

Groningen's Traffic Circulation Plan (1977) — Four Sectors Closed to Through Car Traffic in One Night

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Netherlands

Quality score: 76/100

Evidence strength: Strong

Summary

In 1977 Groningen split its centre into four sectors with no car links between them. Evaluations found car traffic down 47% and bus use up 12–17%, while shop effects proved milder than merchants feared; the plan was modified in 1982.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	3/3
Scalability	2/3
Sustainability / continuity	3/3
Innovation	3/3
Inclusiveness / equity	2/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-10-06

[Municipality of Groningen](#) — accessed 2026-10-06

[University of Groningen research report on the VCP's effects \(Tsubohara, 2007\)](#) — accessed 2026-10-06

[European Cyclists' Federation — Groningen city visit](#) — accessed 2026-10-06

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