

North Brabant (Holland)

More effective Public Transport? PHILEAS can do it !

Named after one of Jules Verne's famous characters, the Phileas project has got some flexible and innovative solutions to the problems which urban areas have with public transport. It shows what public transport can do but also acts as a national and European example of how mobility can be both efficient and environment friendly.



Phileas : a modern bus and high quality bus stops.

One of the big issues in urban development, apart from the limits on building space, is the way traffic is reaching saturation levels, with all the unpleasantness which that brings in its wake. It is a particular issue in densely populated conurbations like the one to which Eindhoven in North Brabant belongs. Promoting public transport and the free movement of traffic, combined with an ad-hoc policy for the management of available building plots, are some of the remedies which are being tried out by the public and private partners in the Phileas high quality public transport project.

The route in question is part of the so called Western Corridor which is a zone of new activities located between the central station and Eindhoven airport. The whole range of urban functions is found here, such as housing, offices, business and leisure activities and Phileas has been specially designed to provide flexible transport solutions for them..

There are three aspects to the project: a free track with electronic guidance, the Phileas vehicles themselves and measures to encourage public transport. These last include raising parking tariffs in the town centre, constructing high quality public transport installations in the Meerhoven-VINEX zone, the 'Transferium' (which links the Phileas line to the A2 motorway), facilities for cyclists and the joint or corporate management of transport.

The Phileas liaison between Meerhoven and Veldhoven is the first section of a network which will eventually reach right across the region. All along the route there are high quality bus-shelters and equipment in a recognisable style which gives a high profile to public transport in the city. The stops are designed so that one can get in and out without a change of level, and the automatic guidance system means the buses come to a halt gently. However there is a driver on board and this means



Phileas : inside the bus. Passengers have comfortable seats, air conditioning and all the information they need for the journey.

that any problems en route can be dealt with. The frequency (every 15 minutes) and the short journey time (less than 25 minutes between the centre and the airport) will soon dispel the poor reputation which public transport often has.

The Phileas buses themselves combine ultra modern design with high levels of comfort due to excellent suspension, air conditioning and spacious luggage, buggy and wheelchair facilities. And extra wide doors make it easy for disabled people to get in and out. Add to this an LPG powered motor which uses 90% less than an ordinary bus and batteries which mean the vehicle can run short distances with no emissions whatever. At the same time passengers are regularly and accurately informed of timetables, routes, the next stop and the length of time to the destination.

Project:	Demonstration project for high quality public transport in the Eindhoven region
Programme:	Objective 2, Stimulus programme in Southeast North Brabant
Duration:	1999-2004 (extended to 2006)
Total cost:	€96,000,000.
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