

HUPMOBILE



A concept and a detailed plan for new railway access to the passenger harbour in Castle town

**HUPMOBILE – Holistic Urban and Peri-urban Mobility
City of Turku, 2021**

Imprint

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Project note

The EU co-funded project **HUPMOBILE – Holistic Urban and Peri-urban Mobility** (2019–2021) brings together municipalities, universities and other expert organisations in their efforts to develop a holistic approach to the planning, implementation, optimisation and management of integrated, sustainable mobility solutions in the Baltic Sea port cities.

The carried out activities enable major urban mobility stakeholders such as city authorities, as well as infrastructure providers and transport providers to assess and integrate innovative mobility options into their mobility management plans and policies. The developed HUPMOBILE framework allows the planning and implementation of well-functioning interfaces and links in urban- and peri-urban transport considering the different transportation flows in the local context.

Within HUPMOBILE, partner cities plan, test and implement innovative sustainable urban mobility for both people and goods (i.e. freight, cargo logistics and delivery), which are easily adaptable for follower cities. These include greener urban logistics and combinations of goods- and passenger traffic, intelligent traffic systems-based services, tools for stakeholder participation, and new tools for transportation mobility management and Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS).

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1. Background

The Port of Turku is located in Linnanniemi, which is an area at the junction of the Aura River and the Archipelago Sea. At the heart of the cape sits Turku Castle – the oldest and most valuable part of the area and one of Finland's best-known and most popular sights and tourist destinations.

Linnanniemi is one of the key areas in the development of the centre of Turku. Establishing Turku's profile as the maritime capital of the archipelago and expanding inner city life and the vitality of the city centre towards the port, while retaining its character, identity and operating capability is an important goal for the future.

The south and west side of the Turku castle are mostly part of the Turku port's terminal area. Both shipping companies, Viking Line and Tallink Silja operating Turku – Stockholm traffic have their own terminal building on a leased land owned by the City of Turku. Leasing agreements of both shipping companies have been terminated and will end by the end of 2025. The aim is that both shipping companies will be moving from their current terminal buildings to a new joint terminal.

The port is already directly accessible for example by train and long-distance buses, which is yet a clear advantage when it comes to sustainable mobility options for passengers. However, the areas surrounding the current port terminals have been built in stages and are perceived as difficult to grasp. The street network is mainly dimensioned for the needs of heavy traffic and the solutions are outdated. Fragmented traffic areas dominate the valuable cultural landscape.

New land use opportunities would be made possible by the implementation of the joint terminal and relocation of the passenger train track that is in its current location causing a barrier effect between the castle and the shore. By relocating the train track and moving the area that is currently being used for traffic and cargo loading to another location, wide land areas would be freed up for urban development.

The aim is that by developing the Linnanniemi area, the attractiveness of Turku will increase without jeopardising the harbour's operating conditions. It will also strengthen Turku's brand and attractiveness as a maritime city of culture that draws from its strong history, in addition to contributing to the realisation of the City's strategic vision.

Public transport, walking and cycling will be the key modes of transport to and within the area in the future. Within the HUPMOBILE project the city of Turku is seeking feasible, sustainable and smart solution models that will take future mobility needs and modes of transport into account. The vision is that Linnanniemi will be exemplary in how comfortable, safe and accessible mobility environment can be throughout the year. The functionality and safety of passenger transport will be ensured in the planning process.

Aim is, that the passenger and cargo traffic travelling to the new joint terminal will be directed to the port from a new location. This report outlines the different steps, partners and permissions needed to plan the new railway access to the harbour.



Image 1 Linnanniemi, Samu Valleala / City of Turku

2. Development process

2018–2019

- **8/2018**
Step: Signing of the strategic letter of intent of the common goal to develop the Turku port area
Parties: Viking Line Abp, Tallink Silja Oy, Port of Turku, City of Turku
- **8/2019**
Step: Ferry Terminal Turku project aiming at reforming the passenger and cruise operations in the area begins
Parties: Port of Turku, Viking Line Abp, Tallink Silja Oy, City of Turku
- **9/2019**
Step: Preparation of the traffic and mobility master plan for the Turku port area begins
Parties: City of Turku, Port of Turku, WSP Finland Oy
- **10/2019**
Step: Negotiations of a letter of intent about planning and implementing the new railway access begin
Parties: Finnish Transport Infrastructure agency, City of Turku

In order to develop the historically and culturally important area, in 2018, Viking Line Abp, Tallink Silja Oy, the Port of Turku Oy and the City of Turku signed a strategic letter of intent of a common goal to develop the port area. The planning was divided into Ferry Terminal Turku project plan led by the Port of Turku Oy, and traffic and mobility master plan for the Turku port area carried out by the City of Turku and prepared within the HUPMOBILE project.

The Ferry Terminal project started in August 2019. The project aims for improvement of the operating conditions of passenger traffic as well as the development of traffic arrangements in the Port of Turku.

The goal is to build a new joint terminal building for the two shipping companies, Viking Line Apb and Tallink Silja Oy by 2025.

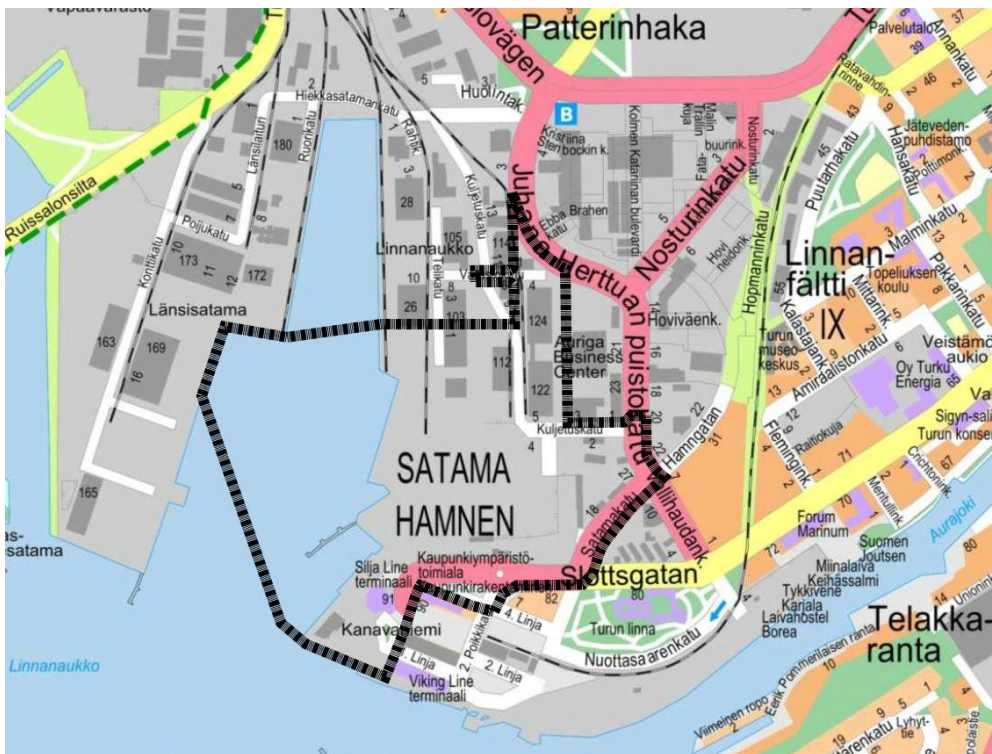


Image 2 Ferry Terminal zoning area

The preparation of the traffic and mobility master plan for Turku port area started in autumn 2019. The starting point of the work was to create a plan for the development of the traffic arrangements and mobility services in the area, taking all modes of transport into account. The purpose of the plan was to connect the planned joint terminal smoothly and safely with its surroundings, to improve the accessibility of the port area and to promote forms of sustainable mobility.

The railway in its current location is causing a barrier effect between the castle and the shore. In order to free up space for the city development in the area, the goal is to move the railway track to another location. In October 2019 negotiations between the Finnish Transport Infrastructure agency and the City of Turku began. The aim of the negotiations was to write a letter of intent about planning and implementing the new railway access that would serve the new joint terminal building and the Linnanniemi area as a whole.

2020

- 1/2020**
Step: Linnanniemi international idea competition begins
Parties: The City of Turku, the Finnish Association of Architects (SAFA), the Finnish Association of Landscape Architects (MARK)
- 2/2020**
Step: Decision to search for other railway connection alternatives that would lower the costs of Ferry Terminal project
Parties: Finnish Transport Infrastructure agency, City of Turku
- 3/2020**
Step: The traffic and mobility master plan for the Turku port area is completed
Parties: City of Turku, Port of Turku, WSP Finland Oy
- 6/2020**
Step: Decision to relinquish the new railway access from the north due to high costs of the Ferry Terminal project
Parties: Finnish Transport Infrastructure agency and City of Turku
- 10/2020**
Step: Signing of the Land use, housing and transport agreement (MAL agreement)
Parties: Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Ministry of Finance, Turku region municipalities (Aura, Kaarina, Lieto, Masku, Mynämäki, Naantali, Nousiainen, Paimio, Parainen, Raisio, Rusko, Sauvo, Turku), Regional Council of Southwest Finland
- 10/2020**
Step: The results of the Linnanniemi international idea competition are announced
Parties: City of Turku, the Finnish Association of Architects (SAFA), the Finnish Association of Landscape Architects (MARK)
- 10-11/2020**
Step: The prize-winning entries of the Linnanniemi competition, results of Aalto University's survey about residents' mobility habits and the tentative traffic and mobility master plan for Turku port area on display
Parties: City of Turku

In January 2020 the City of Turku in cooperation with the Finnish Association of Architects and the Finnish Association of Landscape Architects organised an international idea competition for the Linnanniemi area. In December 2019 the City Government made the decision to organise the competition in order to find a comprehensive overall idea as well as innovative development options for the historically and culturally important area. The railway connection in the traffic and mobility master plan that was at the time under preparation was relocated to go via Pahaniemi to the port area (Image 3). Thus, this was used as a baseline data in the Linnanniemi idea competition.

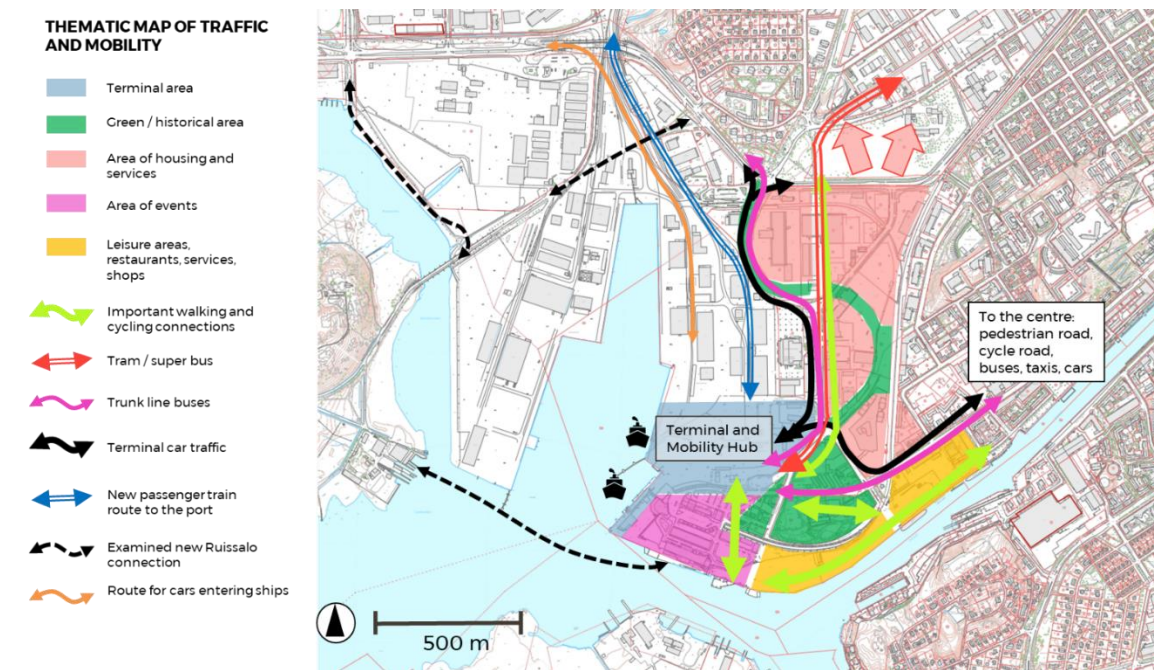


Image 3 Thematic map of traffic and mobility (Traffic and mobility master plan for the Turku port area 2020).

In June 2020 Turku City Council accepted the Land use, housing and transport agreement (MAL agreement) which is an agreement between the 13 municipalities of the Turku region and the state. The aim of the agreement is to strengthen cooperation between the municipalities and the state and enhance commitment towards the common goals of the region and actions needed to take in order to achieve these goals. One of the goals in the The MAL agreement 2020–2031 is to develop Turku region as a part of Southern Finland’s sustainable housing and labour market region in which the accessibility plays an important role. One of the actions listed to reach this goal was that within the Ferry Terminal project, the port of Turku will be developed in a way that new traffic arrangements and implementing a new railway connection will be enabled. However, later in 2020 the planned new railway connection was relinquished during negotiations with Finnish Transport Infrastructure agency. The main reason for this was too high expenses for the Ferry Terminal project, but it also gives new possibilities for the land use in the north side of the terminal.

In October 2020 the results of the Linnanniemi international idea competition were announced. A Lithuanian-Finnish Team awarded the first prize in the competition with their proposal “Kolme palaa” (Image 4). The competition programme stated that the competition’s organiser would negotiate a possible further commission with the authors of the winning proposal. Also, in the competition’s evaluation minutes, the jury recommended to use the winning entry as a basis for further planning.



Image 4 Illustration of Kolme palaa, After Party in collaboration with Santtu Hyvärinen and Sitowise.

At the turn of the month October/November 2020 the City of Turku organized a pop-up exhibition where the prize-winning entries of the Linnanniemi competition, results of Aalto University’s survey about residents’ mobility habits and the tentative traffic and mobility master plan for Turku port area were on display and the visitors were able to comment them either on the spot or online through Voice your opinion –service.

2021

- 1/2021**
Step: Zoning of the Museum of History and the Future starts
Parties: City of Turku
- 3/2021**
Step: Preparation of the development program for the Linnanniemi area begin
Parties: City of Turku
- 5/2021**
Step: Negotiations with the Linnanniemi idea competition winners about the further commission begin
Parties: City of Turku, Linnanniemi international idea competition winners
- 8/2021**
Step: A study of a new location for the port’s railway platform begins
Parties: City of Turku, Sitowise

In January 2021 the zoning of the new museum called the Museum of History and the Future started. In 2017 the City Council made the decision to establish a new museum and later it was decided that the museum will be located in the Turku Castle surroundings. Linnanniemi idea competition programme stated that the Museum of History and the Future should be placed in a way that supports the overall development of the area. In the competition’s winning proposal, the museum was placed by the riverside and the jury found that particularly meritorious. Thus, it was selected to be the place for the new museum.

In order to ensure the timely progress in developing the Linnanniemi area, a preparation of a development program began. The program aims to make visible the different visions, goals and requirements that guide the development of the area. It will act as a tool helping in taking into consideration all the different projects in the area, their schedules and stakeholders involved.

In May 2021 a discussion about the further commission began with the winning team. Since the new railway connection coming from north was relinquished and the aim is to find a solution that would allow the development of the area and enhance connection within Linnanniemi, a search for another alternative location for the railway platform began. During fall 2021 team's traffic consultants from Sitowise Oy are investigating and making impact assessments of different options to dismantle the existing track from the south of Linnankatu to a new location. Goal for the future is, that the railway connection to the port will be part of the Trans-European Transport Network TEN-T. Therefore, Sitowise is also studying what are the conditions of each alternative to connect the railway to the TEN-T network.

Next steps

The development process of Linnanniemi will move step-by-step. The development program will go through political decision-making process during fall 2021 meanwhile the idea competition's winning team is working on their commission. Once the study of the new location for the port's railway track and platform is conducted, it will go through political decision making. Also, noise, flood, stormwater, contaminated land and construction conditions studies will be conducted. Since the soil is mostly landfill, archaeological studies are not considered necessary at this point. The Ferry Terminal zoning plan will be approved in March 2022, it will come into effect in May 2022 and the new joint terminal building will be built by the end of 2025.

The new museum is planned to be placed to the current terminal area, right by the shore as in the winning proposal "Kolme palaa". The zoning of the museum has started in 2021 and an international architecture competition of the museum building will be organised in February 2022. After the competition, a finalized zoning plan will be taken to the City Council by the end of 2023. The goal is that the museum will be in use by 2029 when Turku turns 800 years.

The awards committee of the Linnanniemi idea competition recommended the organisation of a landscape architecture competition for the park between the castle and the shore. The competition will most likely take place in 2023.

3. Conclusions

This report outlined the different steps, cooperation partners and permissions needed to plan the new railway access to the harbour. The report can be utilized in destinations that are facing similar kind of needs of coordinating new traffic and mobility solutions with other ways of land use. With re-organising the railway track city can offer not only better sustainable mobility options but also develop the surrounding area into more liveable and safer environment. The TEN-T network is also something to be aimed for to strengthen city's status as an urban node.

The location of the train track plays a major role when it comes to the development possibilities of the Linnanniemi area. The passenger railway connection and its location affect the future of the area: the port of Turku's and shipping companies' operations, travellers' and residents' mobility options, new museum's operations and city's possibilities for urban development.

The railway connection affects many different stakeholders and therefore it is crucial to involve them in the planning process. It requires close cross-governmental cooperation as well as open interaction between external stakeholders. The support of political decision-makers is important too and that is why it's essential to keep them informed and involved.

The planning of the relocation of the railway is time-consuming and the implementation is costly. Land use opportunities, culturally and historically valuable surroundings as well as many other factors affect the final outcome. It is important to take these aspects into careful consideration from the very beginning in order to succeed in the whole process.

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