

To: Municipality of Amsterdam, Reinier van Dantzig, Wethouder Woningbouw en Stedelijke Ontwikkeling

In short

There is a massive expansion planned for the Amsterdam South A10 motorway from 4 to 6 lanes in each direction. This widening into a 12 lane road will lead to more traffic and therefore more traffic noise, more air pollution and even more traffic jams. Planned costs are exceeding 1 billion euros and could be better invested in other infrastructure. We call upon the municipality of Amsterdam to withhold funding and find alternative solutions.

Stop Road Widening A10 South Amsterdam

Zuidasdok [1] is one of the largest infrastructure projects of the Netherlands. Its goal is to improve the accessibility of the Amsterdam Zuidas district as well as the northern part of the Randstad conurbation, both by road and with public transport. A large part of the project consists in widening and tunnelling the A10 South motorway.

The plan is to enlarge it from 4 to an astonishing 6 lanes in each direction. This will create a 12 lane motorway right across one of the most densely populated areas of the city.

This is a bad idea for multiple reasons:

- Wider motorways lead to more traffic [2]. More traffic means more pollution, more noise, higher risk of accidents and more traffic jams.
- More traffic on the motorway will also lead to more congestion in the city of Amsterdam. This goes directly against all the plans for an autoluw / nearly-car-free Amsterdam.
- It is extremely expensive. The costs of the operation for the planned length of 1 km in both directions are estimated at more than 1 billion euros (€1,000,000,000). The budget is likely to be exceeded [3].

While the project has officially been approved by the national government, the financial aspect has not yet received the green light.

Currently, the municipality of Amsterdam is struggling to gather sufficient funds for the project and is considering to only widen the A10, but not tunnel it(!) [4]. This would be detrimental for the livability of the south of Amsterdam.

Therefore, we call upon the municipality of Amsterdam to withhold any funding until the current plan is improved. We want a revised plan that does not involve spending billions of euros to enlarge and possibly tunnel the A10.

We suggest some potential alternatives:

- Lower speed limits (max 70 or 80 km/h) on the A10 ring road. This would not only improve traffic flow, but also reduce noise and pollution. As such, widening and tunnelling the motorway would become unnecessary.
- Improve the quality of public transport in Amsterdam and the region around the city. Make it accessible and cheaper for everyone.

Why this matters

Building larger motorways leads directly to more traffic and associated nuisances. This includes air pollution, traffic noise, accidents as well as increased congestion in the city.

We want a city that's livable and accessible for everybody. That's why we are opposed to the widening of the A10 motorway!

Links, sources and more information

[1] For more information on Zuidasdok, check zuidas.nl

[2] More and wider motorways cause more traffic and more traffic jams. See this video from the Canadian-Amsterdam Youtuber NotJustBikes for a good explanation (in English). For the scientifically minded, [this paper](#) explains how more roads will cause more traffic.

[3] Budget exceeding for Dutch motorway projects are on average close to 20%, see for example [this paper](#)

[4] See local news AT5 for [updates](#) (in Dutch).