

Planning Across the Line: Accessibility and High-Quality Public Transport in the Randers–Aarhus Corridor

Background and purpose of the project

The Randers–Aarhus corridor is shaped by regional commuting, local mobility needs and pressure on the E45 motorway. Route 180 already functions as a public transport corridor through Bus Line 118, while Letbanesamarbejdet points towards high-quality public transport as a possible future direction.

The purpose of this project is to examine what happens when accessibility is placed at the centre of corridor planning. The project does not test one final technical solution, but investigates how regional connectivity, local mobility justice and realistic implementation conditions can be balanced in the Randers–Aarhus corridor. The analysis is supported by reference cases from Europe, which are used to identify relevant lessons for public transport, mobility hubs and first- and last-mile access.

Message with the project

The main finding is that the corridor cannot be planned through one uniform public transport solution. A stronger regional connection may improve travel between Randers and Aarhus, but it does not automatically improve access for the smaller towns along the corridor.

The project therefore argues for a differentiated approach. Towns and nodes along Route 180 have different roles, needs and potentials. Some places may need better walking and cycling access to stops, while others may need improved waiting conditions, clearer wayfinding, safer crossings or stronger mobility hub functions.

The key message is that high-quality public transport is not only about speed, frequency and route alignment. It also depends on whether people can reach, understand and use the system in everyday life.

Social value

The project contributes to discussions about public transport planning in inter-municipal corridors outside the largest urban centres. Many mobility challenges cross municipal boundaries, while planning responsibility is divided between several actors.

The project provides a basis for making more informed choices about whether, where and how high-quality public transport should be developed in the Randers–Aarhus corridor. Its value is not to provide a final answer, but to show what becomes visible when accessibility is used as the main planning perspective.