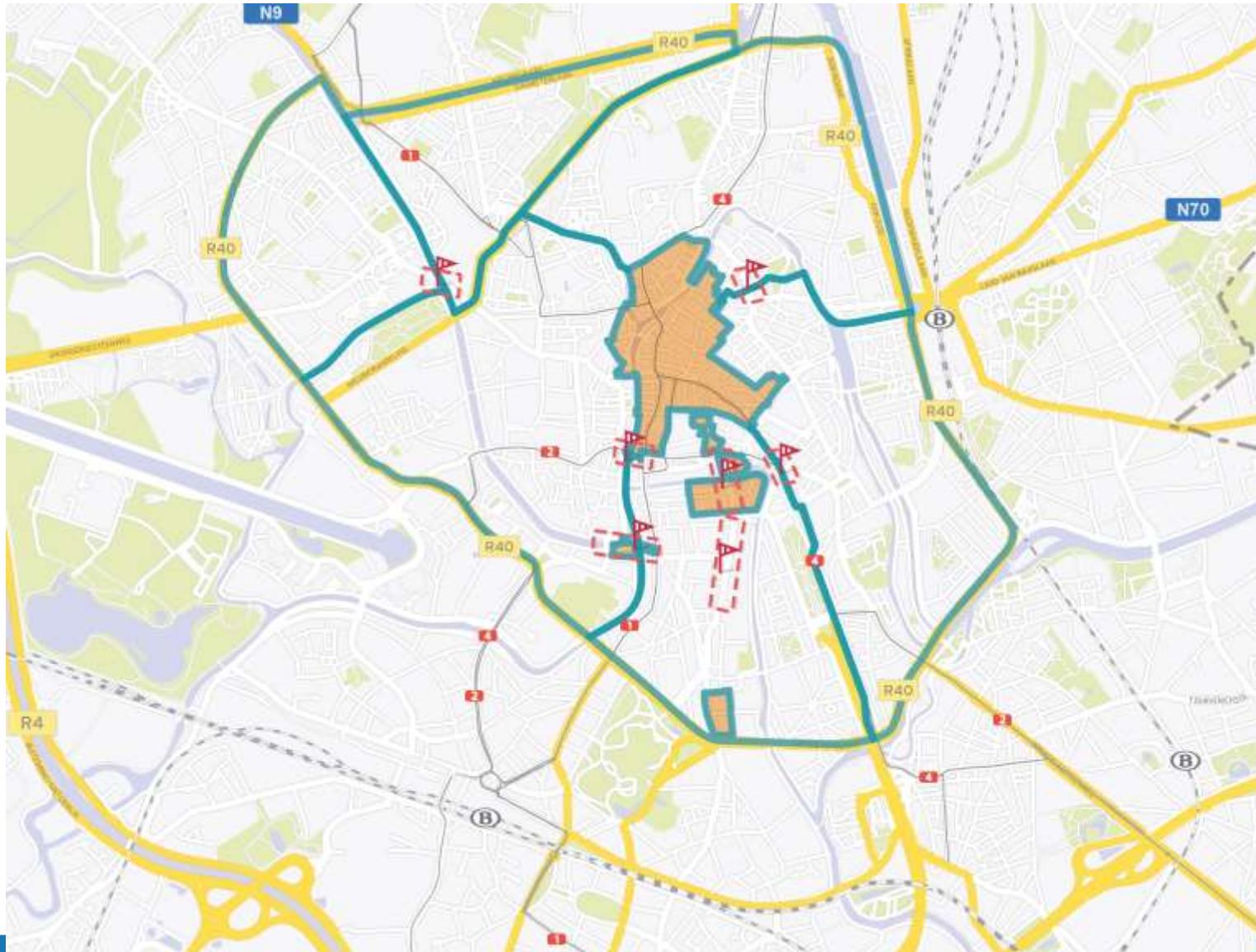
~~Progress~~ = car domination

Correction = pedestrian area



'Circulation plan' within city ring road (2017)

New correction: doubled pedestrian area
6 zones to prevent through traffic
More public space: temporary > permanent

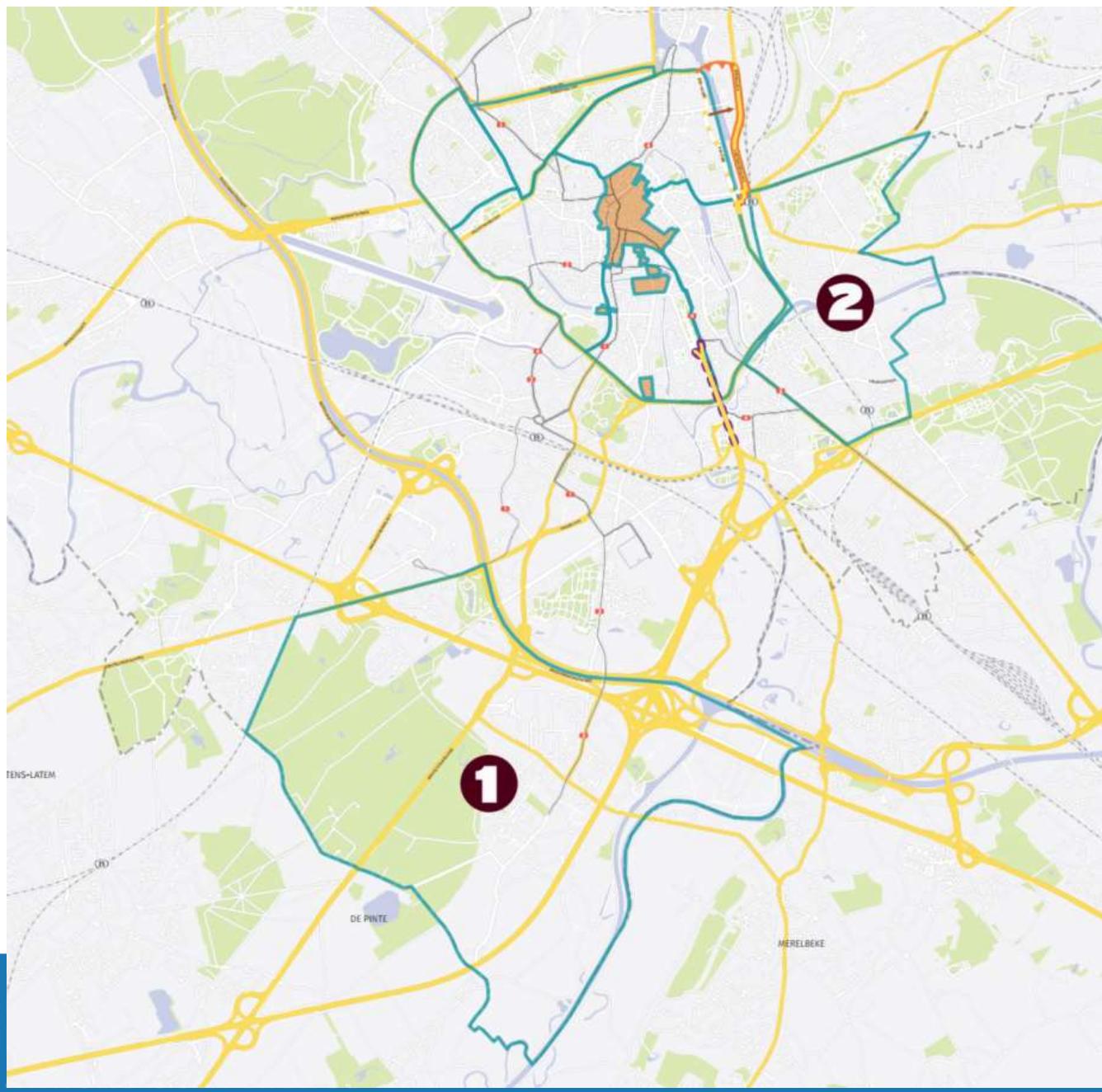


'District mobility plans' outside city center (2024)

Bottom up participation

(Sub)urban context & different opposition

Quick measures + planning infrastructure

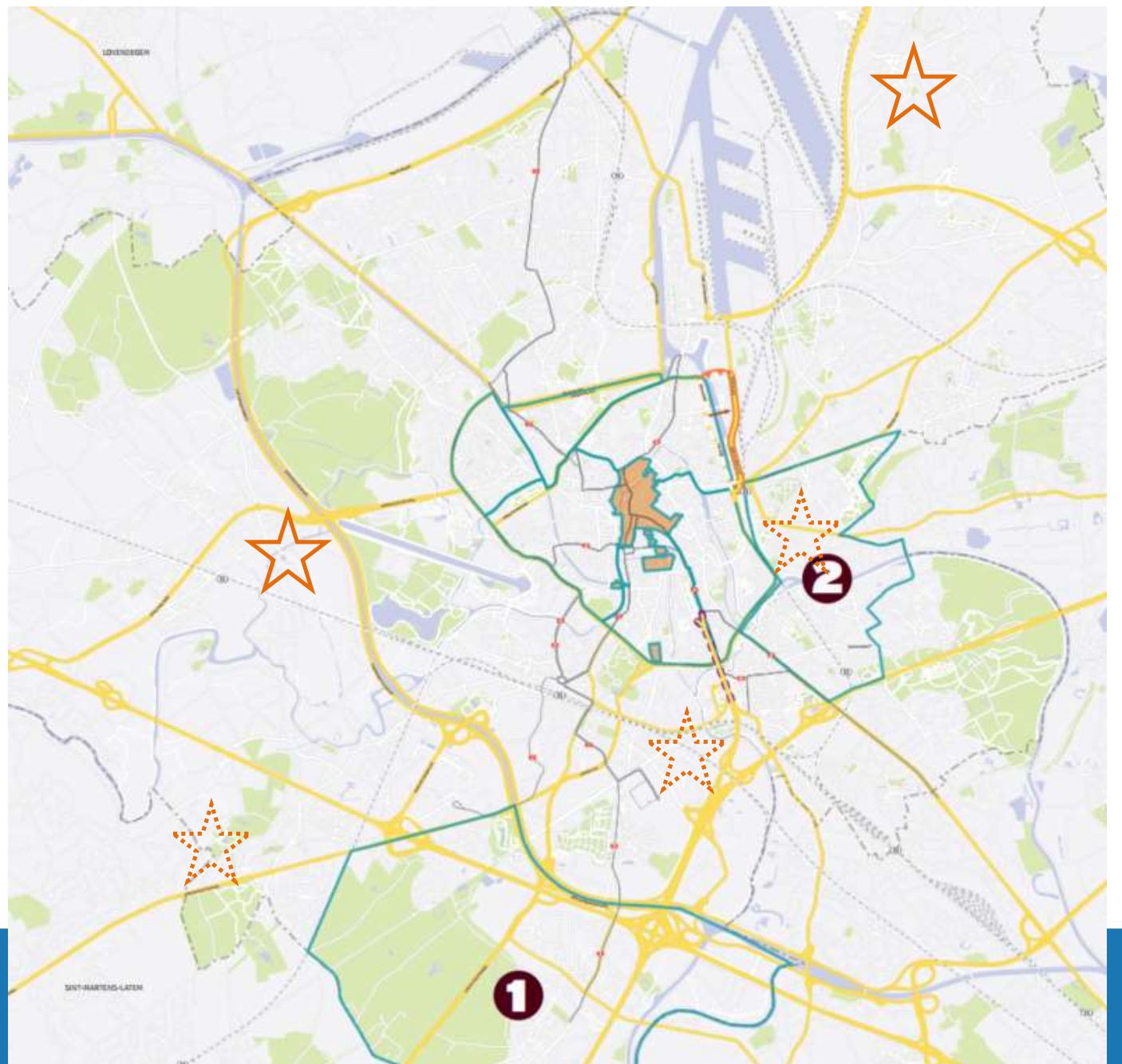


'Neighbourhood quality plans' (°2025)

Small & medium scale, integrated approach

Piloting & new public domain

Inspired by projects in sub-municipalities

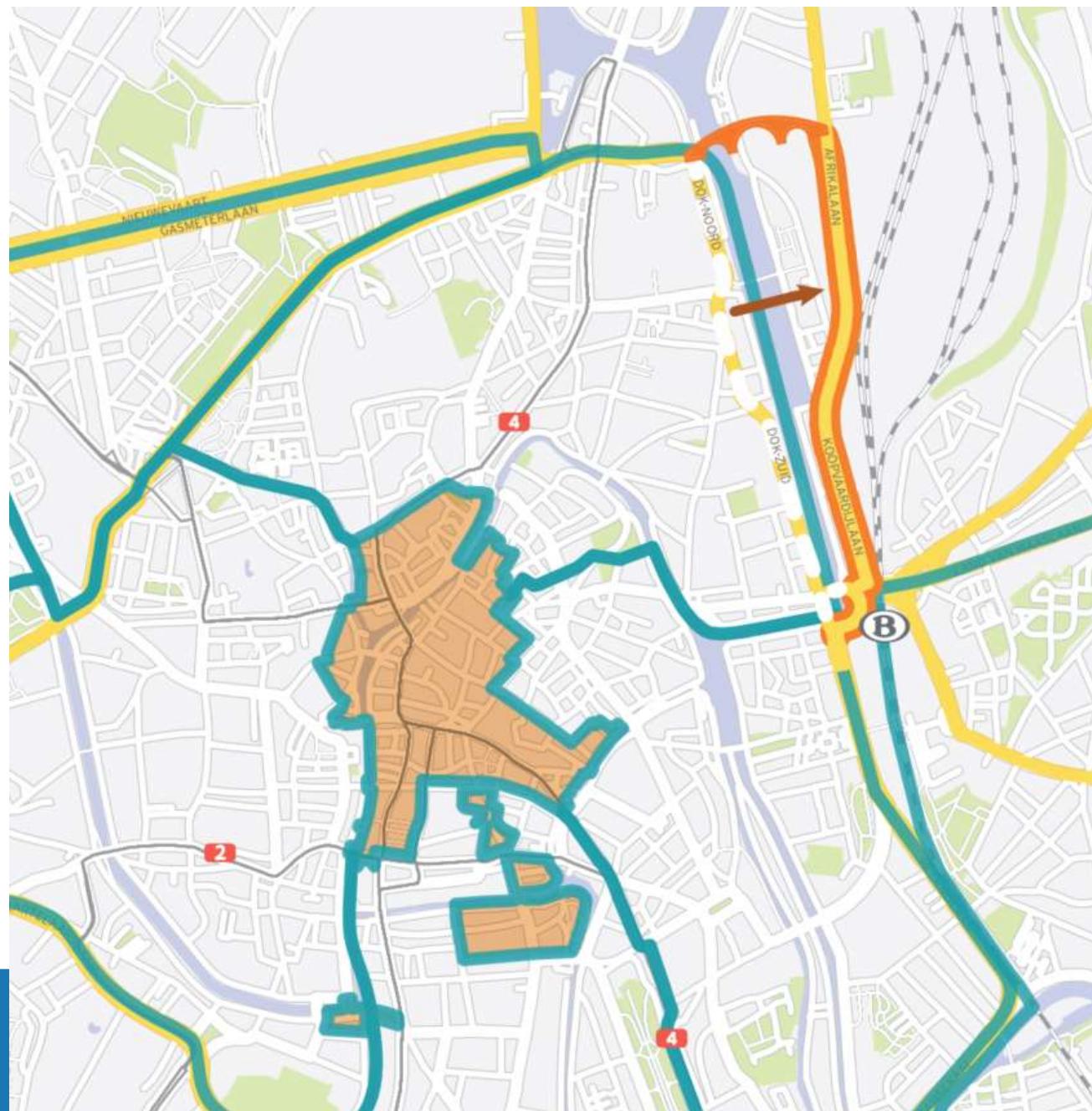


New bridge for a bigger city center (°2021)

Push city ring road outwards

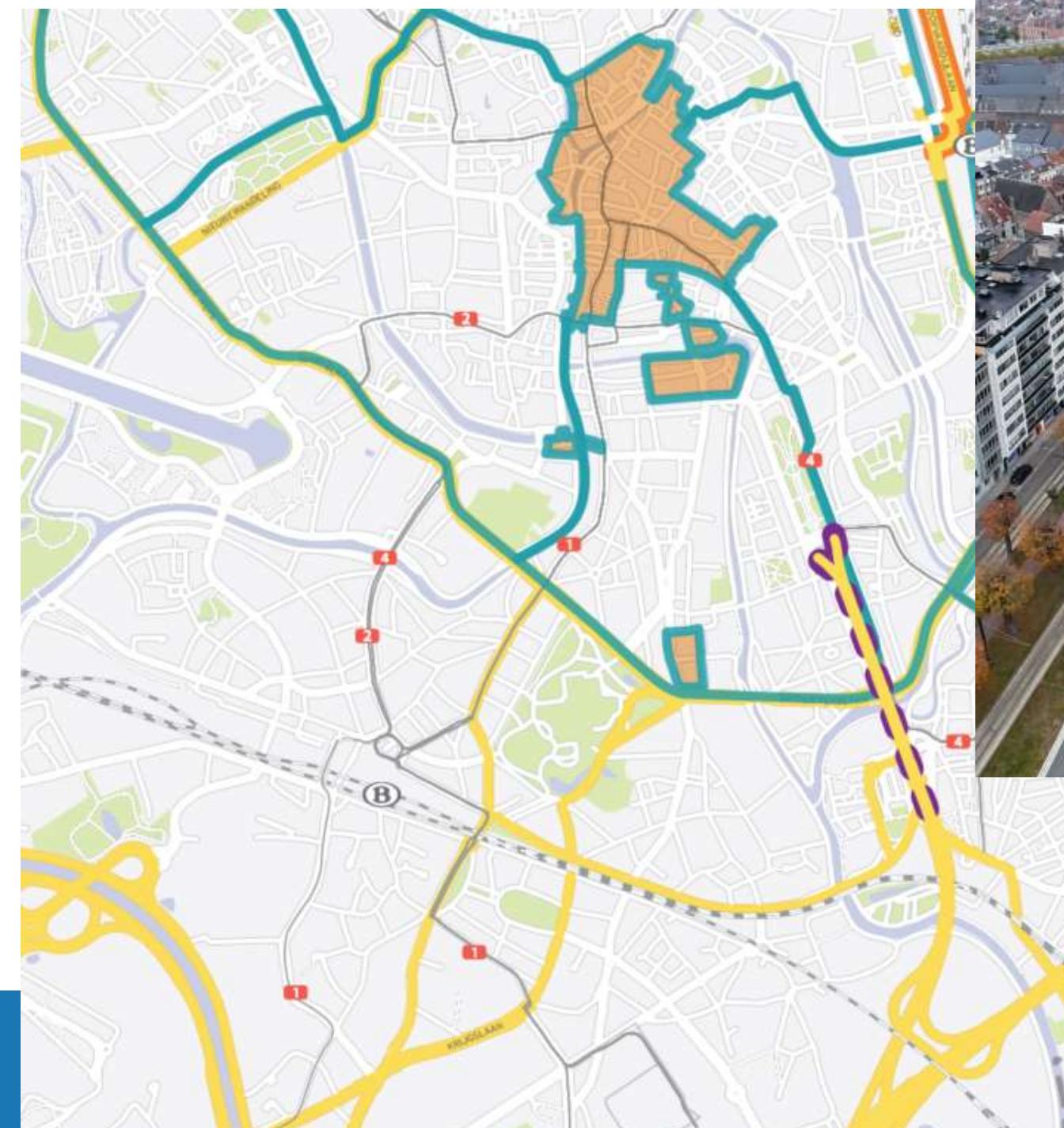
Adaptation of circulation plan

Old harbour => part of low-traffic city center



New future for big car infrastructure?

B401-study to undo car-oriented choice to inject highway traffic straight into city center



Push out long distance through traffic

Push out long distance through traffic

-> more life quality & traffic safety

Large scale 'Circulation plan' on regional level

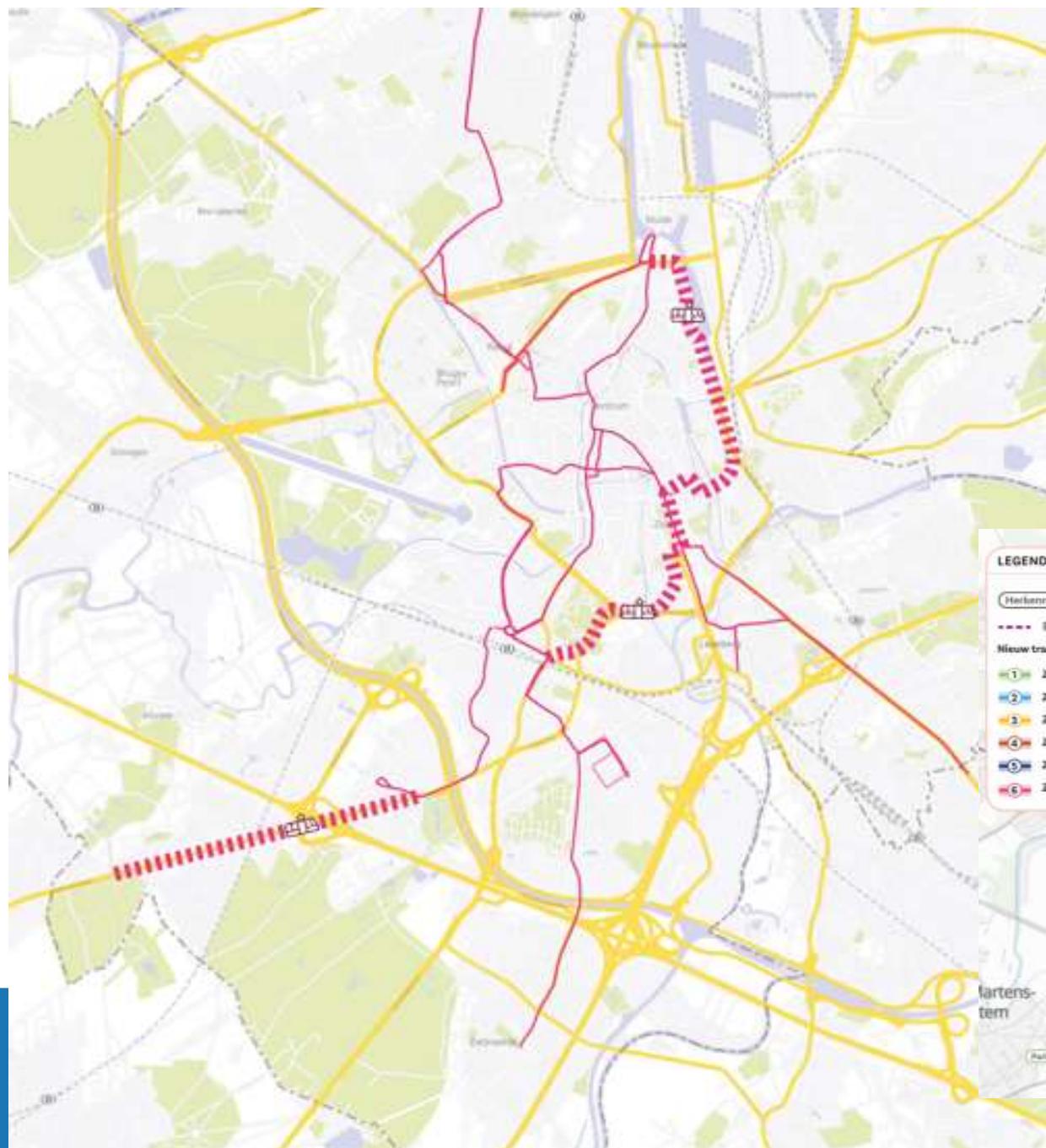


Space for public transport (°2021)

10 km new tramlines

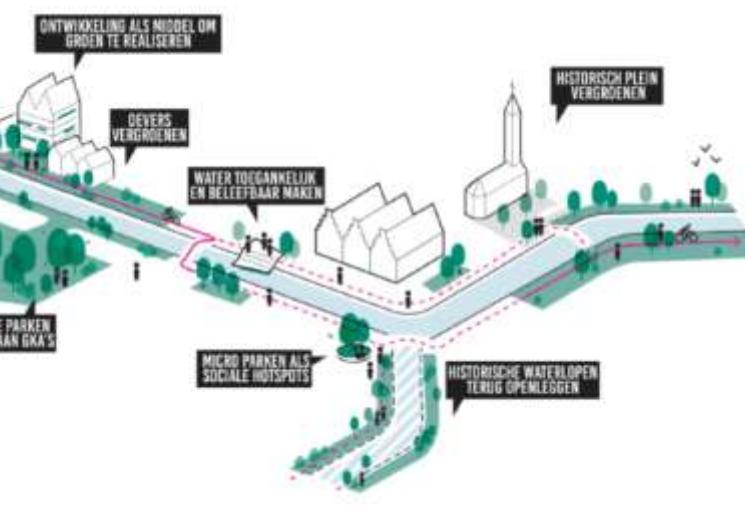
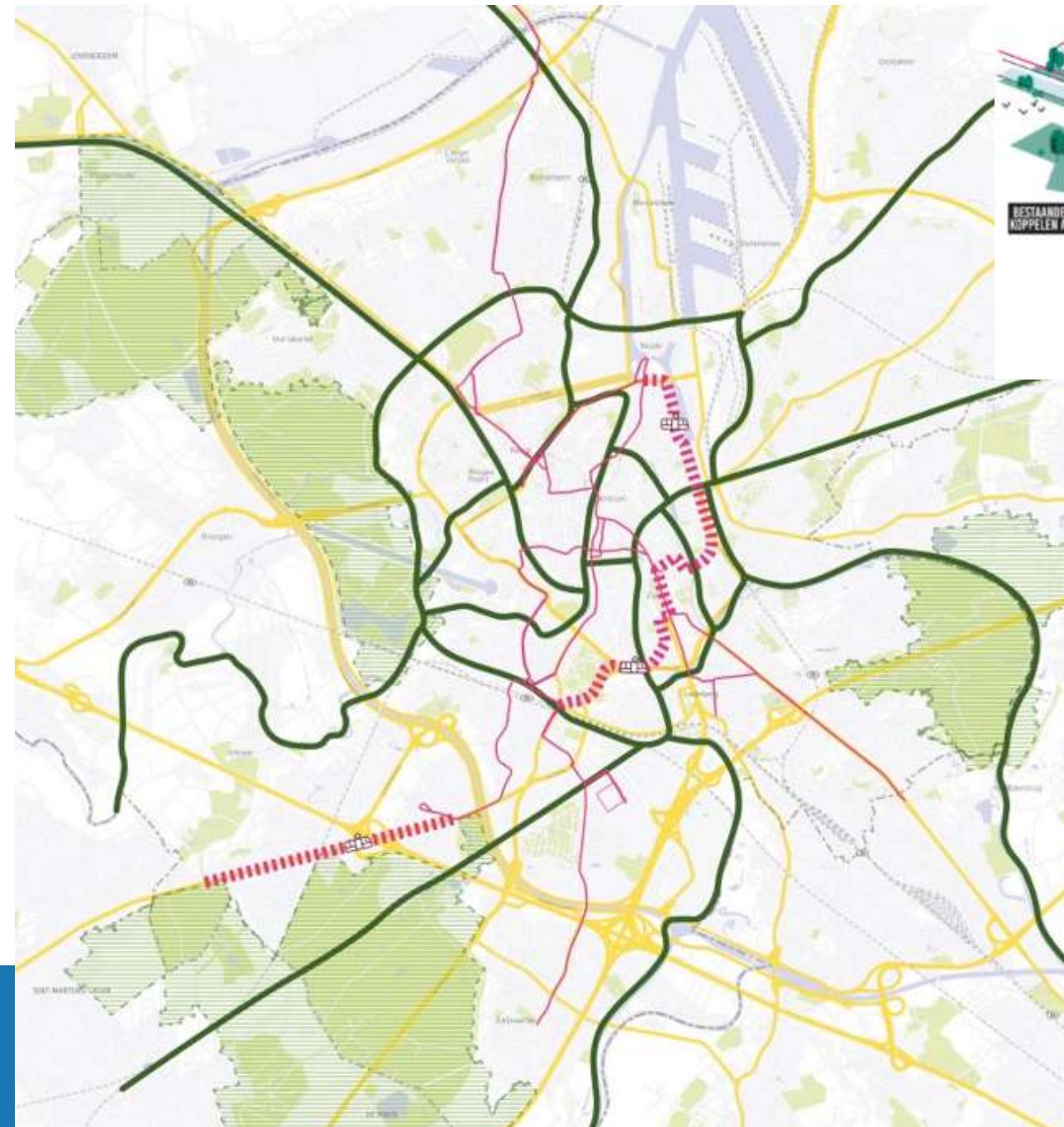
2 car tunnels to solve barriers city ring road

Upgrade to futureproof public domain



Pull in green and blue oxygen

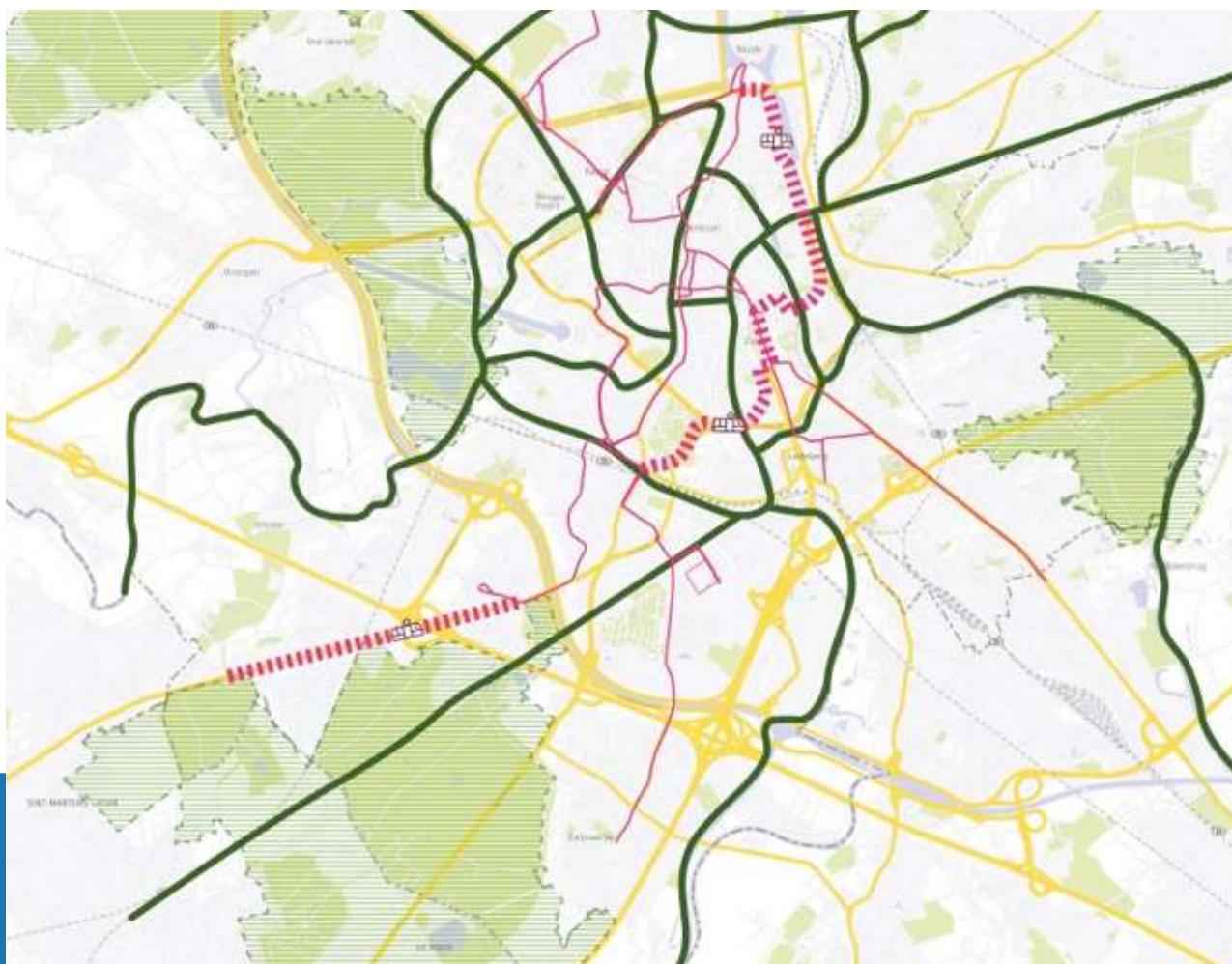
- Building network with 8 green climate axes + 5 green poles
- Integration with active mobility



Copenhagenize INDEX 2025

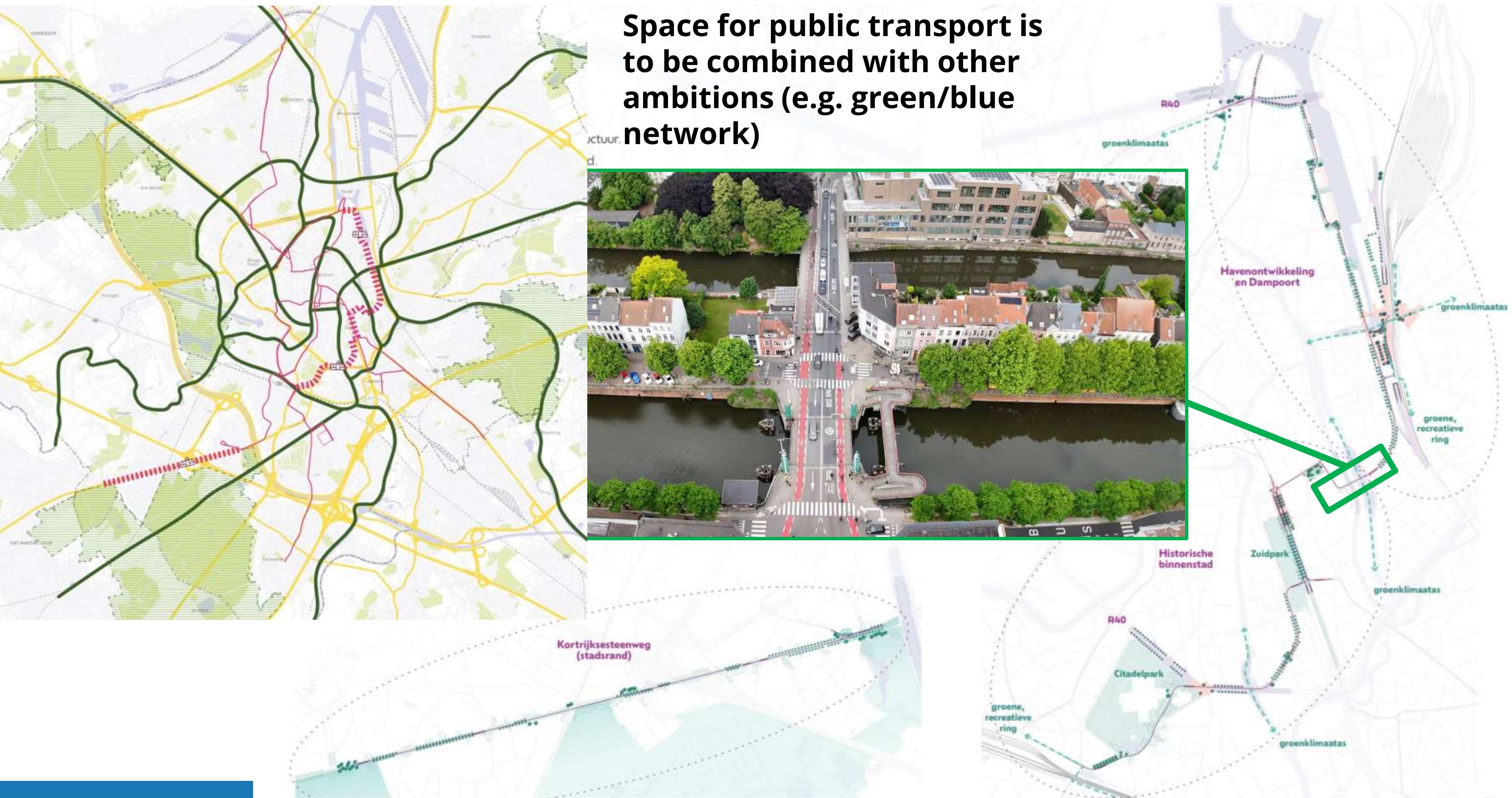
- Ghent = third European city in ranking of Bicycle-Friendly Cities

“ The turning point in Ghent came with the new circulation plan in 2017, a masterwork in human-centered urban planning. ”



GHENT

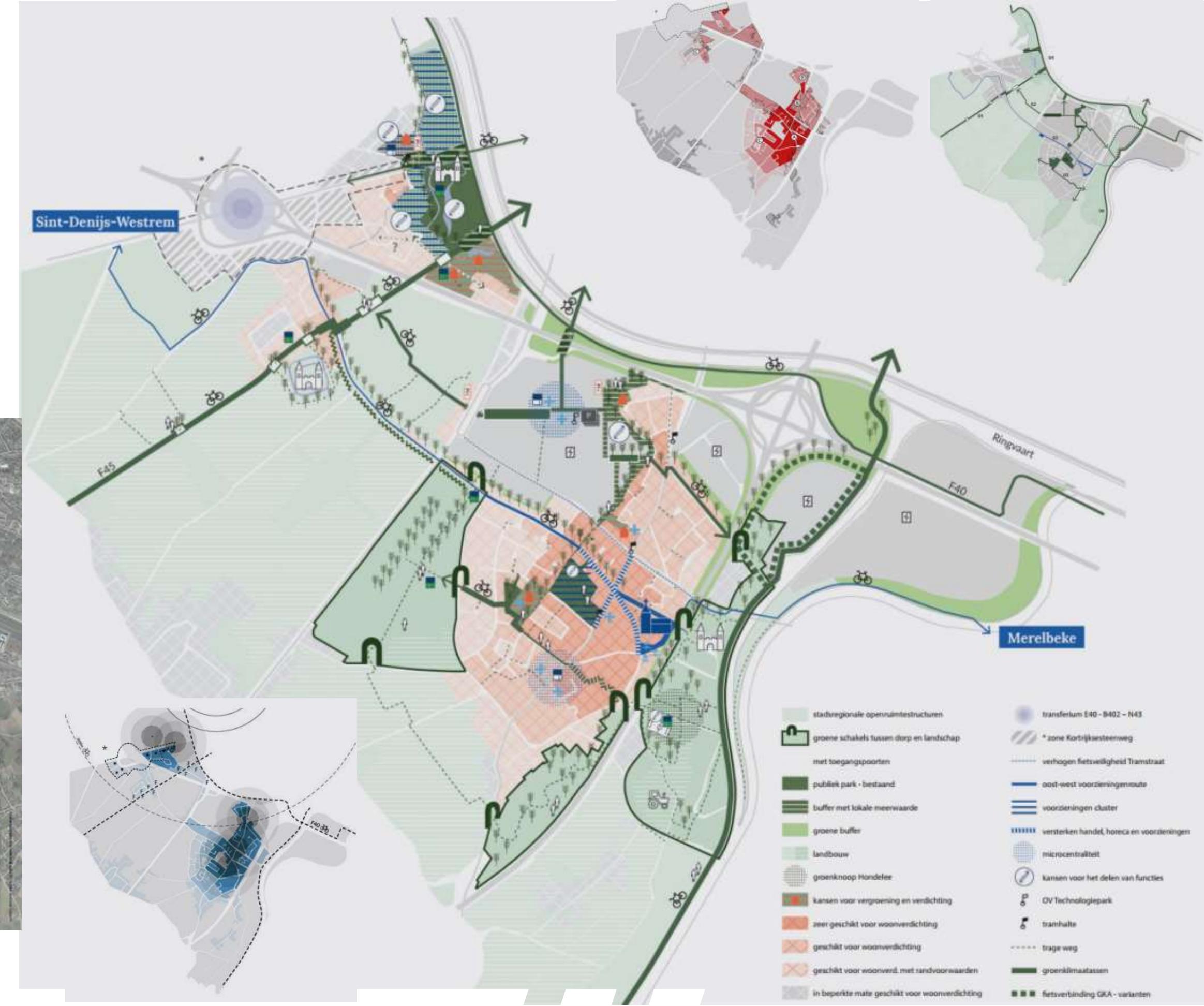
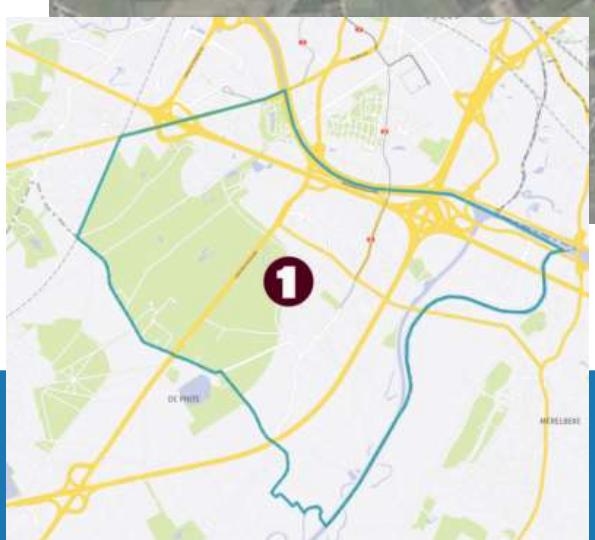
Space for public transport is to be combined with other ambitions (e.g. green/blue network)



Urban district plan

Long term vision >< quick measures

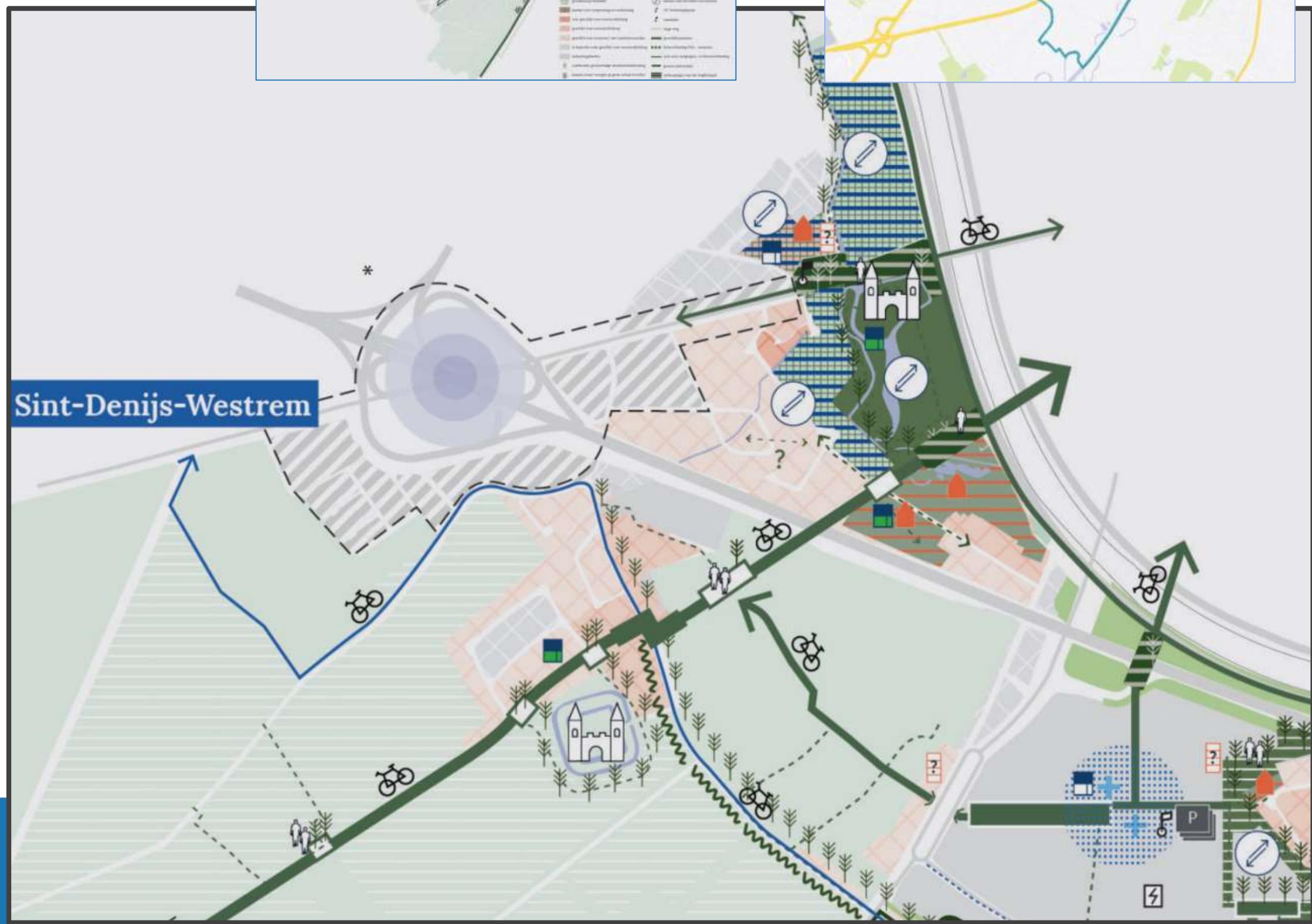
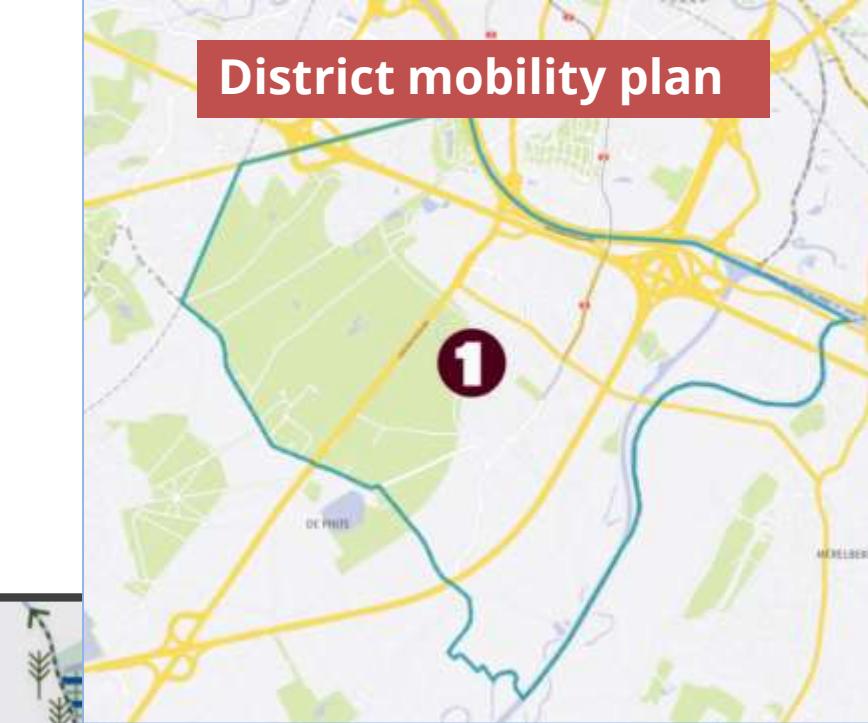
4 integrated layers for more impact:
**mobility, residential densification,
green structures, facilities**



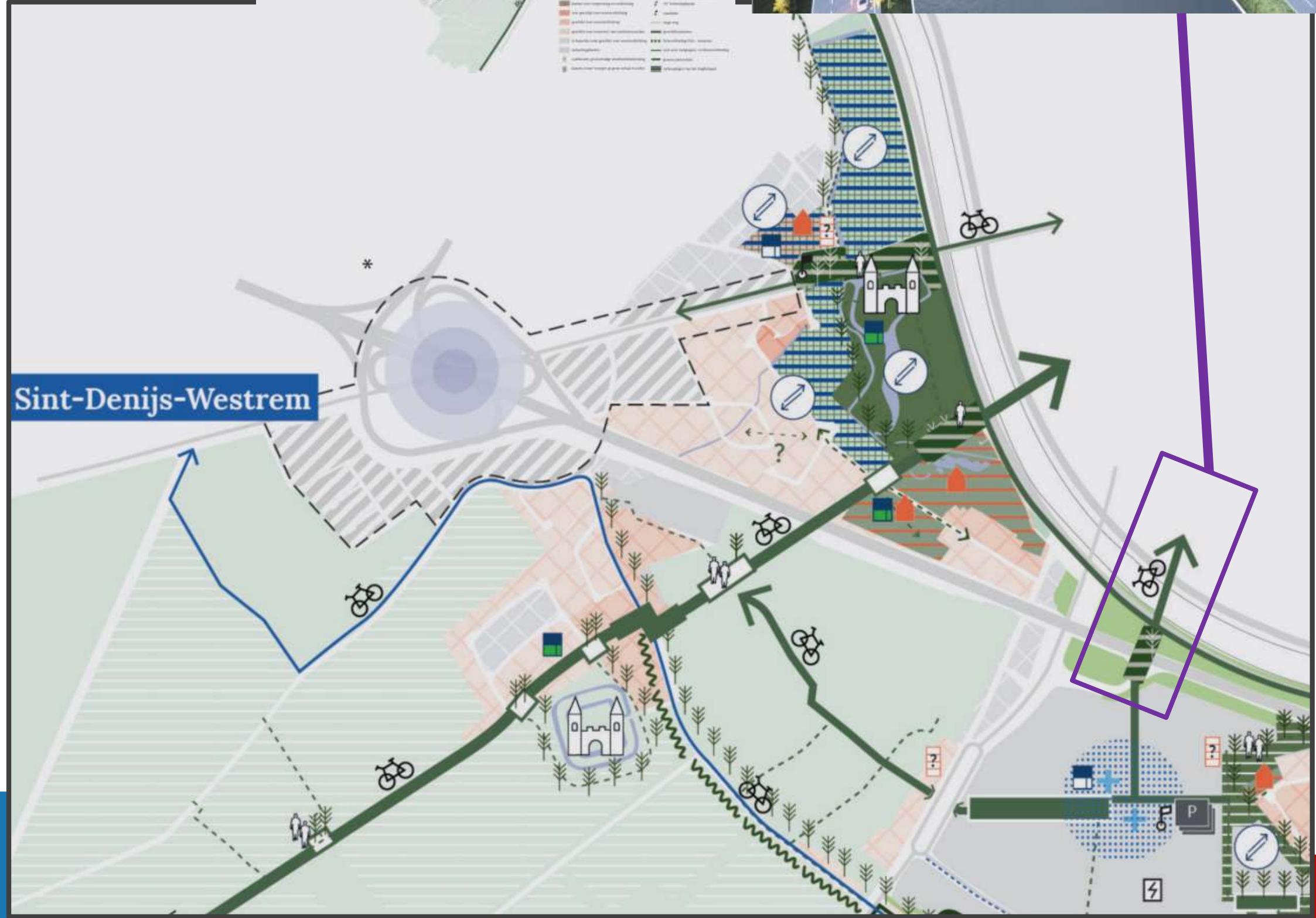
Integrated urban puzzle



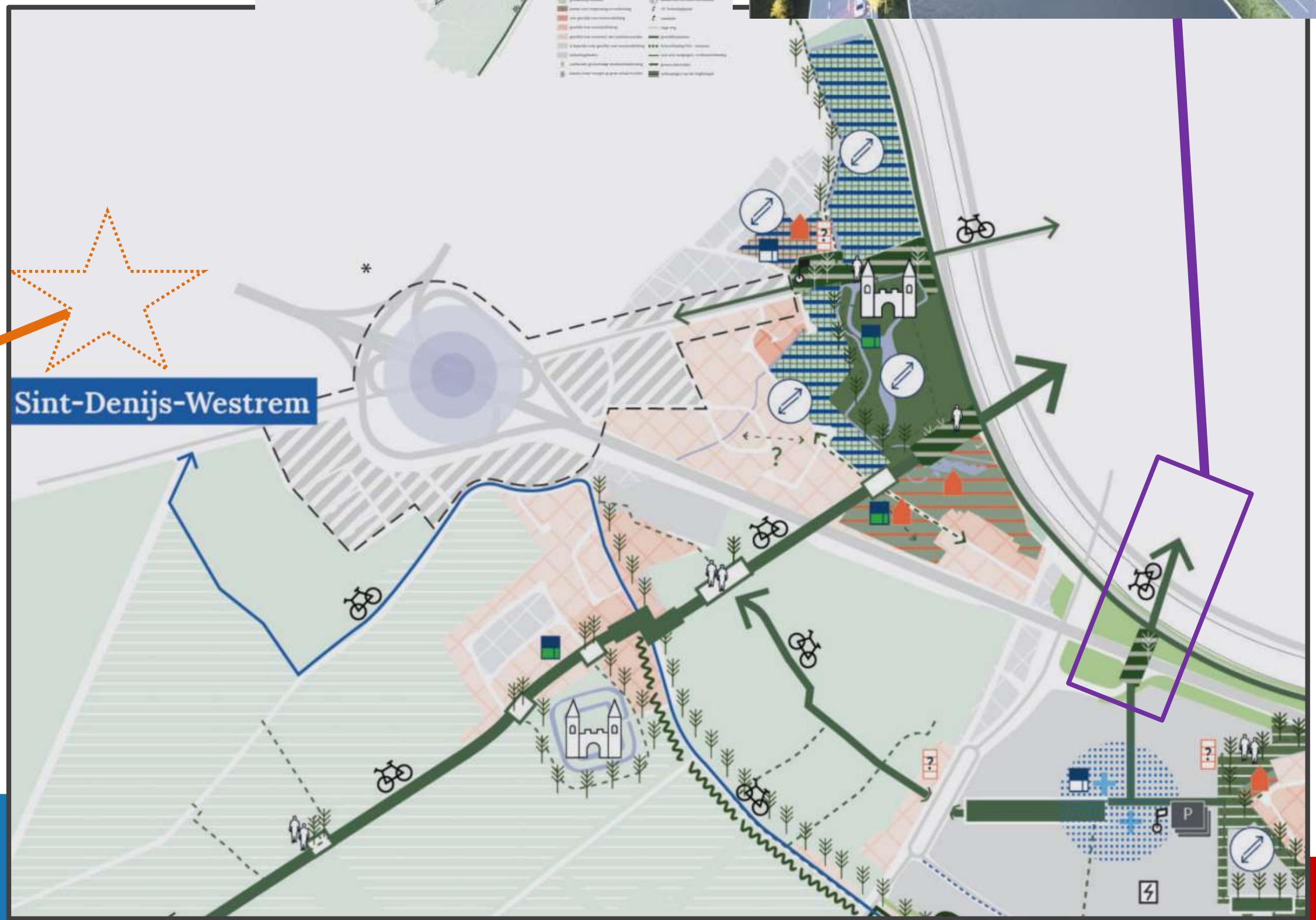
District mobility plan



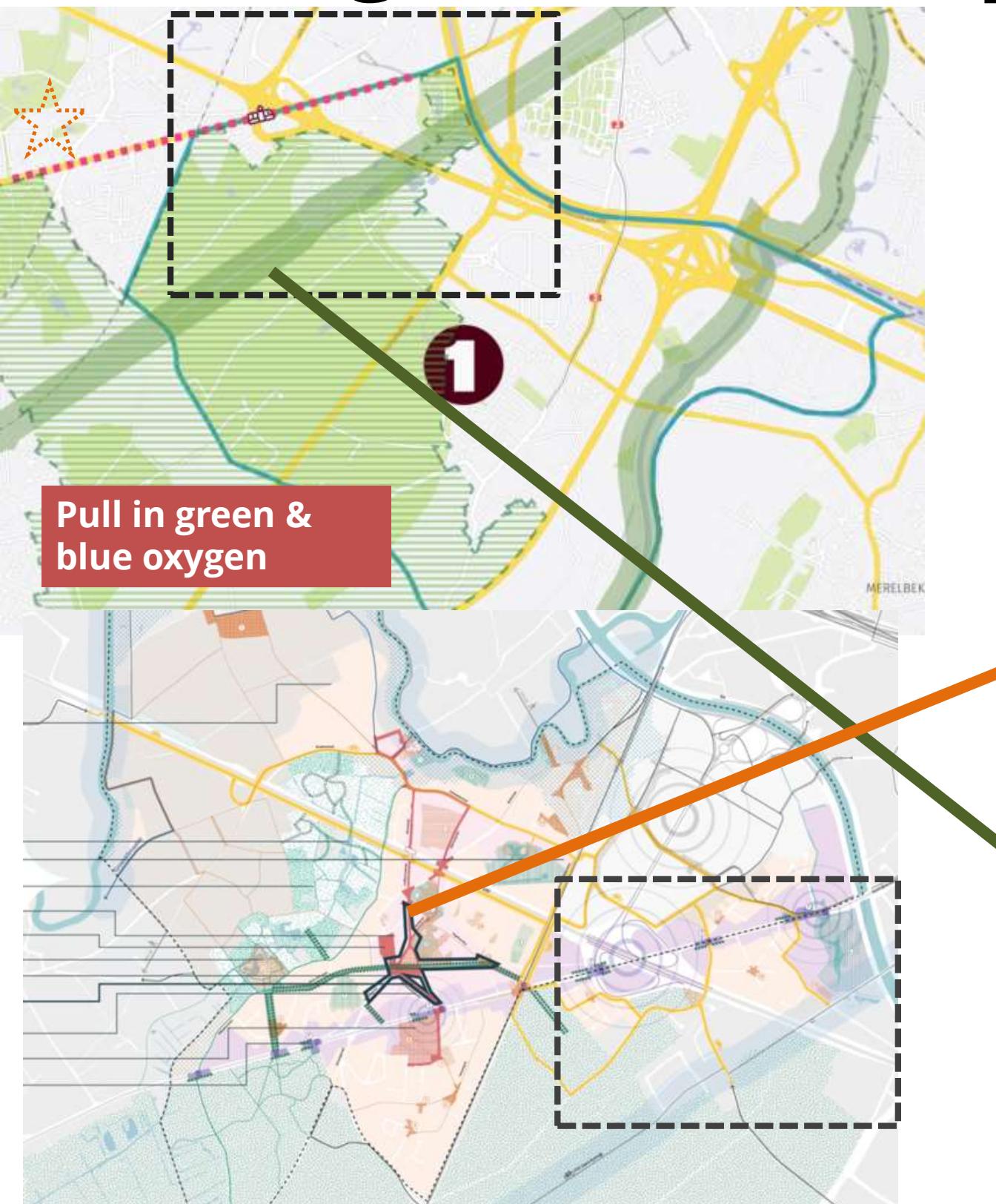
Integrated urban puzzle



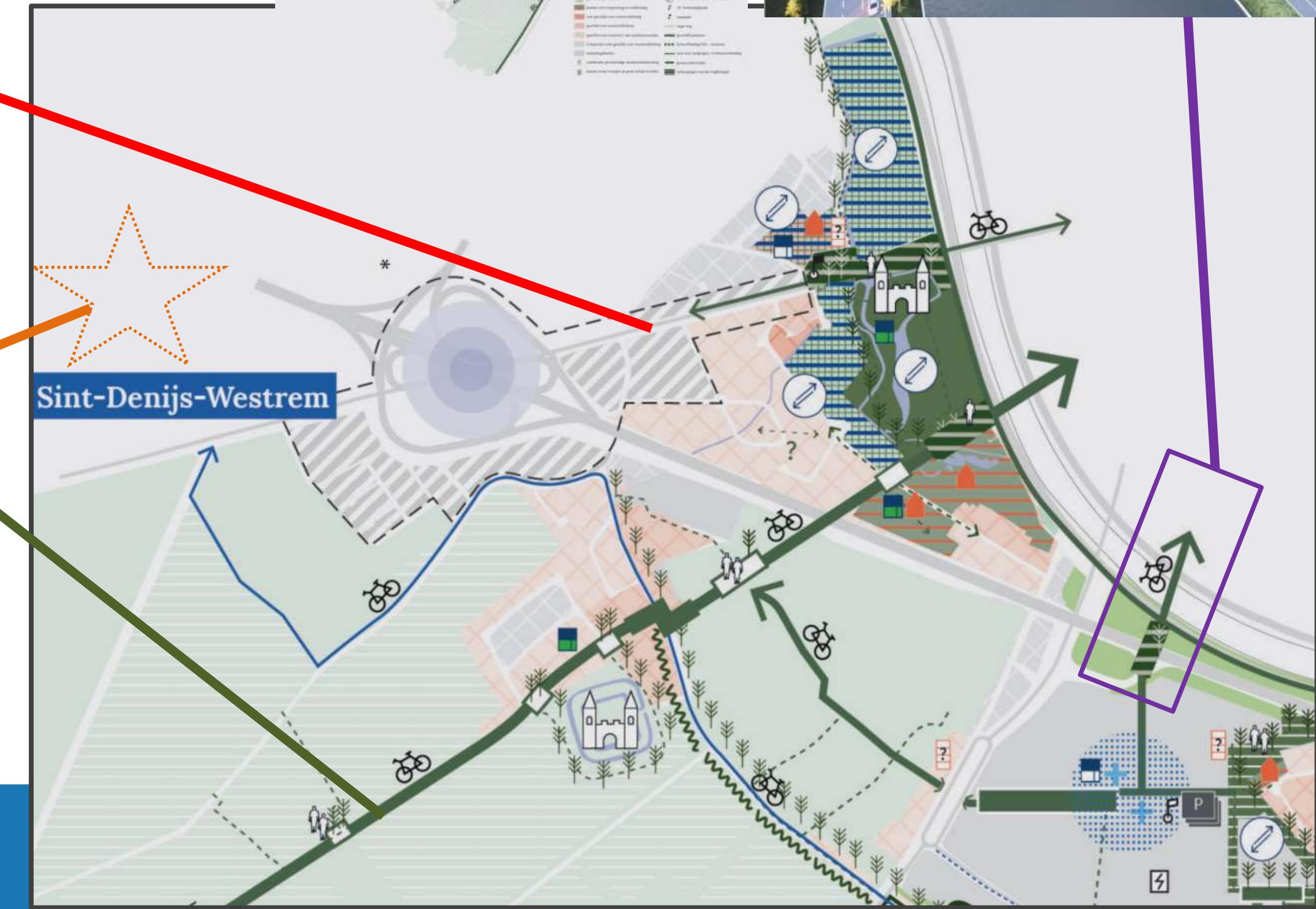
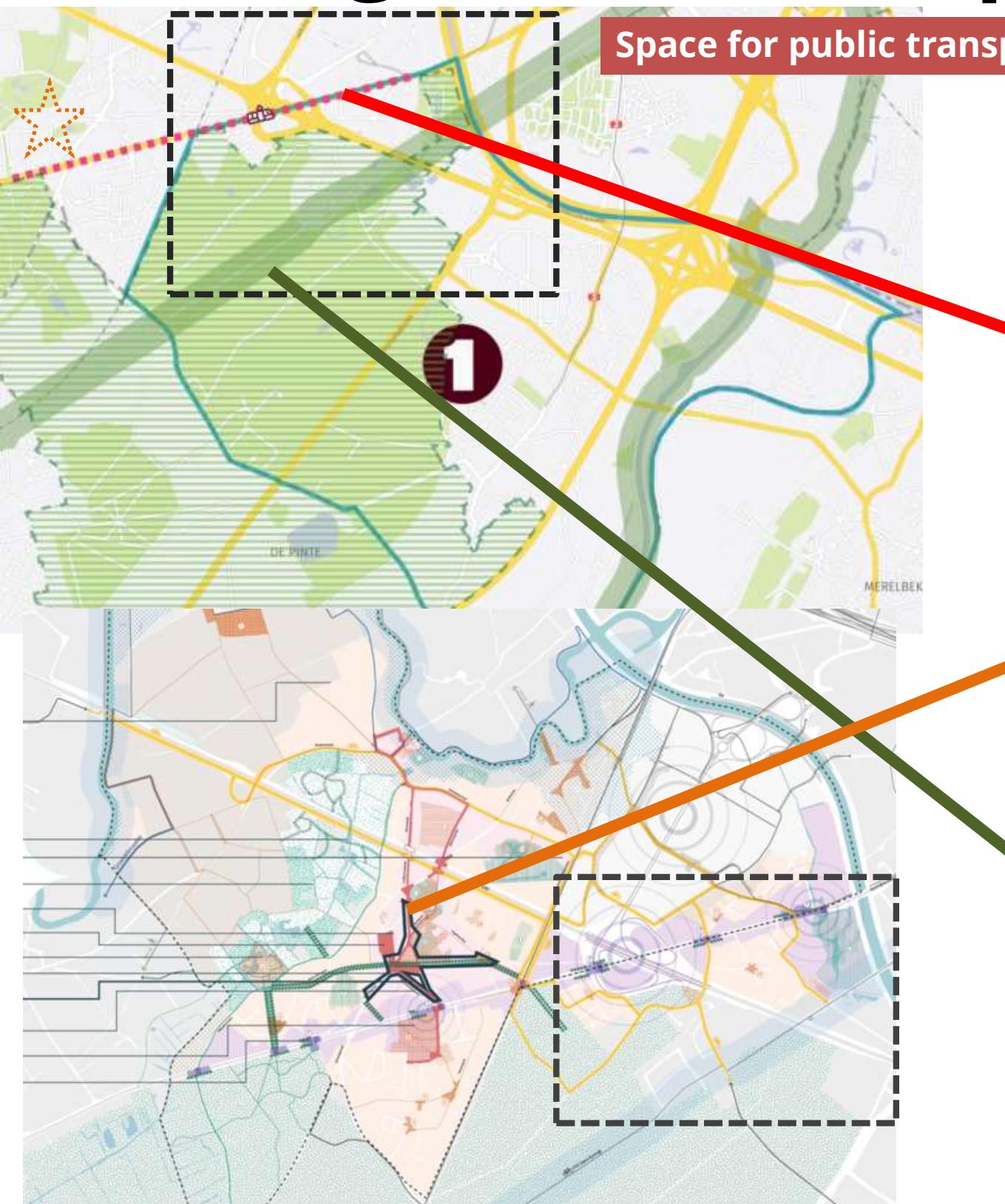
Integrated urban puzzle



Integrated urban puzzle

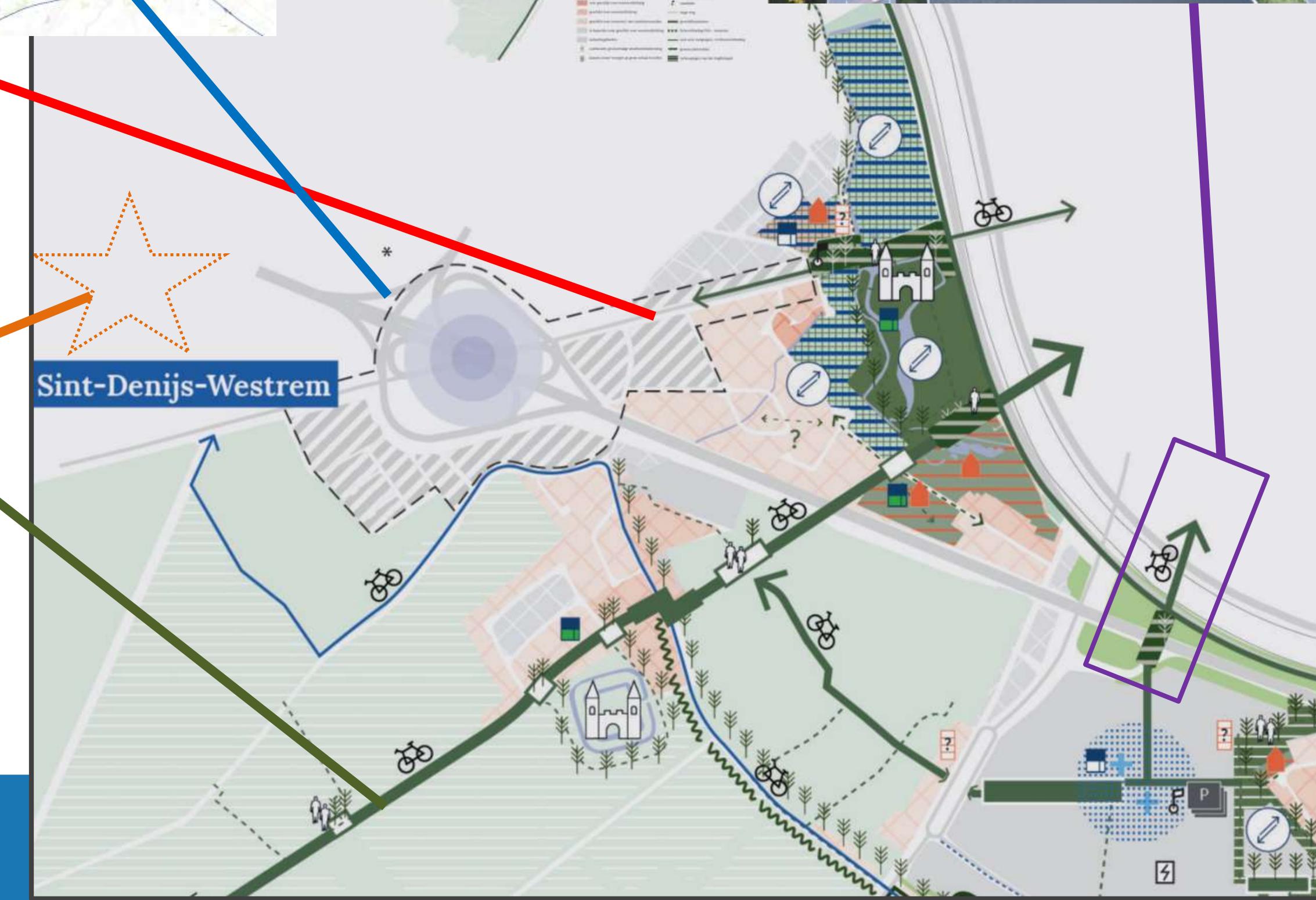
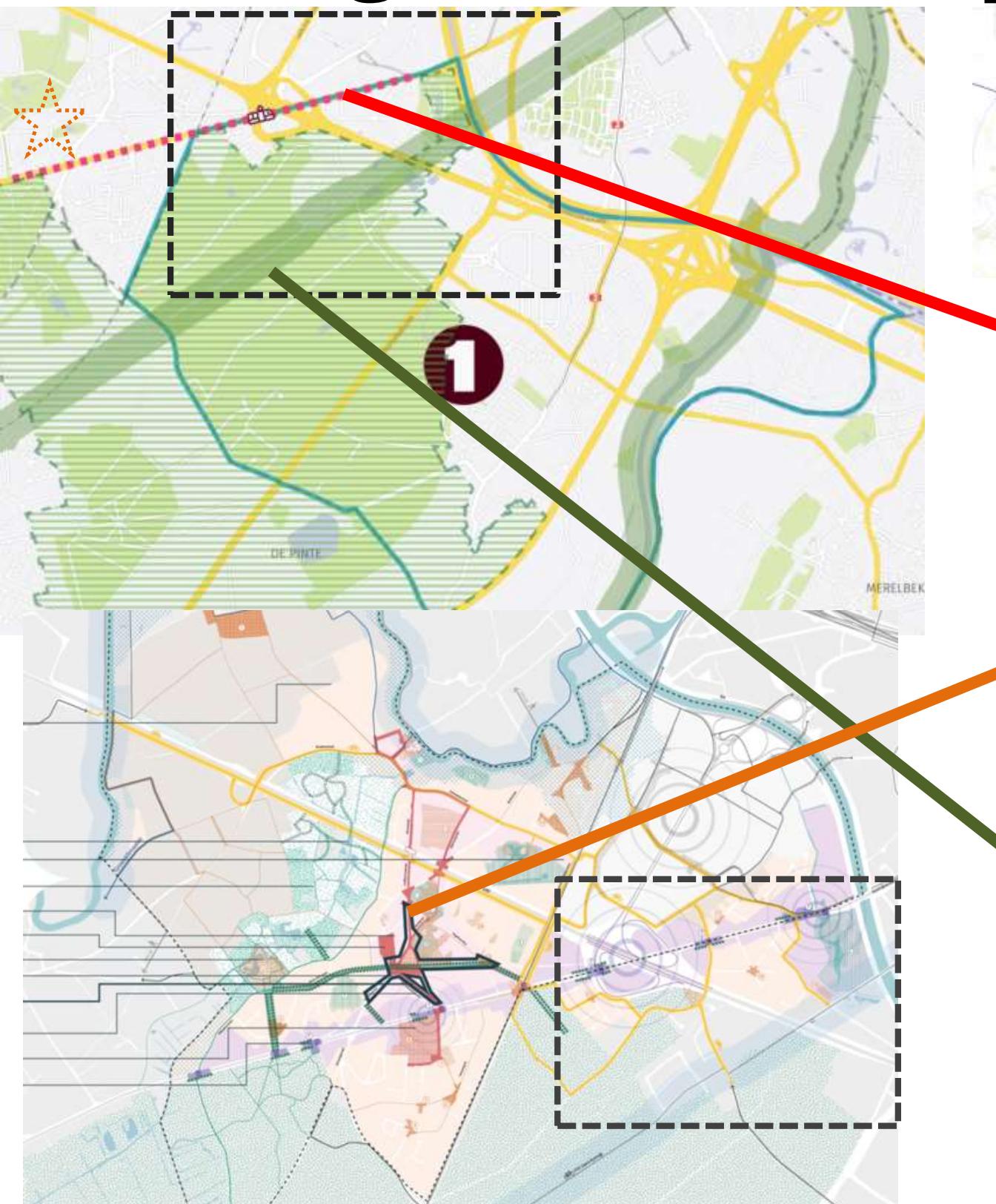


Integrated urban puzzle

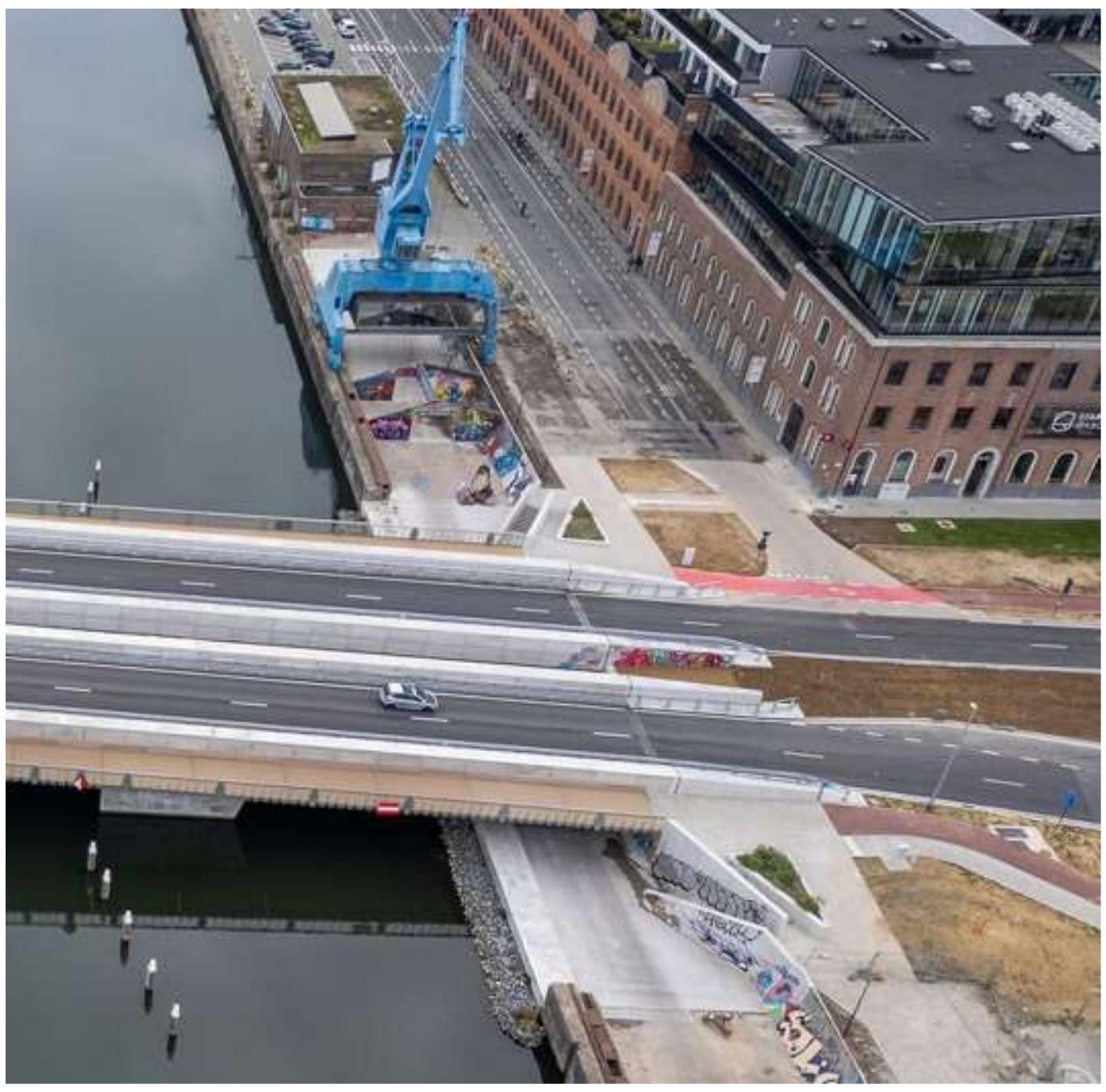


Push out long distance through traffic

Integrated urban puzzle



Bigger city center with room for new tramline (2025)





**Thank you for
your attention!**

For more information:

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