

# Permanent Transition: The Zurich Case

Structural differences and factual common grounds in functional regions

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2021 IMPACTS  
How to win the future: liveable cities with sustainable mobility in 2050  
October 14 2021



# Welcome to Zurich

A typical «terrain vague» of contemporary planning

The hypothesis:

## Zurich - an urban lab in the making

The combination of strict planning regulations on the federal level and the on-going growth dynamics in the functional area of Zurich put the existing planning tools and strategies into question. Confronted with an evergrowing demand for mobility the quest for appropriate approaches in the field of mobility has to find answers for three interlinked challenges: a) the rising degree of complexity and interdependencies b) heterogenous stakeholder constellations and c) novel priorities/requirements.

# The Argument

A brief introduction into Zurich's functional present

A brief introduction into its future

Parallel worlds Mk. I + II: The prototype and its successors

Reprogramming infrastructure 1: Lever points for novel trajectories

Reprogramming infrastructure 2: A flaneur's take on Zurich's  
current achievements ...

Reprogramming infrastructure 3: ... challenges to come for the  
functional area of Zurich

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# A brief introduction

## ... into Zurich's functional present

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# A fairly typical representative of an urbanised landscape



Facts and figures:

697 km<sup>2</sup> (approx. 1.7% of CH)  
71 cities and villages  
approx. 1 Million inhabitants  
and 800000 employees  
approx. 17% of the national  
GDP





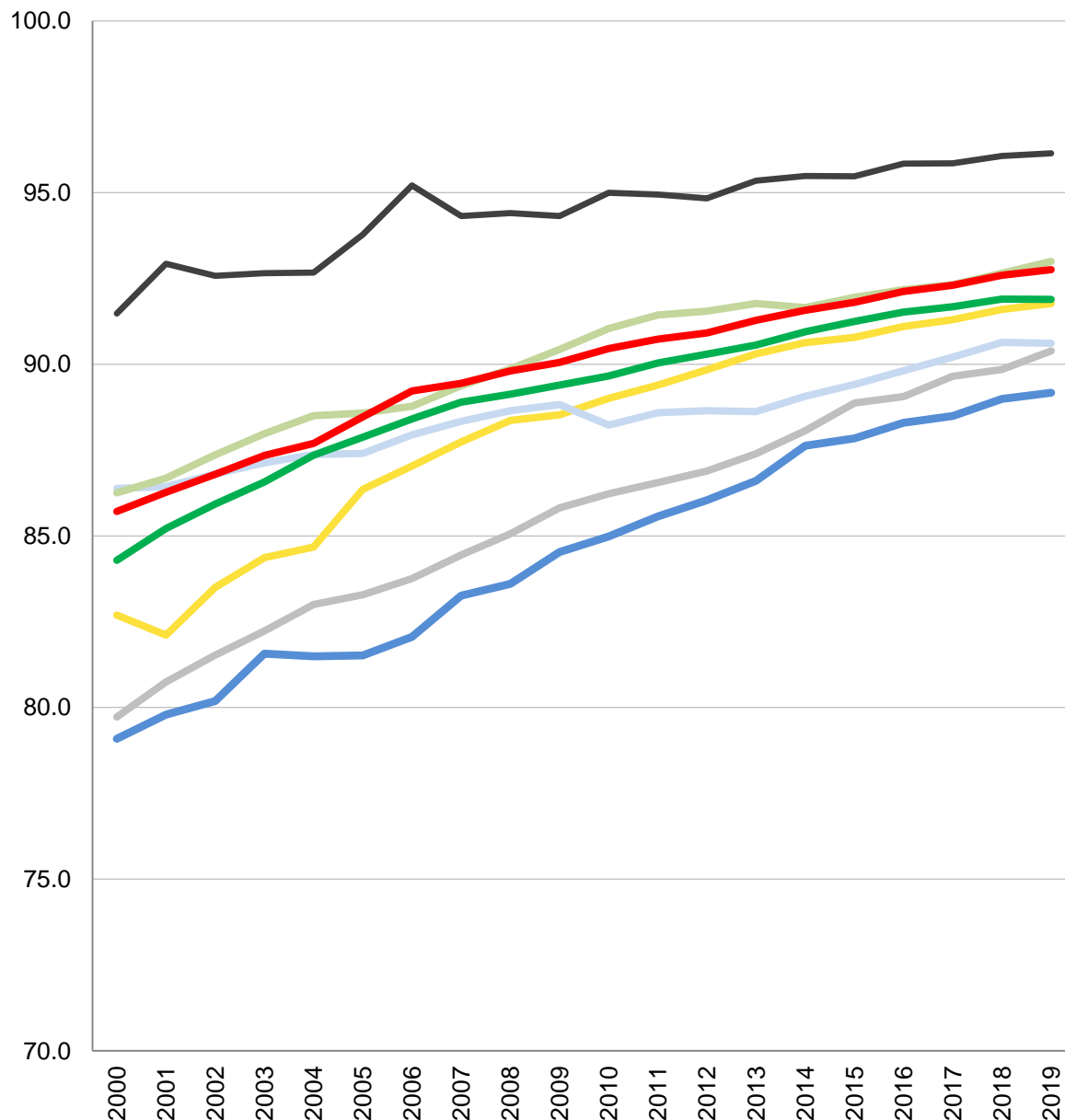
The dominant development strategy of recent years  
i.e. Richti-Areal, Wallisellen





... and its growing limitations  
i.e. Hochschulgebiet Zürich Zentrum





The development of the  
degree of utilization of  
building zones in the  
regions of the RZU from  
2000-2019:

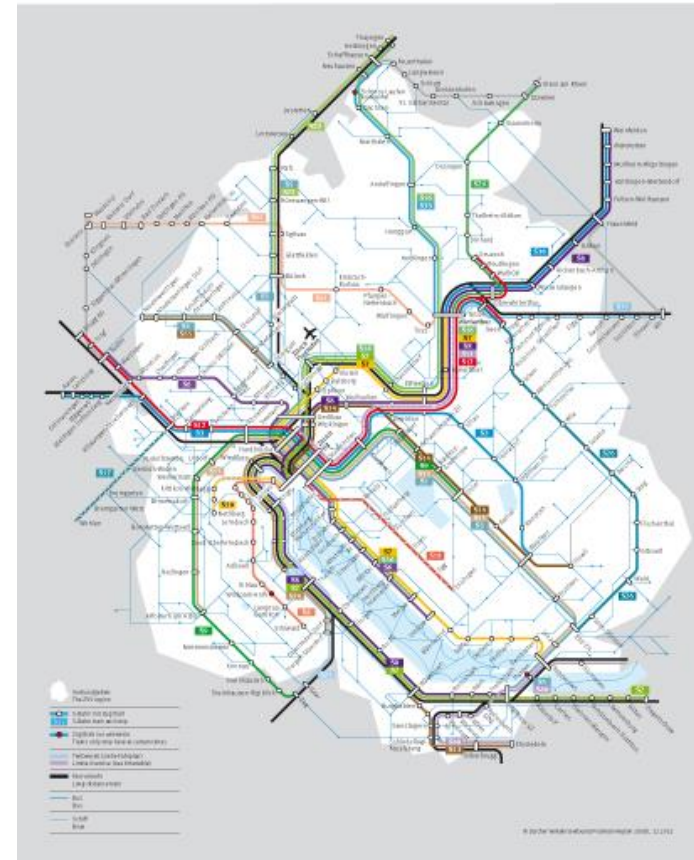
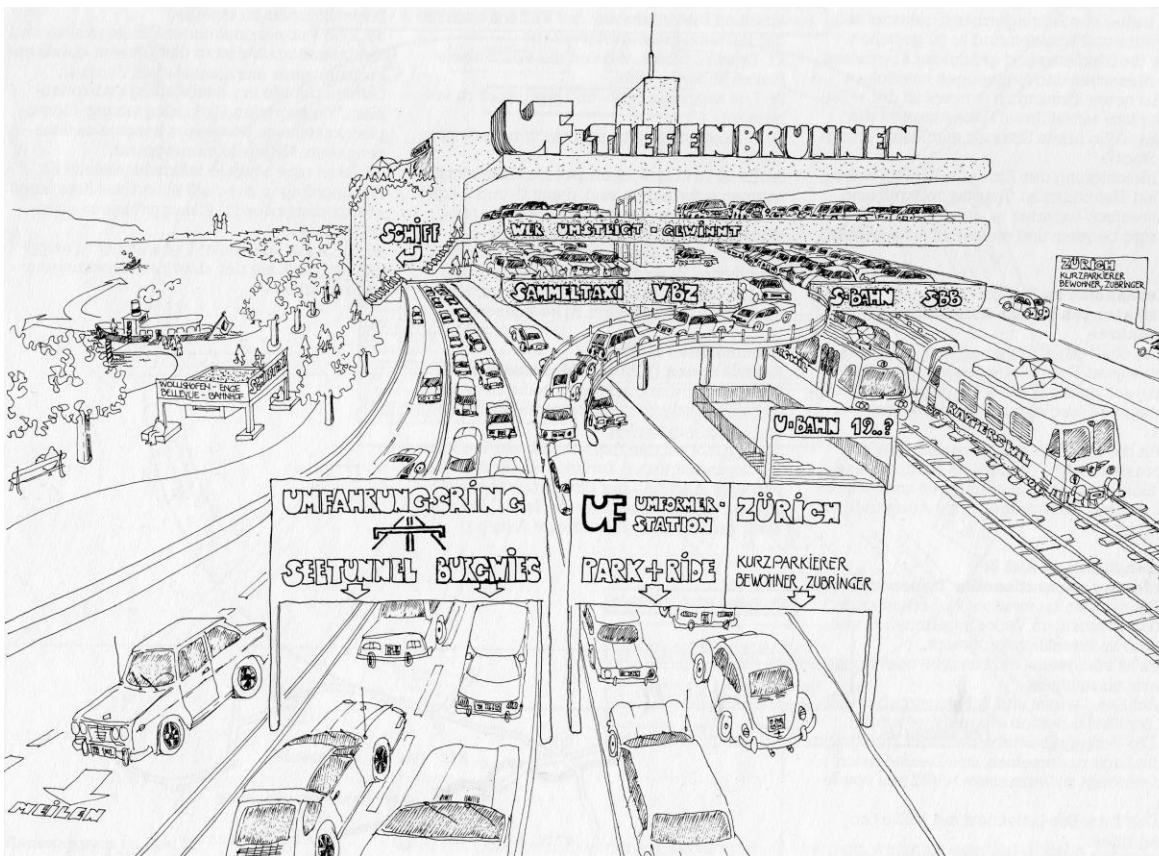
The dead end of  
the traditional  
planning model



A bird's eye view on a prototypical  
field of work:

The transition from Zurich's  
north to its surrounding  
neighbors





The clash of two worlds / modes of reality  
 The public transport island vs. the realm of the car





The unintended company of the factual everyday life  
A landscape of ubiquitous perfectly designed «Non-Lieux»

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# A brief introduction

... into its future

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# Zurich's pending traffic challenges

As everywhere the traffic turn so far has no broader impact in the context of functional areas. This may seem to last.

The diverging spatial (and traffic) realities with a functional area are quite difficult to bridge in order to establish a joint strategy.

The traffic volume will continue to grow drastically over the next (- including growing the absolute amount of kilometers by car)

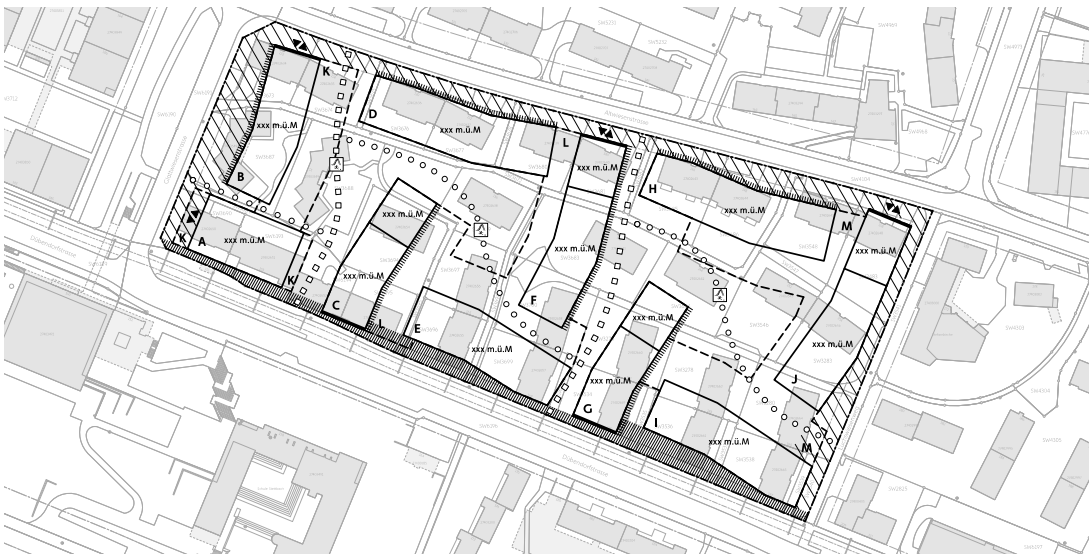
The competences for regulation, planning, financing and realization of traffic infrastructure and its management are distributed among several stakeholders on communal, cantonal and national levels.





Field 1: Creating a different future for the building stock  
e.g. somewhere in the RZU area





Field 2: Urban Design calls for joint strategies  
e.g. Dübendorferstrasse/Altwiesenstrasse, Zürich-Schwamendingen





Field 3: Strategies for local climate adaptation  
e.g. School Reitmen, Schlieren





Field 4: Rethinking traffic infrastructure as public space  
e.g. Piste 52, Schlieren





Field 5: Resolving conflicts of sectoral goals in the urban landscape  
e.g. Zürich Katzenssee

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# Parallel worlds Mk. I + II: The prototype and its successors

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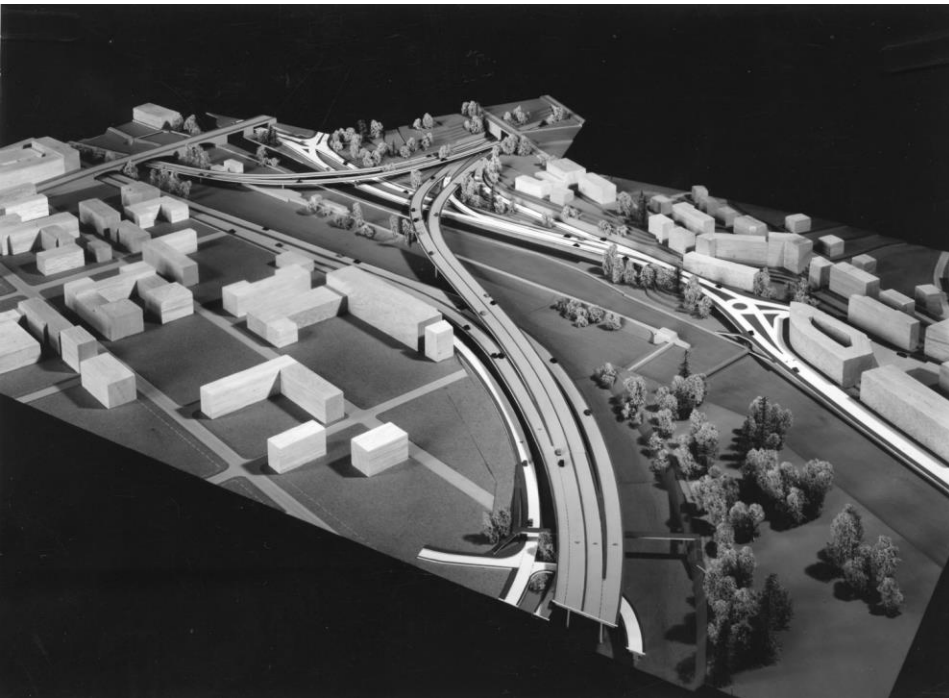




Parallel Worlds Mk. I:

The Haussmannian Prototype: The great transformation of Paris

The superior regime of planning: Bird's eye view from the Louvre / Demolition of Rue Rennes



Parallel Worlds Mk. II:  
The Successors in the age of mass mobility: Expressway Planning in Zurich  
The junction at the Limmat / the construction of Sihlhochstrasse







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# Reprogramming infrastructure I

## Lever points for novel trajectories

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# Lever points for novel trajectories

## Glancing into the contemporary toolbox



Hands-on interventions



Weaving surprising narratives



Shift in strategic priorities



Multiscalar reassessments

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# Reprogramming infrastructure II

## A flaneur's take on Zurich's current achievements ...

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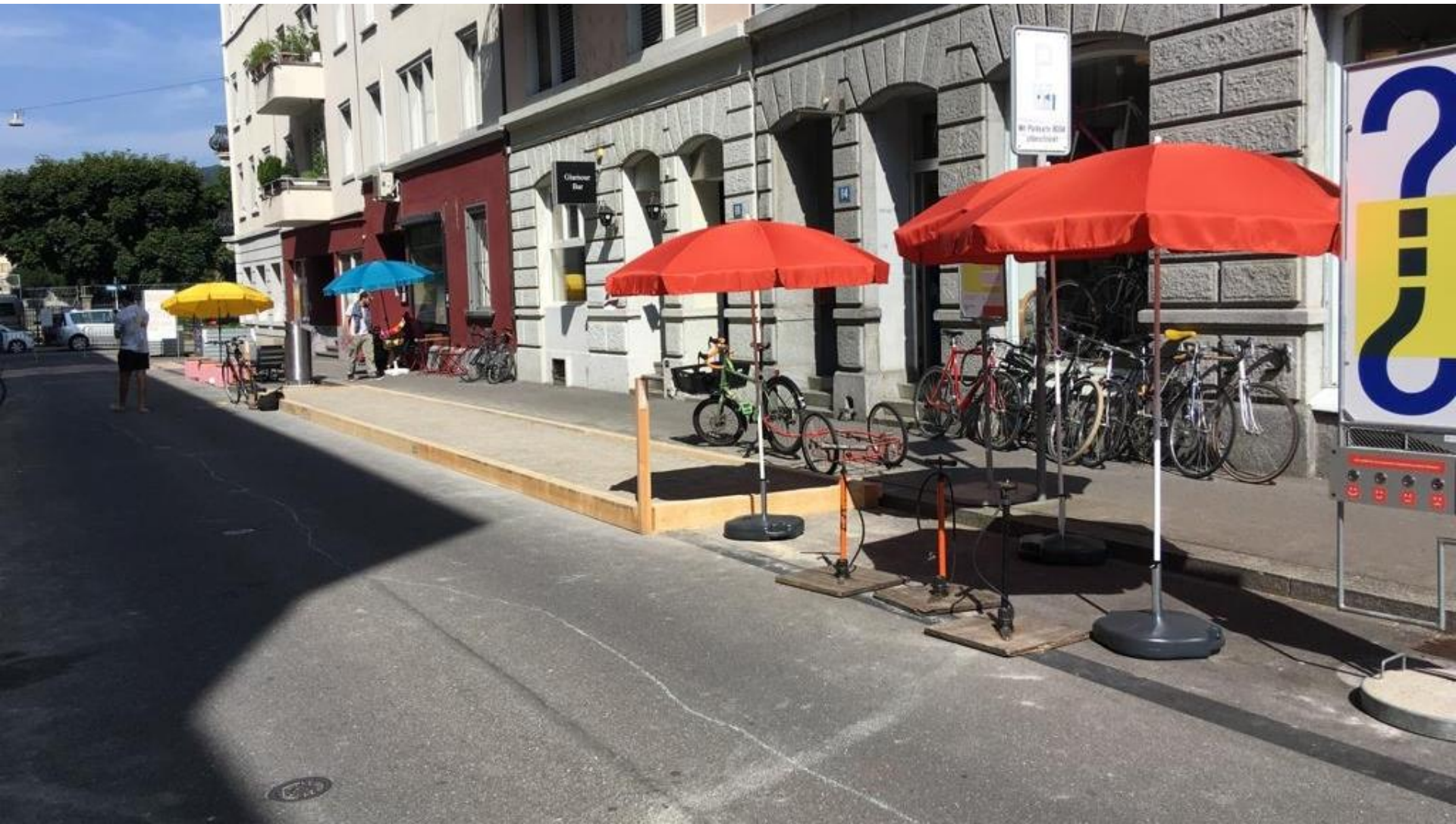
Stop 1: Münsterhof  
The reconquering of public space in its most distinguished manner





Stop 2: Sigi-Feigel-Terrasse  
Turning Non-lieus into public areas





Stop 3: Bring's uf Strass («Put it on the street»)  
Temporary shifting of the boundaries





Stop 4: Viaduktbögen  
Urbanizing underused infrastructure





Stop 5: Hardbrücke  
Reinterpreting the heritage of the age of the express highway





Stop 6: Einhausung (i.e. Highway cap) Schwamendingen  
Turning grey into an integrated and green infrastructure



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# Reprogramming infrastructure III

... challenges to come for the functional  
area of Zurich (i.e. FA Zurich)

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Entering the terrain vague:

Sketching the contours of a  
sustainable traffic policy for  
the functional realm



# FA Zurich's key challenges

Are the **pressing issues** able to change **the culture of planning** and in which ways do they introduce a **different culture of planning**?

What is the **role of design** for these **changing contexts and projects**?

How do we create the **complex governance context** in such a way that it creates **fertile ground for social and ecological innovation**?

How does it become possible to **translate innercity achievements** into **robust tools** for transforming the surrounding functional realm?

# FA Zurich's potential key topics

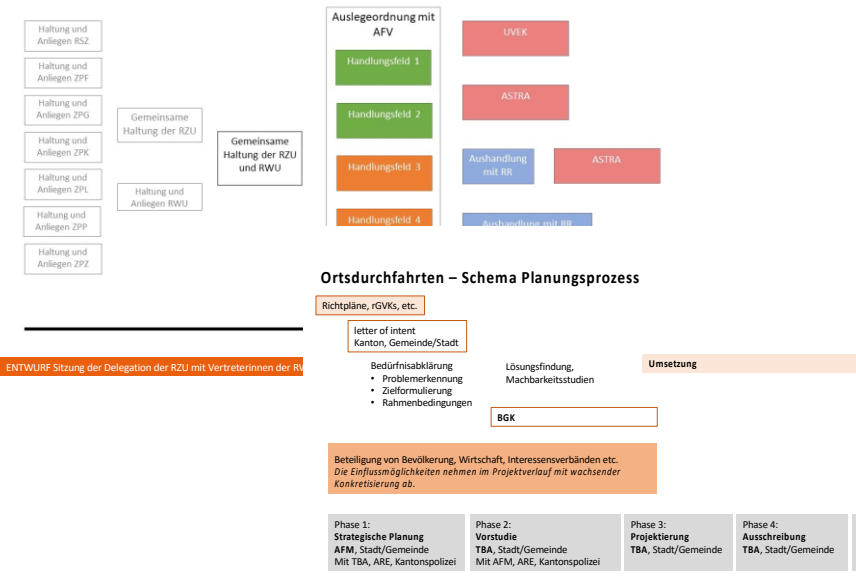
The future development of the functional area calls for clearly defined fields of action and specific benchmarks.

The step from grey to green infrastructure is decisive. The potential is considerable.

Non-Lieus must be turned into multicoded and multidimensional hubs.

Potential conflicts of goals for instance between landscape and traffic have to be addressed carefully.

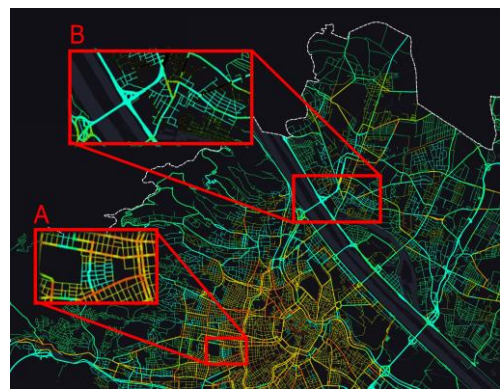




Dialogprozess «Agenda Wachstum+»  
Workshop 4.6.2021

Angelus Eisinger, Eva-Maria Kopf, Bruno Widmer  
Moderation: Roman Dellsperger

4. Juni 2021



Working on the FA Zurich's key challenges and revealing its topics  
RZU's dialogue processes and research on current and coming mobility issues

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