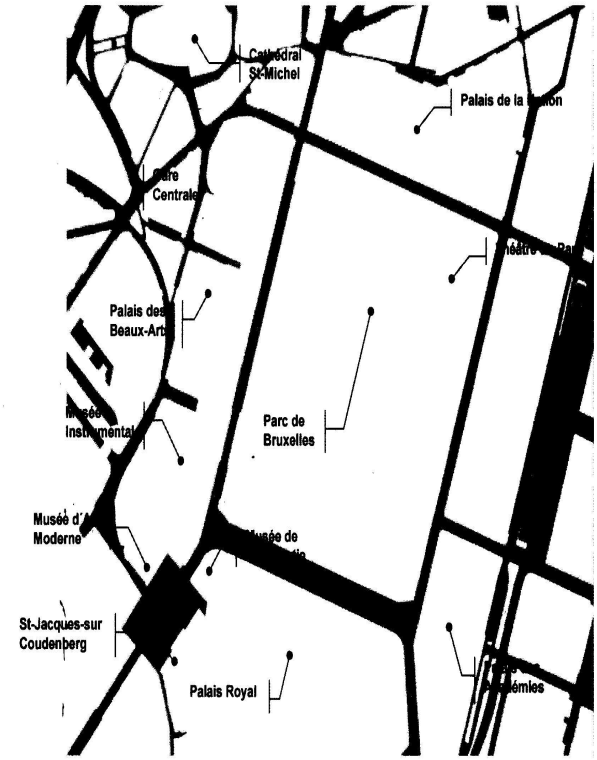
Study on the improvement of traffic safety at Place des Palais, Brussels – Summary of results

Safety issues at Place des Palais

One of the first projects ETSC has undertaken within the context of the VOICE campaign, with the aim of raising awareness of improving the safety of vulnerable road users across Europe, relates to a dangerous road junction and pedestrian crossing near the Parc de Bruxelles in Belgium's capital.

The site is in the area of the centre of the city where the historic state and capital buildings are located. The location is characterised by a road junction with an open design, few markings, high traffic density, as well as poor and frequently obstructed visibility. At the same time a large number of pedestrians attempt road crossings at the location despite its inherent dangers and many and many of these are tourists and unaware of the potential traffic dangers in the area.



Use of space and concentration of historical buildings and sites at Place des Palais and surrounding area – stress-free access to museums and historical sites should be provided to tourists and citizens.

Access to the Royal Park and surrounding areas

The pedestrian unfriendly nature of the current layout acts as a barrier decreasing access at this end of the road to the Royal Park. Brussels is not unlike other European cities in that large green open spaces are at a premium in the heart of the urban environment. Indeed, within the inner (pentagon) ring road, the Royal Park is easily the largest green public open space.

Appropriate pedestrian infrastructure crossing at the location would ease the utilisation of this important urban resource. It would also contribute to a more pedestrian-friendly environment in a location with large numbers of pedestrian tourist visitors. This would mean many more tourists would have an enhanced experience of their visit to this important location within Belgium.

Study results

Against the background of this unsatisfying situation, the study suggests possible solutions for improving the safety of vulnerable road users at this important site.

The types of interventions proposed all incorporate:

- changing the layout of pedestrian crossings,
- constructing cycle paths and –lanes,
- improving the visibility,
- managing the traffic flow and reducing the speed of motorised transport,
- upgrading the lighting and sign-posting,
- installing traffic lights,
- generally harmonising traffic flows.

The suggestions reflect "Best Practice" in urban safety management in that they contribute to the creation of a barrier-free network of pavements and cycle paths as well as the separation of transport modes.

Reference

Study completed by Bode • Williams + Partner on 30 April 2004 on behalf of the European Transport Safety Council.

Original title: *Studie zur Verbesserung der Verkehrs-sicherheit am Schlossplatz in Brüssel.*