



Press release of Cargo sous terrain AG
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CST: Now the cantons have their say

The federal government has launched the consultation of the cantons on the Sectoral Transport Plan, part "Underground freight transport". This is another important step towards the privately financed realisation of the Cargo sous terrain (CST) project. From 2031, CST will provide Switzerland with a comprehensively networked overall logistics system that will help to improve the quality of life.



The sectoral plan shows how CST can be integrated into urban areas and the landscape.

In a sectoral plan, the federal government defines the guidelines for nationwide spatial planning projects. It is relevant for the cantons, as their administrations are obliged to implement it. The "Underground freight transport" section of the sectoral transport plan defines the basis for the realisation of Cargo sous terrain (CST). It shows how CST can be integrated into settlement areas and the landscape. As a first step, the Federal Office of Transport is consulting the cantons. Later, the cantons will also involve the population and municipalities.

This may sound technical, but it is of eminent importance for the CST generation project: the sectoral plan marks the start of the first stage of a comprehensive authorisation procedure that will ultimately enable the construction of the first section of the CST network from Härkingen to Zurich Airport. The sectoral plan shows the planning corridor for the route of the tunnel and other construction-related planning zones. A detailed environmental impact report is also part of the consultation documents. This ensures that natural resources such as the landscape, groundwater, and farmland are protected.

Sustainable improvement in quality of life

The CST project is creating a new supply and disposal infrastructure for the benefit of the whole of Switzerland in order to safeguard the quality of life for future generations. The privately financed freight and goods transport system relieves the burden on roads and railways, enables the development of integrated residential, working, and green zones, and thus supports the goals of the municipalities and the public. With the new route for freight transport, CST is also creating the conditions for effective climate protection, as it enables the lowest CO₂ transport scenario of the future. According to a recent life cycle analysis, CST has a significantly lower environmental and climate impact than road transport, even in a future with new types of heavy goods vehicle drives.

Close coordination with authorities

CST stands for collaboration and has drawn up the planning to date in close consultation with the authorities at all levels (federal, cantonal, and municipal). In particular, the cantons along the first section of the route - Solothurn, Aargau and Zurich - will now submit their official comments on the presented planning status to the federal government before the Federal Council finally brings a revised version of the sectoral plan into force. Based on this, the project will be further refined as part of the cantonal structure plans. In this way, CST remains in close dialogue with the authorities for the further development of the project. All planning phases are accompanied by public dialogue events via various online and offline platforms, where CST provides information about the project, seeks dialogue and addresses concerns.

Further information for the media:

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