

Deutschlandtakt – the future of rail travel and transport

The Deutschlandtakt idea is a vision for the future of rail designed to guide the reorganisation of rail travel and transport throughout Germany. The aim is to raise the rail network's performance as well as make it more modern and more attractive for the future – for both passengers and freight. The project represents a paradigm shift, as for the first time the expansion of the rail network will be following a target timetable.

The target timetable: the basis for the upgrade

Diverging from previous efforts, the future upgrade of the rail network will be guided by a target timetable that lays out concrete connection targets and target travel times to improve transfers. This approach enables forward-looking planning of infrastructure measures: track segments are modernised and accelerated in a targeted manner, bottlenecks are eliminated on a lasting basis and key hubs are expanded. Taken together, this will optimise the dovetailing of local, regional, long-distance and goods transport.

Step-by-step expansion in phases thanks to strategic planning

To guide step-by-step realisation of the Deutschlandtakt idea, a **strategic implementation plan** is needed which puts the infrastructure measures required in a sensible order. A key concept for this is the phase approach: it structures the overarching upgrade into realistic step-by-step milestones and groups related infrastructure projects into appropriate phases. This enables existing construction and planning capacities to be deployed optimally and for higher-priority measures to be realised efficiently. The **Infraplan** tool – a new instrument the Federal Government is using for managing DB InfraGO AG as the infrastructure operator – is supporting realisation by monitoring progress and ensuring that the Deutschlandtakt expansion phases are undertaken in a targeted manner. **Expansion steps with concrete sub-targets** make the Deutschlandtakt plan tangible and enable ongoing improvement of the rail infrastructure.

Passenger transport with faster, more frequent and better connections

In terms of long-distance rail travel, the Deutschlandtakt plan envisions in particular connections every half hour on high-demand routes. Every 30 minutes, trains will be connecting Germany's major cities with one another. Thanks to higher capacities throughout the network and optimised connections at interchange stations, rail travel will also be improved in suburban and rural regions as well. The Deutschlandtakt plan always considers the entire mobility web as a whole.

And goods transport? Even stronger in the future.

A core characteristic of the Deutschlandtakt plan is equal consideration for freight transport. With higher capacities throughout the network, more goods can be transported via rail, shifting traffic away from roads as well as lowering the burden on the environment. Contiguous freight rail routes heighten plannability and reliability in rail goods transport. This also improves the competitive edge of rail as a transport option in comparison to other modes.

The Deutschlandtakt vision brings Europe closer

The European dimension is a part of the Deutschlandtakt vision right from the beginning. The Deutschlandtakt plan connects the entire country seamlessly with its European neighbours. With the expansion of the trans-European networks (TENs corridors), cross-border rail travel and transport will be more attractive and Germany's connections to other countries in Europe will be strengthened further.

A timetable for the future

The Deutschlandtakt plan will modernise the rail network, link up regions better and expand international connections. Thanks to clear targets and step-by-step implementation, the project will help make sustainable and more efficient mobility a reality in Germany.

Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport (BMDV)
Invalidenstraße 44, D-10115 Berlin

Phone: +49 30 18 300-0
www.deutschlandtakt.de

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