

Initiative Proposal Traffic Safety

FRONT

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

16th November 2018

Introduction

Tilburg University is growing, every year more students are moving themselves around the campus and Front notices that the traffic safety is negatively influenced by the growing amount of students. Last year, a traffic expert labelled the current traffic situation on campus as an organised chaos. According to this expert, bike lanes would lead to a less safe campus. But, Front observes that pedestrians and cyclists are not the only road users on campus. People are driving scooters, motors, cars and even trucks across the campus at relatively high speed. To guarantee the safety of the students and employees of Tilburg University, Front proposes that only pedestrians, cyclists and destination traffic is allowed on campus. In the opinion of Front, destination traffic are parties who have a written agreement with the university to execute their services on the campus.

Approach

Most of the students move over the axes of the campus, indicated with blue in picture 1 in the appendix. Therefore, most of the dangers will develop there, potential accidents that Front wants to prevent from happening. In the current situation, drivers of motorised vehicles use the axes of the campus to reach their destination on campus as quickly as possible, or use the axes as a shortcut because otherwise, they would have to drive around the campus. To discourage driving motorised vehicles on campus, Front suggests that several actions are taken by Tilburg University:

1. Front proposes to create two parking spots especially for motors and scooters. The parking spots are indicated with red in picture 1, because of the two different locations, an employee or student never has to cross the whole campus to arrive on his/her destination. The covered storage at building A could be transformed into a covered storage only for motors and scooters, in this case the vehicles stay dry.
2. It will be impossible for drivers of motorised vehicles to use the axes of the campus as a shortcut if the initiative proposal submitted by Front about parking tariffs is implemented, since the barriers installed will block the passage. As a result, the campus will not only be more sustainable, but also safer.
3. Drivers of motorised vehicles should be warned about the new policy, for instance, Tilburg University could place signs, and update the website.

4. In the optimal situation, no motorised vehicles are driven on campus between 9 am and 5 pm. But Front acknowledges that this might be hard to maintain. Therefore, Front suggests to make better use of the barrier that is already installed behind building Esplanade. Via this entrance, cars and trucks can still enter the campus. Front acknowledges that partners of Tilburg University should be able to drive across the campus, but by using the barrier, Tilburg University is able to better regulate the traffic situation on the campus. For instance, a quarter before and a quarter after the start of a new lecture, cars and trucks are not allowed to enter or leave the campus through this entrance, because the barrier is lowered. Tilburg University could make agreements with external partners about time slots in which it is not allowed to enter/leave the campus or drive across campus, the following time slots are suggested:

- 08:30-09:00
- 10:30-11:00
- 12:30-13:00
- 14:30-15:00
- 16:30-17:00

In this way, Tilburg University guarantees more safety for its employees and students.

5. A road should be made behind the Restaurant building and the Dante building to ensure that drivers of motors and scooters can easily access the parking spots below the Koopmans building.

Control

Students and employees should be well informed about the new rules and the parking places for motors and scooters. If the new rules are not followed and vehicles are wrongly parked, they can be chained up or a wheel clamp could be used. When the owner wants to use its vehicle again, they need to go to the security and their name could be registered. At the Erasmus University in Rotterdam, people have to pay a fine of 25 euros when vehicles are wrongly parked. Front suggests that Tilburg University looks into the possible sanctions that it can take against the violation of the new rules. In this way, Front hopes to discourage people using motorised vehicles on the campus.

Conclusion

Due to the growth of Tilburg University, the traffic safety on campus is under pressure. Besides pedestrians and cyclists, drivers of motors, scooters, cars, and trucks are driving over the campus at relatively high speed. This is a negative development in the opinion of Front, and therefore, should be solved. It is not a question if accidents will happen but when. Front suggests that only pedestrians and cyclists are allowed on campus. The two parking spots for scooters and motors, in combination with the barriers as a result of the initiative about parking tariffs, will prevent that drivers use the axes of the campus. With external partners, agreements should be made about driving cars and trucks to create a safer campus. At last, signs should be placed to warn students and employees about the new policy to make sure they are well informed.

APPENDIX 1





FRONT

GOING THE EXTRA MILE