EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE PIERRE MARCHANT BRIDGE

sw. surlepont. Brussets

1. Why is the bridge closed to motor traffic? DThe bridge has been closed to motor traffic since 2014 due to stability issues.

2. Are pedestrians and cyclists still allowed to use the bridge?

The bridge has stability issues, but it is still strong enough for pedestrians and cyclists. According to the engineers, however, the stability problems could worsen over time.

4. What will the new bridge look like? It's not clear yet. Until there are final plans, no building permits can be issued. In addition, political discussions about the future of the bridge are still in full swing; some people want a bridge for cars, others a bridge for bikes and pedestrians with space

for people to meet..

3. Will there be a new bridge?

The Brussels Region, which owns the bridge, is considering building a new bridge. However, various procedures must first be completed, and these have not yet been finalised. For an explanation of the procedures, see question 8.

5. Did the municipality of Anderlecht recently decide that there would be a car bridge? As this is a regionally-managed bridge, the

commune cannot decide this by itself. However, it is true that a majority among the mayor and aldermen has taken a position in favour of the construction of a car bridge.

6. What type of bridge does the Brussels Region want?

This too is not yet clear. Several proposals have already been tabled, even under the current procedure. What started out as a brief to build a bridge for cars turned into a bridge for bikes and pedestrians with space for meeting up, and now the plans have to be adapted again so that all modes of transport can theoretically use it. But the last word hasn't been said, there are still a lot of political debates going on, and more and more residents are starting to express concern about the fate of the bridge.

7. What type of bridge does Surlepont want?

We want to keep the old bridge or see a new one built, it doesn't matter to Surlepont. As long as the Pierre Marchant Bridge can remain a place to meet and an important axis for active mobility. That's because it's a unique and quiet spot in Anderlecht, a quality public space that the residents of this densely populated neighbourhoods need so badly. A bridge for the people!



8. What is the procedure?

This kind of procedure is always very complicated. And it's hard to predict what might happen in the future. Here's a brief summary of what has happened so far:

Permit application for the construction of a new bridge: a procedure with many steps!

2018

The (former) Mobility Minister Pascal Smet submits an application for the construction of a new car bridge

2019

1st consultation committee on the Environmental Impact Study for the future bridge:

Surlepont successfully requests that the option of a cycle and foot bridge also be examined

2022-2023

Mobility Minister Elke Van den Brandt adjusts the plans. Supported by conclusions from the Environmental Impact Study, the decision is made to build a new cycling and foot bridge with space for people to meet

Januari-Februari 2023

This cycling and foot bridge with space for people is entering public enquiry. The Environmental Impact Study is now publicly available. Surlepont gathered 2.400 signatures supporting this plan.

16 Februari 2023

2nd consultation committee on the cycle and foot bridge. Surlepont defends the new plans. But, in the end, a "favourable" opinion is delivered by the municipality with the condition that buses and cars must also be able to cross the bridge

April 2023

State Secretary Pascal Smet, responsible for Urban Planning, gives the same "favourable" opinion: the new bridge can be built on the condition that it must also be able to accommodate public transport, cars and trucks in the future

Mei-Oktober 2023?

Mobility Minister Elke Van den Brandt must decide what to do: either adapt the plans again with the risk that it will eventually become a car bridge after all, or start a new proposal for construction of a footbridge, or maintain the status quo...

November-December 2023?

Either a second public enquiry due to re-adjusted plans...

Or the start of a new permit application for construction of a cycle and foot bridge

Or status quo Surlepont will, in any case, continue to actively pursue the preservation of this unique place!

9. How can you help Surlepont?

Surlepont is a citizens' collective made up of volunteers. We try to communicate positively about this unique meeting place and enable as many people as possible to benefit from it, by collaborating with other organisations or organising activities ourselves. We also target decision-makers and politicians. All this takes a lot of time and energy. If you'd like to give us a hand, send an e-mail to info@surlepont.brussels.

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