

# Free Public Transport in Tallinn from 2013 – brave step toward the Green Capital

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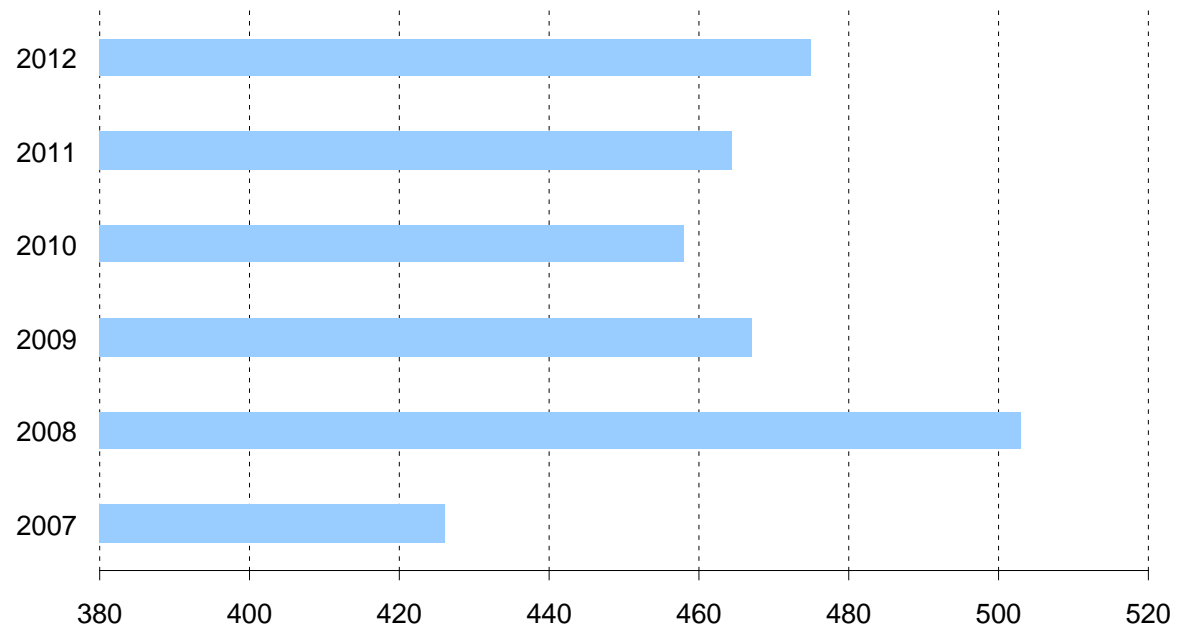
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# City Budget 2007-2012 (Mio €)

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	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
EUR	426	503	467	458	464	475

# General Data of Tallinn Public Transport (PT)

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**3 types of PT (bus, tram, trolley-bus)**

**Total number of public transport vehicles: 570**

- **Bus lines: 55, tram lines: 4, trolley-bus lines: 8**

- **In 2011 PT budget – 53 million €**  
**Total tickets revenue - 17,8 Mio €;**  
**3,5 Mio € from non-Tallinners.**

**Free PT for Tallinners costs**  
**14,3 Mio € annually**



# Advantages of free PT

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**Social aspects:** providing mobility to unemployed, low income residents

**Green aspects:** modal shift from cars to PT, cleaner air, less noise

**Fiscal aspects:** strong motivation to register place of residence, thus of increasing income tax

**Makes the City more visible** as the first capital and the city of that size in EU with free PT

Free PT is a step towards Tallinn as **European Green Capital** in 2018



# State of crisis

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- **Unemployment:** Workforce nationwide has dropped from 750 000 to 600 000
- **Income:** Median wage remains ca 500 euros (a month) netto.
- **Inflation:** Food and daily consumables prices became comparable to Western member states



# Remarkable gain

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- Among other anti-crisis measures Free Public transport to all residents of the city, starts from January 1, 2013
- Saves min 50 euros for family of two parents and two kid's (600 euros per Year)



# Labor mobility

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- Increases labor mobility in the limits of the city
- Stimulates business and trade
- Those only walking to work can consider also bus option
- Occasional users of public transport may turn to regulars
- Activating long-term unemployed

# In the beginning there was a referendum

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- Plebiscite on free PT 19-25 March, 2012
- Plebiscite **informed** the community **and involved** them in decision-making, thus locking the free PT decision politically - power shift in Council cannot change it easily.

**Yes** - 75,5%, **No** - 24,5%



# Taken Steps

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- Merger of two municipal public transport companies buses+trams&trolley buses (June 2012)
- City Council decision on free PT for Tallinn citizens (September 2012, enters into force 1 January 2013)
- Implementation of new contactless card (started in 2012 September), which provides exact data about usage; inspires and enables technically the neighboring municipalities to expand free ride in the county.



# Challenges


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1. Need for expanding:
  - exclusive bus lanes (almost done)
  - park&ride system
2. Redesigning and better integrating the lines and schedules for all modes of public transport
3. Pushing national government to develop public transport (if Tallinn can provide free PT, other residents of the country demand the same from their public authorities).

# Sources for funding

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1. Merger of two municipal public transport companies – considerable savings on operational costs.
2. New residents - those living and/or working in Tallinn, will have another strong motivation to register Tallinn as their place of residence, thus increasing personal income tax.
3. In 2013 installments to water company for water and sewage system are decreasing sharply, releasing ca 8 million EUR annually.
4. Widening the paid parking area, raising parking tariffs.



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Free Public Internet is often recognized as everyone's right. But why not urban mobility?

Thank you !