



## Hlemmur Mobility Hub

### Birth of Hlemmur Mobility Hub

A crucial report on transport habits in Reykjavík was released in 2019. The use of private car is high and accounts for 70% of all trips, with 7% of trips in the city are made by bicycle. With a national effort underway, Reykjavík is equipped to realise its ambitious targets of increasing public transit use from 4% to 12% and pedestrian/cycling modes from 19% to over 30% by 2030. Reykjavík has a variety of mobility solutions as well as strategies for further implementation of sustainable mobility solutions, including the establishment of mobility hub. Hlemmur was selected as the demonstrator.

2019



## PEDs via the establishment of green housing and mobility hub

Being blessed by the abundance of renewable energy, the City of Reykjavík opt for the multifaced solutions of greener construction and mobility to tackle climate challenges as those are the highest GHG sectors.

SPARCS RVK piloted two projects (1) Green Housing for the Future, and (2) Hlemmur Mobility Hub, based on the result of Innovation Workshop carried out in May 2021. Both greener construction and transport hub are new idea to the City of Reykjavík, with their concepts align with the direction of the Reykjavík Green Deal, the overall strategy and actions outlining the City's vision for the future up to 2030.

Besides environmental sustainability, these projects also address social and economic sustainability aspects; such as increase motivation for energy transition within the construction industry by incentive offers, increase housing supply, and shifting the habitual behaviour of dependence on private vehicles.

## Replication and Upscaling

### Green Housing for the Future:

The City of Reykjavík selected five sites for green housing, and offered up to 58% discount of the plots to the developers, who have teamed up with an architecture firm and submitted their proposals, with their commitment on the reduction in GHG emission and green construction strategies, via an open call competition. The criteria is site-specific. A jury of panel was appointed for the evaluation. All sites are currently at the contract negotiations stage. At the meantime, the project has entered the upscaling and pre-replication stage. SPARCS RVK team is part of the working group "Build a Green Future", a joint programme between the cross-functional departments of the City of Reykjavík, engineering companies, architecture firms and the Green Building Council, with the objective to establish the Green Building Guidelines for Iceland. The City is also exploring the potential to have Green Housing Phase II, in addition to using this incentive-based model in other public projects, such as the elderly housing in planning.

### Hlemmur Mobility Hub:

Hlemmur is a compact area with a bus station in downtown. The City of Reykjavík decided to transform this historic bus terminal into the first mobility hub by replacing the existing car-centric urban design into pedestrian-centric area, with increased greenery, added communal area and services, and shared- and micro-mobility facilities. This serves as a learning phase for the potential mobility hubs around the city, including BSÍ, the terminal for all airport buses between Keflavik International Airport and downtown Reykjavík.

### Detail Design Proposal

The ground and surface works are divided into a number of phases. Detail design were published and undergone review process. Meanwhile, the Environment and Planning Division liaise with start-ups and service providers on the implementation of innovative technology and community service in the area, so to transform Hlemmur into a community space, in contrast to the existing car-oriented urban design strategy.

2021



2020

### Open Call for Ideas

A draft call for ideas for a new local planning design was first introduced in a meeting of Reykjavík's Environment and Planning Council. Feasibility study and site survey were carried out. Two winning teams were mandated to jointly elaborate a preliminary design, the Environment and Planning Division introduced a description of this local planning design to the Planning Committee which forwarded the issue to the Environment and Planning Council which, again, agreed to push the plans forward to the City council.

### Construction Phase IA and IB Completed

Construction of Phase II, Laugavegur street, is completed. The car-oriented street is transformed into a square that is now finished with snow- and ice-melting ground tiles, street furniture and bluegreen solutions to manage rainwater with large greeneries, preparing the square for bicycle parking and a charging system. A press release is published.

2023



2022

### Commencement of Construction

The estimate of total construction time was 6 years, starting mid-year 2022. Three of which are scheduled for completion end-of-year 2023. Phase IA, IB and II began.

2024

### Construction Continues; More Mobility Hubs Coming

Hlemmur Mobility Hub is the first multi-modal mobility hub in the City. This acts as a demonstrator for future mobility hubs. One of the potential will be BSÍ, the existing bus terminal for all airport buses between the KEF international airport and downtown Reykjavík. Alongside the new urban densification and 15-minute neighbourhood strategy in the neighbourhood planning, it is expected to establish more mobility hubs in the future, which shall contribute to the ultimate goal to reduce greenhouse gas emission.



## Contact

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