

Dagmar Köhler



Robin van der Griend



Bernhard Ensink



DANSK  
KYST & NATUR  
TURISME



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# INTEGRATION OF NETWORKS FOR CYCLING AS A MODE OF TRANSPORT AND FOR RECREATIONAL CYCLING

16 April 2024  
kl. 10:00-11:30



## Presentation Bernhard Ensink

Integration of networks for cycling as a mode of transport and for recreational cycling

Focus: Collaboration and projects in three Dutch provinces



# PROVINCE OF GRONINGEN



PROVINCIE  
GRONINGEN

| Authority                                 | Number of inhabitants |
|---|-----------------------|
| Province of Groningen (10 municipalities) | 600.000               |
| Groningen                                 | 245.000               |
| Smallest municipality (Pekela)            | 12.500                |

Source: [https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groningen\\_\(provincie\)](https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groningen_(provincie))



Source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Groningen\\_gemeenten\\_2018.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Groningen_gemeenten_2018.png)

# THE CHALLENGE FOR MUNICIPALITIES AND THE PROVINCE

- We don't know ...
  - the surfaces of the recreational cycling routes of the "Knooppuntennetwerk"
  - if there are road safety challenges on the routes
- We have silos in our administrations ...
  - some civil servants focussing only on cycling as a mode of transport
  - some civil servants only work on recreational cycling
- Parliament of the Province wants sports cyclists better informed ...
  - about what parts of the network can be used by sports cyclists



# HOW THE COLLABORATION STARTED

- It started with a **call** from a municipal civil servant to the Provincial Cycling Agent ...
- **Idea** came up: organic process of creating more integration of the silos “recreational” & “cycling as transport” ...
- **One concrete project:** common inventory of the “underground” of the recreational network.



‘Fietsmakelaar’ (Bicycle Agent’) Saskia Zwiers

- helps the municipalities to get cycling on their agenda,
- coordinates implementation of infrastructure measures
- brings together various local actors

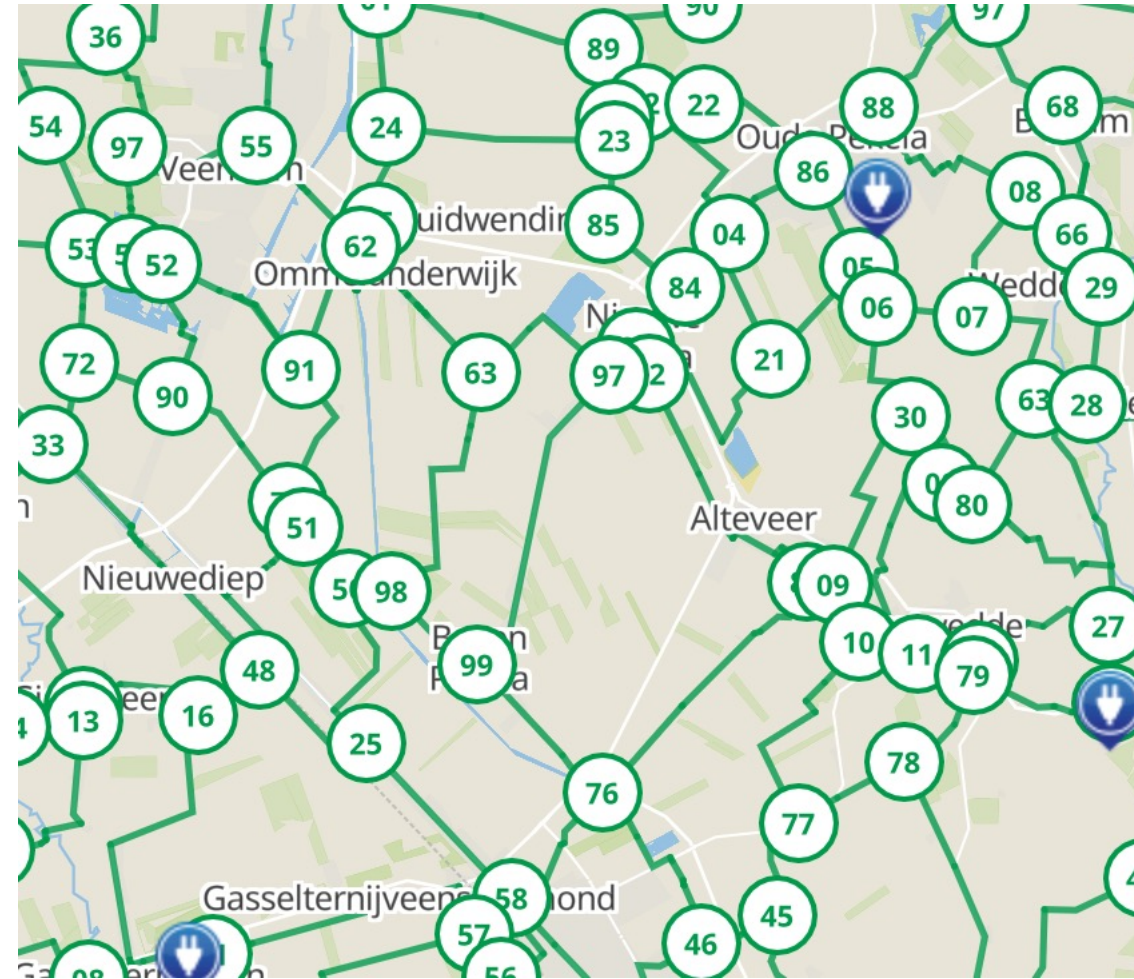


Source: <https://dutchcycling.nl/experts/saskia-zwiers/>

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# INVENTORY OF THE UNDERGROUND OF THE RECREATIONAL NETWORK

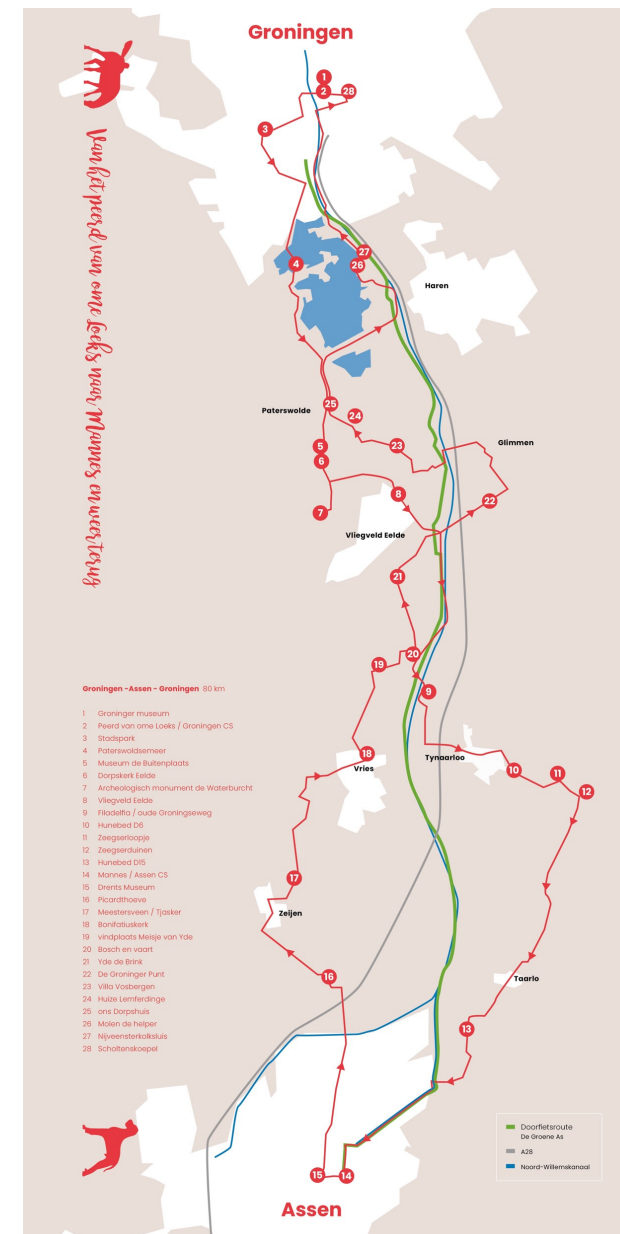
- Idea at the start: let municipalities work with volunteers ...
- Province realised: “We could be in charge of the project ...”
- Province offers some financial support to municipalities for professional support (€ 5.000 / municipality)
- 9 out of 10 municipalities used the € 5k vouchers
- Special attention to routes for sports cyclists (request from parliament)



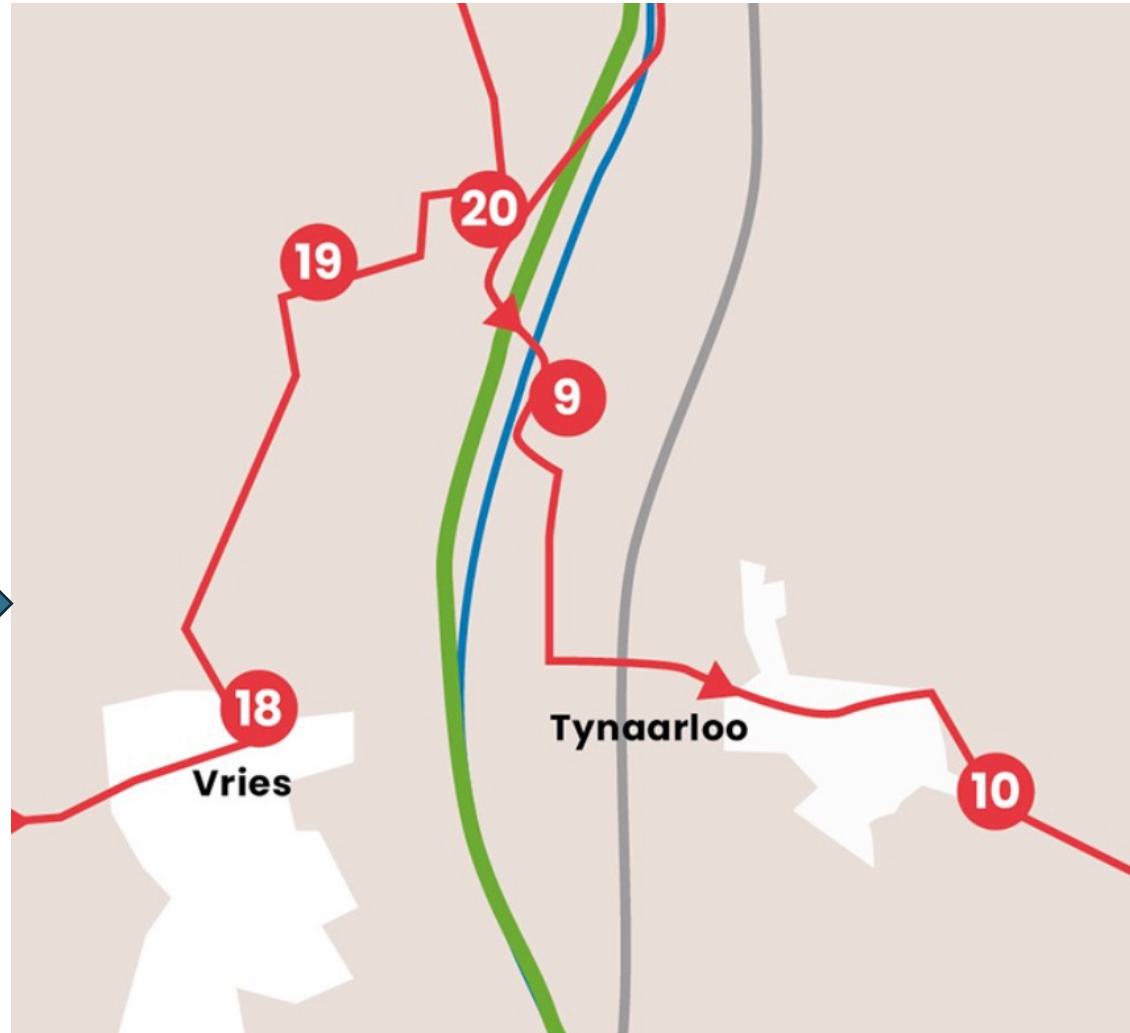
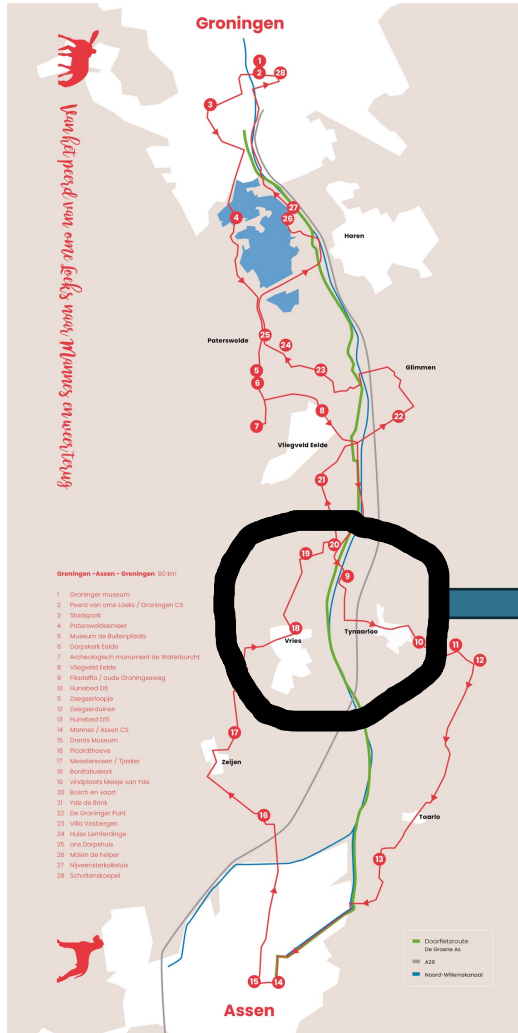
Source: <https://www.fietsnetwerk.nl/fietsoplaadpunten/>

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# PROJECT: EXPERIENCE ROUTES ALONG A „CYCLE HIGHWAY“



# “MEANDERING EXPERIENCE ROUTE ALONG A CYCLE HIGHWAY”



POI #19: Location where the Yde Girl was found



Doorfietsroute  
De Groene As



A28



Noord-Willemskanaal







# CHILDREN CYCLING ROUTE

- For children from 6-12 years; children play a game (solving a mystery)
- Promoting physical activity
- Startingpoints are nodes in the Fietsknooppuntennetwork
- Province subsidizes municipalities



Source: <https://hibikegroningen.nl/>

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# PROVINCE OF NOORD-BRABANT / CITY OF TILBURG

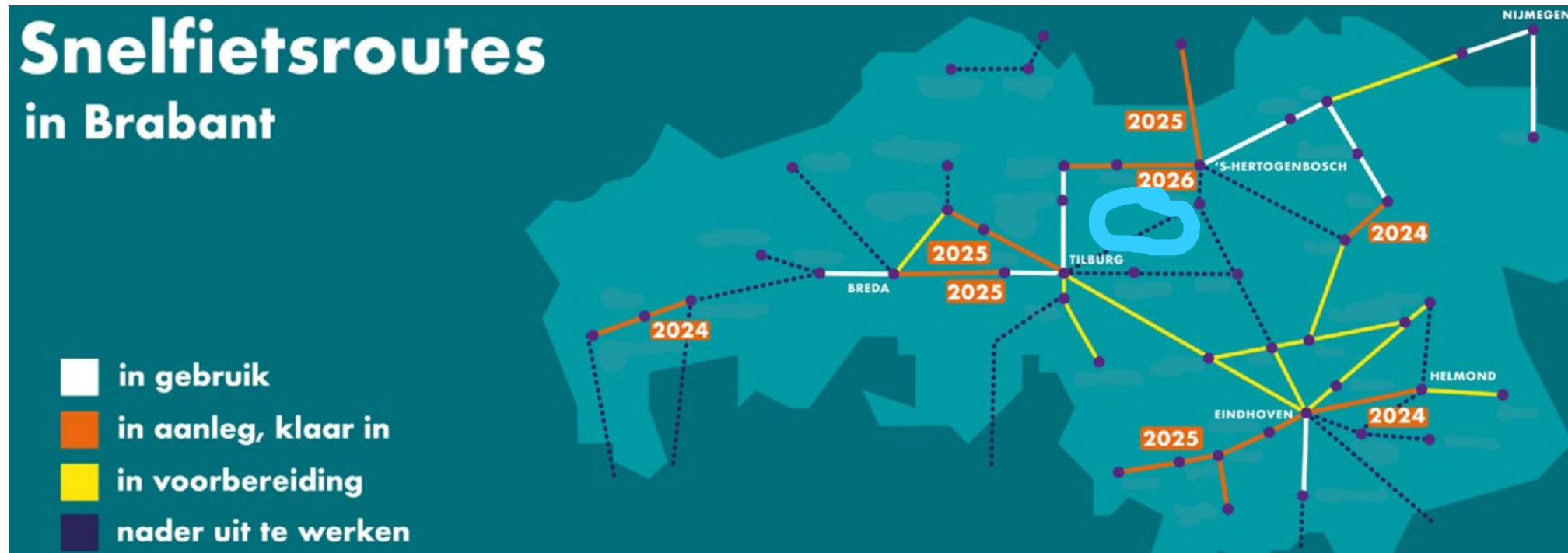


| Authority                               | Number of inhabitants |
|---|-----------------------|
| Province of Brabant (56 municipalities) | 2.600.000             |
| Eindhoven                               | 245.000               |
| Tilburg                                 | 230.000               |
| Smallest municipality                   | 7.000 (Baarle-Nassau) |



# IT STARTED WITH ... COLLABORATION OF FIVE MUNICIPALITIES

- 1st cycle highway project led to „What can we do in the whole province?“
- Realizing cycle highways based on (standard) agreements



# PROMOTION OF USING (NEW) CYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND -NETWORKS

- **Idea:** let's involve the recreation sector to promote cycling
- **Now:** Collaboration of “*Ons Brabant fietst*” (promotes cycling to employers) & “*Brabant Mobiliteitsnetwerk*” (works on accessibility of the region)
- Budget for promotion of cycle highways = 1% of the investments



Opening of the F261 in 2021



Source: <https://sjees.nl/nieuws/opening-snel-fietsroute-f261/20866>

# DETAILS ON COLLABORATION STRUCTURES ...

ONS  
BRABANT  
FIETST



- Works on promotion of cycling in the province of Noord-Brabant on behalf of the province and five bigger cities
- Collaborates with partners:
  - Breda University of Applied Sciences (BUAs)
  - Routebureau Brabant
  - Several other municipalities in the province
  - Brabant Mobiliteitsnetwerk

BMN  
Brabant  
Mobiliteitsnetwerk



700  
Werkgevers



270.000  
Medewerkers



1.321  
Maatregelen

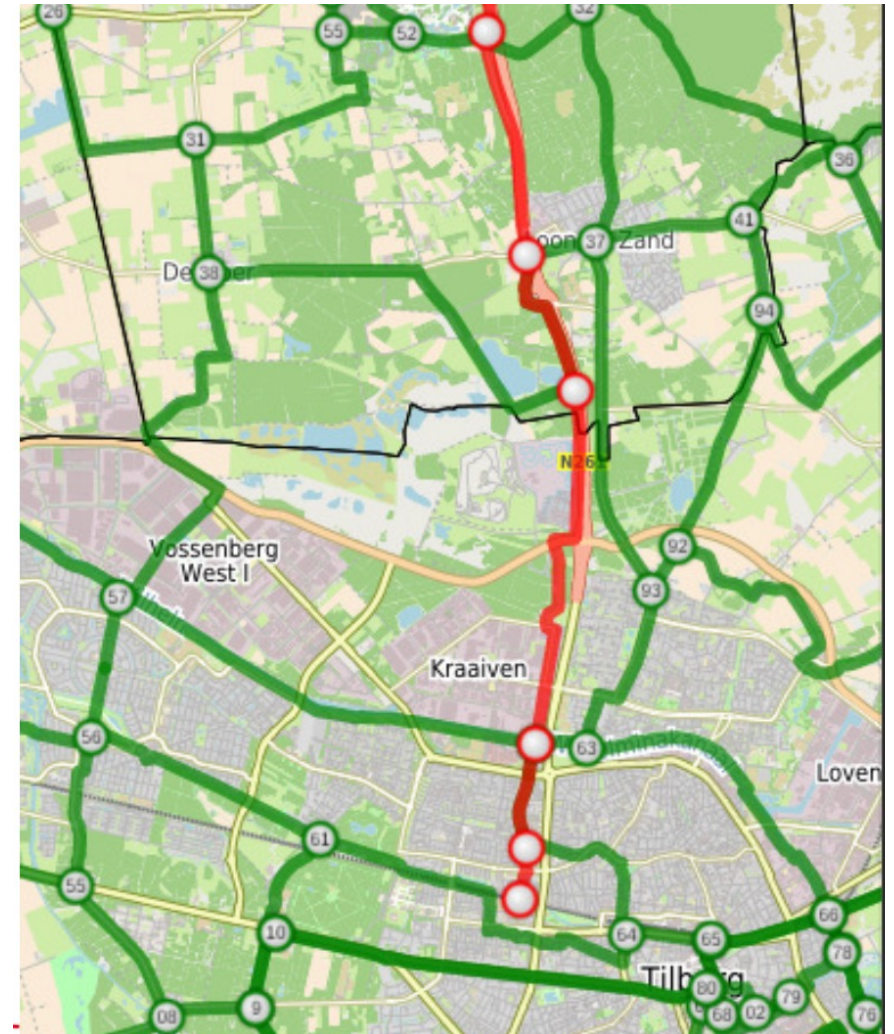


2.100  
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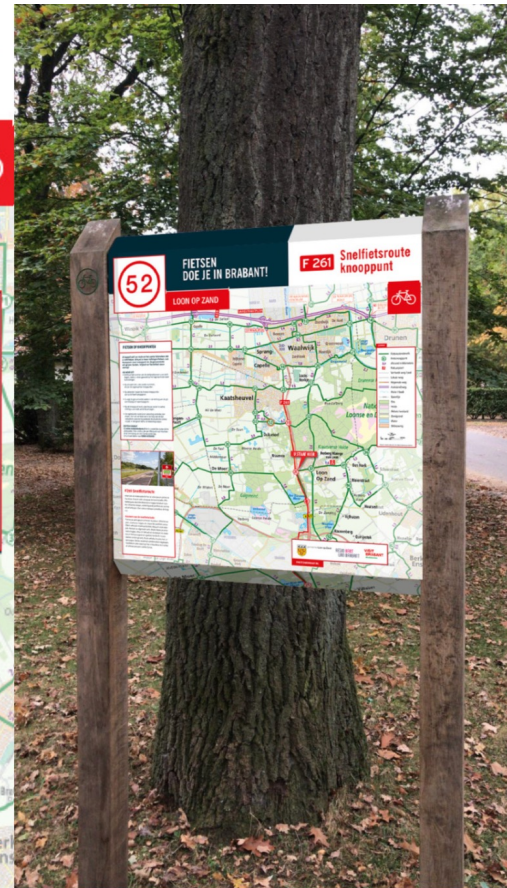


# LINKING CYCLE HIGHWAY F261 TO THE KNOOPPUNTEN-NETWERK

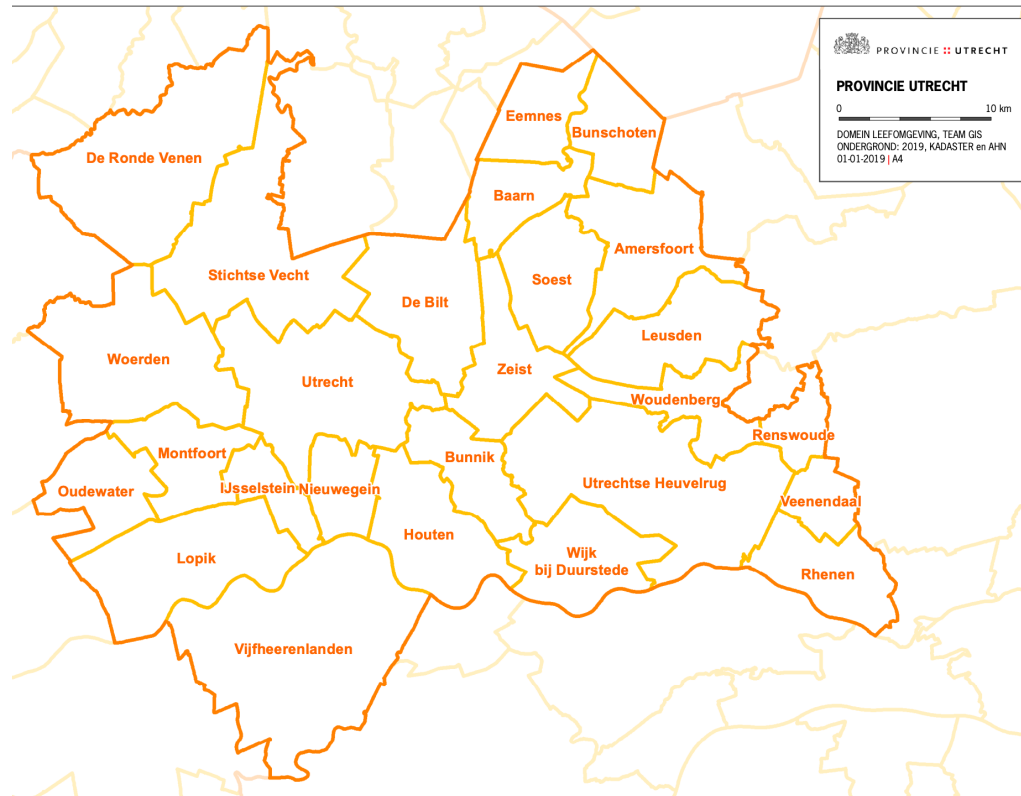
- Starting point for the idea: recreational and daily cycling enforce each other
- 1st step: Collaboration with companies to promote the F261
- 2nd step: Linking the F261 (red lines) by 9 nodes to the Knooppuntennetwerk to make the F261 visible to users of the Knooppuntennetwerk (green line), and vice versa.



# THE VISUALS – SIGNPOSTS & PANELS



# CYCLE HIGHWAY F1 UTRECHT - AMERSFOORT



| Authority                               | Number of inhabitants |
|---|-----------------------|
| Province of Utrecht (26 municipalities) | 1.345.000             |
| Utrecht                                 | 375.000               |
| Amersfoort                              | 162.000               |
| Smallest municipality                   | 6.000 (Renswoude)     |







# TWO AGREEMENTS ON BUILDING CYCLE HIGHWAY F1 UTRECHT-AMERSFOORT (21KM)

Agreement on collaboration of the  
Province of Utrecht and five  
municipalities



Samenwerkingsovereenkomst

Special Agreement of the Province  
of Utrecht with three cities on  
realization by the province



REALISATIEOVEREENKOMST



# A FEW DETAILS OF THE TWO AGREEMENTS ...

Agreement on collaboration of the Province of Utrecht and five municipalities

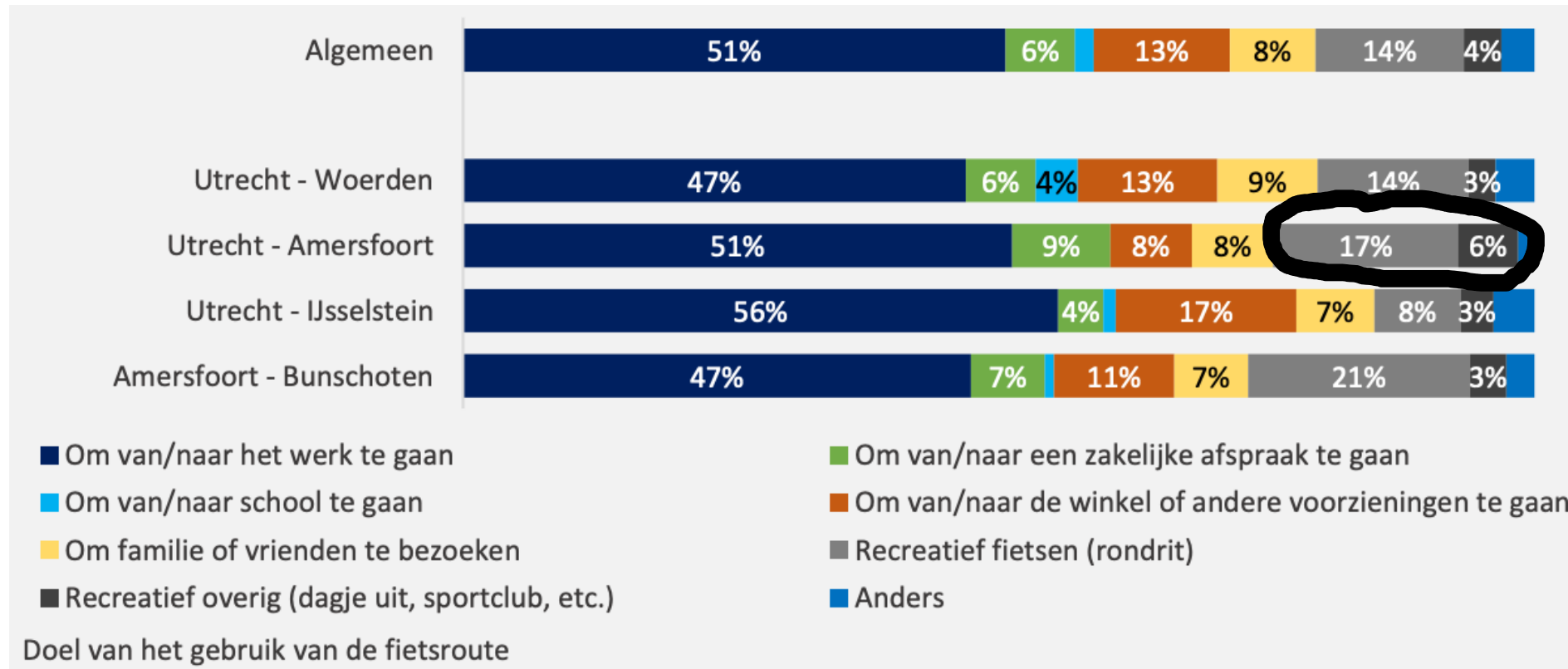
- Details on the total budget of € 11 mln ...
- Parts of the municipal sections are paid by the municipalities for 35% ... the province pays 65%.
- The national government will partly subsidize the 35% of the municipalities ...

Special Agreement of the Province of Utrecht with three cities on realization by the province

- Municipalities give access to the province to the ground ...
- The City of Amersfoort has to arrange the use of ground owned by a third party ...
- The province arranges the permits to build ...



# ZERO MEASUREMENT ON FOUR CYCLE HIGHWAYS IN THE PROVINCE OF UTRECHT



23% of the cyclists use the F1 for recreational bike rides !

Source: [https://geo.provincie-utrecht.nl/publiek/AGO/doorfietsroutes/Definitieve%20rapportage%20nulmeting%20doorfietsroutes%20Provincie%20Utrecht\\_definitief.pdf](https://geo.provincie-utrecht.nl/publiek/AGO/doorfietsroutes/Definitieve%20rapportage%20nulmeting%20doorfietsroutes%20Provincie%20Utrecht_definitief.pdf)



## The challenges:

- The gap between policies for cycling as a mode of transport and for recreational cycling
- (Often) silos in administrations
- Cycle networks cross borders of municipalities and regions
- Collaboration of different authorities need structures
- (Often) Lack of knowledge about the current infrastructure and safety issues of networks for recreation



## What does work?:

- Identifying common interests of different authorities and in different policy fields
- Using existing or creating structures for collaboration of different authorities
- Money works ...  
• Collaboration across the borders of silos in administrations
- Cycling promotion supports goals in different policies ... a good start for collaborations





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