

Wheels of Change: Rijeka's Leap Toward Sustainable Travel

Rijeka, Croatia's bustling port city, is at a critical juncture in its pursuit of sustainable urban mobility. The city's diverse population leans towards eco-friendly transportation, yet the current infrastructure presents significant challenges and opportunities for improvement.

Public Transport Under Pressure

Autotrolej, the main public transportation provider, operates an extensive bus network. However, issues with punctuality and limited coverage reduce its effectiveness, leading to greater reliance on private vehicles, which contributes to congestion and pollution.

Cycling and Walking: Untapped Potential

Rijeka's cycling infrastructure is underdeveloped, with few dedicated bike lanes, discouraging regular bicycle use. The RiCikleta project, a bike-sharing initiative, offers a convenient option for short trips. Pedestrian zones are mostly confined to the city center, leaving other areas dominated by vehicular traffic.

Embracing New Mobility Solutions

The city has seen the rise of electric scooters and car-sharing services, which are gaining traction but face growth limitations due to the lack of comprehensive regulations and infrastructure.

Charting a Sustainable Future

To tackle these challenges, Rijeka could enhance partnerships with companies like Autotrolej by upgrading the bus fleet to electric vehicles and improving service reliability. Expanding cycling infrastructure and pedestrian areas will encourage non-motorized transport. Clear regulations for electric scooters and other new mobility solutions will ensure their safe integration. Collaboration with local transport companies can foster innovative solutions tailored to Rijeka's needs. Public awareness campaigns are key to promoting sustainable mobility and fostering a culture that values eco-friendly transportation. Through coordinated efforts involving the municipality, transport companies, and the community, Rijeka can build a sustainable urban mobility framework that reduces environmental impact, alleviates traffic stress, and promotes healthier lifestyles.

By embracing these strategies, Rijeka can lead by example, showcasing how sustainable urban mobility can enhance residents' quality of life while protecting the environment.



ITS International, <https://www.itsinternational.com/its17/news/private-cars-may-be-more-popular-post-covid-experts-warn>, accessed 28 January 2025