Green Streets of Malmö

Visions for future bicycle lanes in Malmö
Our proposal for new bicycle lanes is quite simply to transform some of the existing streets into green streets. We believe this proposal is in accordance with the vision of Malmö to reduce the number of cars and to increase the number of bicycles.

To really promote bicycling it is not enough to make small improvements here and there. We need to rethink the whole structure of the city.

The city has traditionally been built around the streets and in modern time the streets have mainly been built for motor traffic. This means that the streets are basically empty spaces (except for the traffic) and most of the functions of the city are located next to and facing these “empty spaces”.

To improve safety and accessibility for bicycles, and to provide them with new experiences and possibilities, we propose to gradually remove all motor traffic from selected streets of Malmö, and to fill these streets with various activities and functions, greenery and even new buildings. In this way we intend to create a more coherent urban fabric where soft traffic and the activities and functions of the city are better integrated.
The long-term vision is to transform every second street of Malmö into a green street for soft traffic and social interaction.

We propose a pattern where the streets that are best suited for soft traffic are transformed into green streets and where the remaining streets ensure continued free passage for motor traffic in all directions.

Motor traffic is allowed to cross the green streets and emergency and other special vehicles still have access to the green streets.
The transformation of the existing streets should be done step by step. As the first step we propose to use Heleneholmstigen Mitt and Syd as a test ground, since this part is already free of motor traffic and it may therefore serve to demonstrate the possibilities of the green street without causing any changes of the existing traffic patterns. The development of this part can be done in three phases, with the first phase beginning in June 2008. Based on the experiences from this development the next step would be to transform the entire Heleneholmstigen.

In the mid-term perspective we propose to transform all of Heleneholmstigen into a green street. Instead of an empty space for cars we propose to fill the entire stretch with a series of new activities and functions, greenery and new buildings. This will also create better accessibility for soft traffic to already existing urban offers like park areas, sports facilities, public transportation etc.
PHASE 1
PHASE 3
Instead of traditional street lamps we propose to use lighting in the street surface, on facades and vegetation, and focused lighting (flood lights) for specific functions.

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