

# Three and half years of free public transport for tallinners

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[www.tallinn.ee/freepublictransport](http://www.tallinn.ee/freepublictransport)

# Basic figures

Population of Tallinn 440 950 (1st June 2016)

- City budget ~ 600 Mio €
- Total fleet (buses, trams, trolleys) – 440 (2012)/ 477 (today)
- PT budget – 53 Mio € in 2012, 61 Mio € in 2016
- 2012 tickets revenue 17 Mio €,  
5 Mio € from non-residents
- Annual cost of free PT for residents  
~12 Mio €



# Why we did it?

## **Social aspects:**

- Guaranteeing mobility for residents with low income

## **Economic aspects:**

- Increasing labour mobility within the city limits
- Stimulating consumption of local goods and services

## **Green aspects:**

- Modal shift from cars to PT

## **Fiscal aspects:**

- Strong motivation to register as residents, increasing personal income tax revenues to city budget



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## In the beginning there was a referendum

- Plebiscite on free PT 19-25 March, 2012
- **Informing** and **involving** community into decision-making, thus **locking** the decision politically.
- **Yes** -75,5%, **No** - 24,5%

**FPT for the residents of Tallinn started  
from 01.01.2013**



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# Preparatory steps

- Priority for PT: In summer 2012 expanded separated bus lanes network in city centre, total from 15 to 23 km
- Management: merger of two municipal public transport companies (June 2012)
- Accountability: implementation of new PT contactless cards (from September 2012)



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# Fiscal demography

New residents: registered population in City of Tallinn grew since April 2012 by >25 000 persons

Result: increasing municipal revenues from personal income tax; every 1000 residents bring ca 1 Mio € into city budget

Cost of FPT (12 Mio) covered with fine surplus



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# Mixed results in mobility

**Initial 10% growth of trips eavened due to major tram reconstruction. In late 2017 is expected ca 10% increase**

**Sharp change in private car ownership. In 2013 growth in Tallinn almost stopped, while in Harju county continued with 10% annual increase.**

**6% decrease of traffic in city centre, 4% increase citywide**

**Parking tariffs up – 1H in Old Town zone 6 EUR, in Centre 4.80 EUR**



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## Inspired by others, inspiring others

- Bringing together free public transport cities, movements/activists and researchers

- Annual FPT conferences

2012 and 2013 in Tallinn,

2014 in Zory, Poland,

2015 17-18 September in Avesta, Sweden

- Bilateral exchanges with Chengdu, China



There is no universal definition for free public transport (from free for all to limited passenger groups, travel times, city districts etc)

The objectives for doing it and fiscal solutions vary too.

But if asked, people like it everywhere.

# Thank You!

- Look further homepage with FTP conferences presentations, news and media coverage

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