

#Safe #Smart #Green



Bicycle highway between Huilongguan and Shangdi

What will be the three **biggest challenges** for Beijing's mobility over the next ten years?

- 1 Developing a modern and integrated urban mobility system that meets the needs of the growing commuter flows in the Beijing metropolitan region.
- 2 Motivating citizens to switch to sustainable mobility to reduce dependency on cars, with a view to achieving intensive and green transport.
- 3 Meeting citizens' diverse and hi-quality mobility needs in the context of an ageing population and changing household structure, making transport safer, more convenient and comfortable.

How would you sum up your concept for the design of **tomorrow's mobility** (2030) in your city in a slogan?

A modern and integrated urban transport system that is green, safe and intelligent will take shape in Beijing. It will feature a world-class infrastructure network, transportation services, technologies and equipment, and comprehensive governance capability. We strive to build a truly reliable transport system of the highest standards that satisfies the needs of our people.

The project idea

In the morning rush hour, an average of 11,000 people commuted between the urban residential area Huilongguan and the software park in Shangdi in northern Beijing every day. Though the direct distance in-between was just 3.8 kilometers, the connection was cut off by two expressways. To alleviate the huge press of commuter traffic, Beijing built a 6.5-kilometer bike-only lane. The new bicycle highway is intended to promote active mobility by providing an attractive and safe infrastructure. The six-metre-wide, three-lane cycleway runs at ground level and as a skyway. It has a total of ten entrances and exits.

The implementation

Since it opened on 31 May 2019, the bicycle highway has played a significant role in persuading many commuters to switch to bicycles. Since the project's launch, the highway is used by **more than 4,000 to 6,000 people each day, with a maximum of 19,000**. The highway has emerged as the fastest, cheapest and healthiest way to commute between the two urban districts. Its users include many former subway commuters, but there are also considerable numbers of car drivers among them. In addition, the bicycle highway has become a place for weekend cycle training for residents.

The transfer

The key to the project's success lies in connecting two places with a high rate of commuters and a short distance between them, but one that is difficult to cover by car or public transport. Prior to the implementation of the Huilongguan-Shangdi bicycle highway, extensive local studies were conducted over a period of one and a half years. They showed that safe and convenient bicycle highways with separate lanes for different directions of travel can be a means to reduce the actual travel time. Moreover, the project increases the overall attractiveness of cycling, thereby laying the foundation for implementing other cycleways and ultimately for realising sustainable urban mobility as part of a human-scale city.

