



## AARHUS: Bike trailers for rent in Aarhus

In 2016, the City of Aarhus was the first city worldwide to include bike trailers into its city bike scheme which operates since 2003. The scheme started with 20 bike trailers and was extended to 50 for the 2017 season and onwards. The bike trailers were in general well perceived, and since all of them were GPS equipped, they could be monitored. They were used both for short and long-distance trips, and in the season 2016, these 20 trailers were used for around 2,900 kilometres. In the 2017 season with a higher number of trailers, and more visibility the use of the bike trailers exploded, and the trailers were used for a total of 120,000 kilometres over the season.

The bike trailers were in operation until the end of 2019 when the city bike scheme was shut down in Aarhus. Prior to this, in the summer of 2018, 450 city bikes from Donkey Republic had de facto replaced the existing municipal city bike system.

This left the City with a few unused bike trailers, of which 11 could be reused. Upon the realisation of the mobility points in November 2019, there was a productive dialogue with the community council, and therefore it was decided to try to set up the scheme in the cities.multimodal pilot area. It was agreed that the community council of the pilot area would establish a bike trailer rental scheme with four of the offered 11 bike trailers. This would increase options for the residents to choose other modes of transportation of goods besides the car, hence making a multimodal lifestyle easier in the pilot area.



*The trailers can carry up to 50 kilograms and can only be used for cargo.*

The implementation was a quite an easy task to carry out, since the collaboration between the city and the community council was already established. The community council did a Facebook poll in December, and could easily agree on establishing the scheme, as the demand for the bike trailers seemed to be high. As of the 17th of December, less than one week after the poll was initiated, 121 residents had answered that they could see themselves using the scheme, whereas 33 residents didn't see the need for the scheme. Besides the provision of the depreciated trailers and the delivery, the City of Aarhus did not have any costs related to this campaign.



*The Bike trailers arrive at the community house in the cities.multimodal pilot area on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2020*

The scheme was established by the end of February, and there has been little time to follow up on the use. Over the next year, the City of Aarhus will monitor the use of the four bike trailers, using data on



loans provided by the community council. This project serves as a pilot project for other areas. As the City is currently in possession of seven unused bike trailers it will be interesting to see if they can be used for something similar in other places or in a bigger scale in the pilot area.

There has been no media coverage of this, as it is considered a very local and little measure. When the country is re-opening after the Covid-19 lockdown, the idea is to get in touch with media, also regarding the mobility points of the area. So far, it has been more important that the residents themselves are aware of the new mobility options in the area.

## Recommendations, tips and tricks:

- The City does not need to oversee all mobility measures, but can support new mobility services in various ways, i.e. by lending out unused materials to citizens groups and allow private companies to provide mobility services in public space, i.e. e-scooters and city bikes.
- Identify gatekeepers and enthusiasts in the area. Listen to their ideas, demands and worries. If you cannot meet their demands by your own means, support them as good as you can in reaching the demands.
- If you want people to use the services and structures that you want to implement, do not implement something unwanted or something that there is no obvious demand for. Be in touch with local citizens groups to understand their dreams and support them in getting there rather than providing the exact structures they are asking for.

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