

8 Infrastructural facilities regarding social safety

Town: Utrecht (The Netherlands)

Year of implementation: -

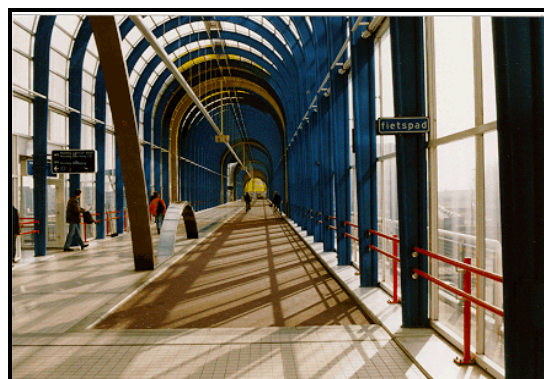
Description



Bicycle/ pedestrian tunnel Utrecht
Photo: SWOV, Institute for Road Safety Research, A. Vis



Bicycle/ pedestrian tunnel Utrecht
Photo: SWOV, Institute for Road Safety Research, A. Vis



Overfly for cyclists and pedestrians Zoetermeer
Photo: SWOV, Institute for Road Safety Research, A. Vis



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Social safety has also important implications for the planning and design of cycle facilities. Social safety concerns the extent to which (in this case) cyclists feel free of threat or confrontation with violence. Social safety is linked with the design of (public) space as well as the infrastructure. A distinction can be made between objective and subjective social safety. Objective safety concerns the crimes and offences actually being committed and subjective safety concerns the extent to which the environment is perceived as being safe. The subjective social safety can be influenced by the design of the public space and the bicycle facilities. However it is not possible to avoid all criminal activities by well designed infrastructural measures. Sometimes measures for promoting of social safety may be contrary to the objective traffic safety! These measures are not preferable!. In case social unsafety the consideration can be made to offer socially better alternatives. Detouring is in such cases acceptable. Especially social safety is of importance for design and construction of cycle-tunnels. Social safety promoting factors are a well designed lighting facilities, good visibility, the furnishing of the tunnel, the extent of social control (the number of people passing the tunnel at the same time), the enforcement, the possibilities for a good overview and the absence of objects close to the bicycle-track behind which possible assailants can hide. Furthermore it can be important that there are alternative routes to escape through.. The more users of the route (tunnel), the less danger for

them.

Also attractive surroundings are preferable to increase the social safety. The example(s) concern(s) a bicycle/pedestrians-tunnel in the neighbourhood of the central railway station in Utrecht and an overfly (for cyclists and pedestrians) across a motorway near Zoetermeer. The social control and lighting are very good, and the dimensions are very wide.

Different aspects for cyclists

Positive

- Very attractive for cyclists.
- A high level of social safety.
- A well designed lighting system.
- Good visibility.
- A good finishing touch.
- A safe and short connection.

Other comments

The costs will be higher than in a conventional design.

Contact persons

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