

2 Months of road works in Port of Antwerp – Severe traffic disruption expected

In the summer of 2017 (July-August), the Agency for Roads and Traffic (AWV) will replace the concrete pavement of the R2 road between the Liefkenshoektunnel and the Tijsmanstunnel with a new asphalt pavement. The road pavement in this location is heavily burdened and urgently needs replacing. The previously planned works to the Lillo complex itself have been postponed and will not be executed this year. To limit disruption, AWV will carry out the works during the summer holidays. The works will be done in two stages. Depending on the stage, the traffic situation in the surrounding area of the Lillo (no 12) complex will change.

Thorough reconstruction in view of fewer disruptions and more comfort

The pavement of the R2 road is in very poor condition. Over the past year, AWV had to carry out several emergency repairs, which caused great disruption. AWV must therefore take structural measures as soon as possible. With the planned reconstruction the Agency wants to increase driving comfort and safety and reduce the number of emergency repairs.

Concrete pavement replaced with asphalt

The concrete pavement of the R2 road between the Liefkenshoektunnel and the Tijsmanstunnel will be completely removed and, after the necessary soil improvements have been made, be replaced with a new asphalt road structure. New concrete lane separators will be installed and at the mouths of the Tijsmanstunnel and the Liefkenshoektunnel AWV will place new anchorage abutments which will connect the asphalt with the concrete slabs in the tunnels.

In total, a strip of around 450 metres will be reconstructed in both directions of travel. No works will be carried out to the concrete pavement belonging to the tunnel construction (and which stretches beyond the covered part of the tunnel structure).

Reconstruction at the entry and exit complex of Lillo (no 12)

The works which were originally planned to reconstruct the Lillo complex and adjust it to improve the traffic flow will not be carried out this year. The procedures required to execute these works could not be successfully completed in time. However, in the zones of the complex where no works will be carried out next year, a new asphalt pavement will already be constructed. The other works to the complex will probably be carried out in the summer of 2018. Given the fact that the connections of the complex are located in the roadwork zone of the R2 road, the complex will be partially closed during the works on the R2.

Local concrete repairs on the R2

During the works between the Tijsmanstunnel and the Liefkenshoektunnel short-term and local repairs will also be carried out to the concrete pavement of other sections of the R2. The exact location and timing of these repair works will be communicated as soon as possible. These works will

be carried out together with the large-scale reconstruction works in order to cause the least possible disruption, given the ongoing works, and reduce the duration of the disruptions to a minimum.

Stages and disruptions

The works will be carried out in two stages. During the first stage the roadway in the direction of the Tijdsmanstunnel will be dealt with. The opposite side of the road will be tackled during the second stage. Each stage will take one month.

STAGE 1 (3 July-early August): 1 lane on R2 - no additional disruption on Lillo complex

In July, AWW will replace the pavement of the R2 in the direction of the Tijdsmanstunnel. During this stage traffic will continue to be possible on the R2 in the direction of the Tijdsmanstunnel in one narrowed lane. Traffic coming from the Scheldelaan that wants to drive onto the R2 in the direction of the A12 will be able to do so via the Tijdsmanstunnel West where a temporary slip road will give access to the R2. The traffic in the direction of the Liefkenshoektunnel will be directed into two narrowed lanes. All slip roads will remain open.



Phase 2 (early-late August 2017): northern slip roads closed

In August (phase 2), AWV will replace the pavement of the R2 in the direction of the Liefkenshoektunnel. During stage 2 through traffic will continue to be possible on the R2 in the direction of the Liefkenshoektunnel in one narrowed lane. The traffic in the direction of the Tijismanstunnel will be directed into two narrowed lanes. The connections between the R2 in the direction of the Liefkenshoektunnel and the Scheldelaan (N101) will be closed off.

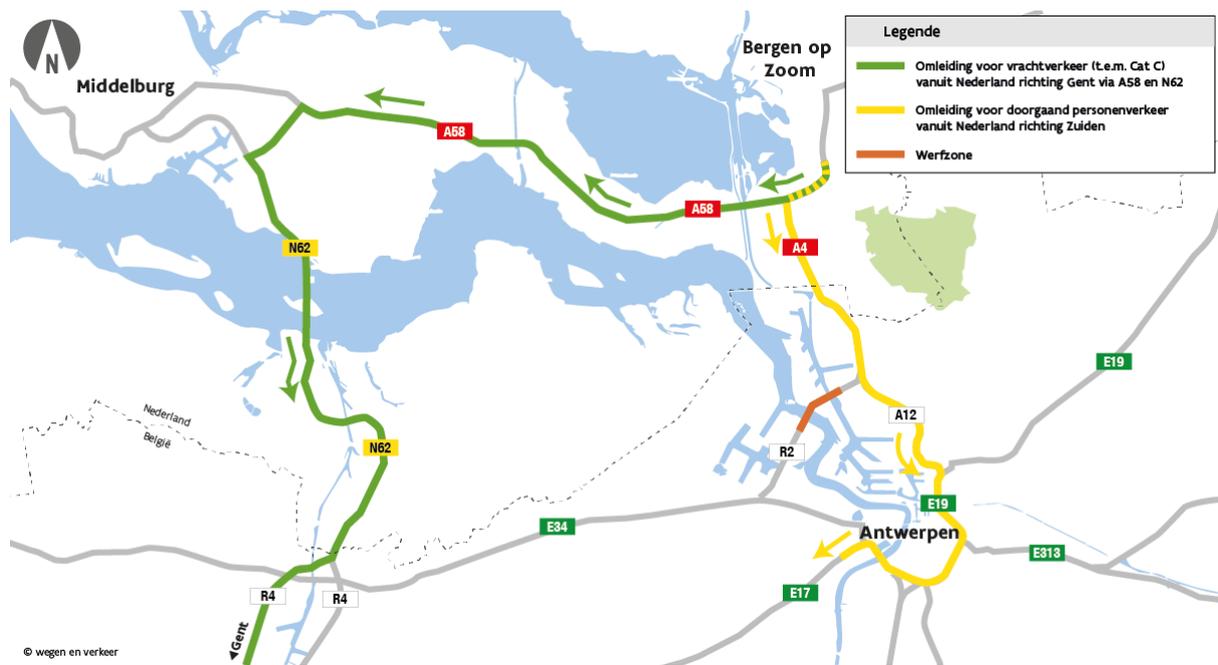
The traffic travelling from the Scheldelaan (N101) in the direction of the Liefkenshoektunnel can drive onto the R2 in the direction of Tijismanstunnel and turn at the Kanaaldok complex. The traffic coming from the R2 in the direction of the Scheldelaan (N101) must follow a diversion from the Antwerp-Port complex via the A12 and the Zandvliet complex (no 11) to the Scheldelaan (N101).





Long distance transports

Long distance transports from north to south should avoid the R2. Transports from and to the Netherlands and back can use an alternative route following A58 > N62 (Westerscheldetunnel) > R4 (green route on the map below – the yellow route is for passenger travel only). Be aware that transport category A and B are not allowed to cross the Westerscheldetunnel.



Measures for fewer disruptions

The Agency is aware that the works will cause great disruption. To mitigate these disruptions we will be taking the following measures:

- These major works will be carried out in a very short time span. This period has been deliberately limited to the holidays, because this will cause less impact on traffic.
- The works will be spread over two stages to still allow traffic on the R2 in both directions at all times.
- Two lanes will remain accessible in the travel direction where no works are carried out.
- The contractor has been given permission to work 24/7 to carry out the works as soon as possible. In practical terms, the work will be carried out in two shifts and the weekends will be reserved as a buffer to respond to unforeseen circumstances or potential delays. The works will continue during the construction holidays.
- During stage 1 a temporary slip road will be constructed to maintain an optimal traffic flow on the Lillo complex.