



EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE PIERRE MARCHANT BRIDGE

1. Why is the bridge closed to motor traffic?

The 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?

The last word has not yet been said about this. Since 2018, three proposals have already been submitted and at every step in the decision-making procedure you see the different visions clashing. Even with the most recent plans that are now (March 2024) under public review, you immediately feel that things could go either way. The new bridge would initially be designed for cyclists and pedestrians. But the structure is designed in such a way that it will remain possible in the future - with simple measures - to allow cars and even trucks again.

7. What type of bridge does Surlepont want?

Surlepont is critical of the current plans. It looks good on the screen: it will be a cycling and walking bridge with lots of greenery, and room for benches, etc. Completely in line with the ideas we have been advocating for years. But NOTHING guarantees us that this will continue. That is why we continue to strive for the preservation of the Pierre Marchant Bridge as a meeting place and important axis for active mobility. Precisely because it is such a unique, quiet place in Anderlecht, a high-quality public space that people from the densely populated neighborhoods so need. That's why we say: build a new cycling and foot bridge or leave the bridge as it is now!



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!



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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