

World first for Utrecht: P-route for cyclists

Utrecht gives priority to cyclists and pedestrians and makes bicycle parking easy. To this end, every first day of parking is free of charge in all municipal bicycle parkings, and the municipality and partners are permanently looking for smart ways to facilitate cyclists. One of these smart ways is the new 'P-route bicycle'. Utrecht is the first city in the world where digital signs are used to guide not only motorists but also cyclists to free parking spaces. Utrecht also deploys Pop-Up Parkings at busy moments and at special events. On our way to making Utrecht a **world-class bicycle city**!



P-route bicycle: 25 digital signs to 11 bicycle parkings



Manned and monitored bicycle parkings: 13 today; 16 in 2020



Bicycle parking places near Utrecht Central Station: 12.000 today; 33.000 in 2020



Satisfaction with manned and monitored bicycle parkings in the city centre: 55% in 2010; 69% in 2013. Visitors of the Jaarbeursplein bicycle parking have graded it 8 on a ten-point scale.



2016: opening bicycle parking at Vaartsche Rijn station (1.100 bicycles).



2017: opening first section of the largest bicycle parking in the world (12.500 bicycles, multiple storeys, bicycle path running through the parking).



2018: opening bicycle parking at Knoopkazerne (3.000 bicycles).



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Gemeente Utrecht

Utrecht  we all cycle

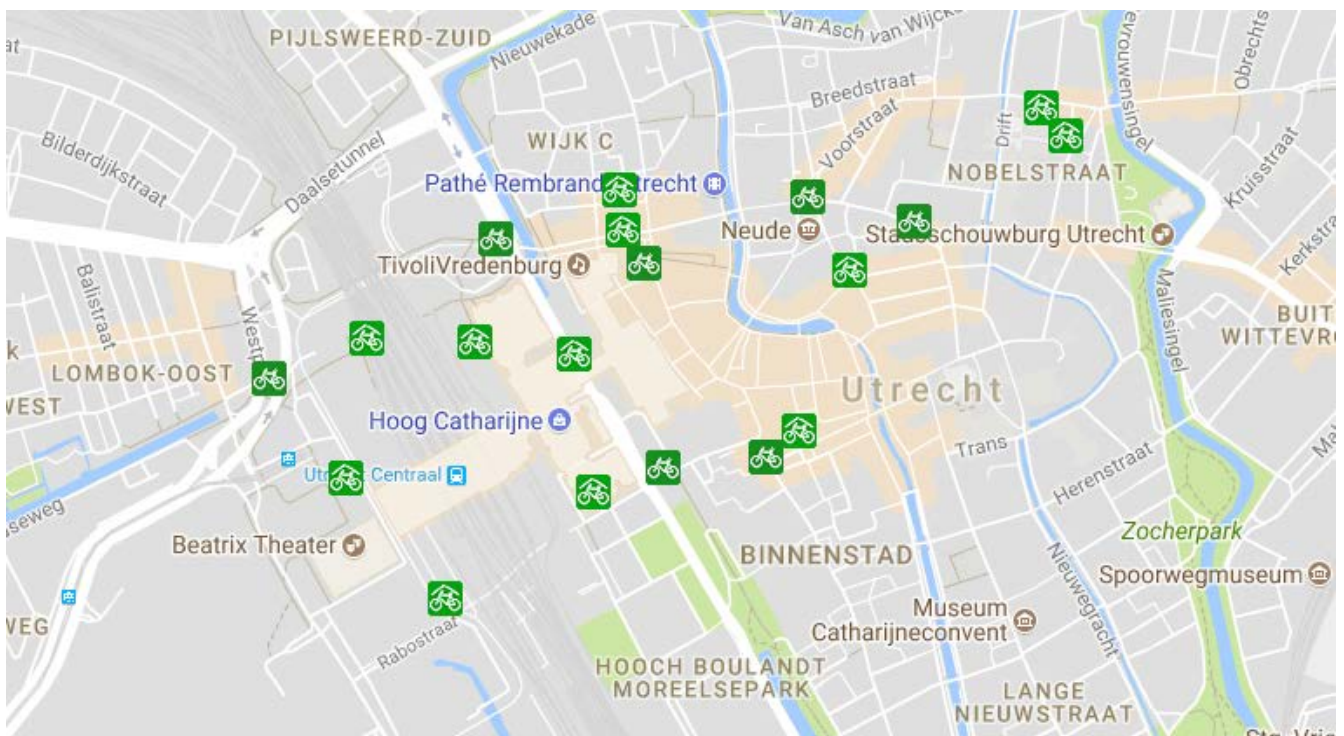
How does the p-route bicycle work?

Along the access roads to the city centre and the Railway Station Area, 25 digital signs inform cyclists of the number of free parking places in the nearest bicycle parkings and indicate the route to these parkings. If a parking is full, cyclists are guided to the nearest parking where places are available. Cyclists can use the P-route bicycle to find a place for their bicycle quickly and conveniently. The signs also serve the purpose of using the bicycle parkings to their full capacity.

The number of free parking places is established by means of an innovative detection system equipped with optical sensors. In combination with smart software these sensors detect whether or not a parking place is free. The sensors look like cameras, but the images are not captured or saved, so the cyclist's privacy is not violated. It is the first time that this innovative system is used in combination with information signs in the street for multiple parkings simultaneously.

Once the system has been in use for some time, the saved data will help predict at what time a parking is filled to its maximum capacity. At such moments, the exact number of free places can be indicated across a long distance, with the distance still to be covered by bicycle taken into account. Additionally, the system provides the municipality with readily accessible management information: the times at which the parkings are full can be displayed at the touch of a button. 'Pop Up Parkings' in the streets will then provide additional parking places in the event of peaks in parking occupancy. The data will be made available as open data.

P-route bicycle has been developed and realised by the LumiGuide/Armada Mobility combination and is financed by the municipality of Utrecht, the Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management, and the province of Utrecht.



Map with all the locations of connected bicycle parkings.

