

Guidelines for Regional public transport authorities

CONCEPTS AND METHODS FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT

Background

In accordance with the stipulations of the EU Regulations of Public Transport (1370/2007), which forms the basis for the Swedish Public Transport Act (SFS 2010:1065), the Regional public transport authorities shall annually publish a report regarding the publicly procured or directly awarded public transport services in the county.

Today there are no sanctions that apply if the annual report is not drawn up. At the same time, discussions are being held within many authorities concerning ways in which to follow up the operation and transport supply programme. An annual report based on EU guidelines could be one way among many in which to do this. Such a report can also be published and can provide information to various interest groups in the surrounding environment.



The EU's Public Transport Regulation

The new public transport regulation of the European Union came into force in December 2009. The then transport parent bodies, in Sweden THM, were regarded as the competent authorities. From the 1 November 2012 the new Regional public transport authorities, RKM, took over. In Article 7 of the EU's public transport regulation, the requirement for an annual report and the recommended content thereof is described. According to the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKL) there is, in the present situation, no such report published within the EU.

This issue is also mentioned in the government proposition 2011/12:76 with supplements to the Public Transport Act (Section 4.2.2):

Making public

”A further step in the direction towards openness and transparency is the stipulation that every competent authority shall, within its own area of authority, publish annually an overall report on the public traffic service obligation, including therein information concerning the selected public transport companies as well as the compensation and exclusive rights that these public transport companies have been granted. The report is to distinguish between bus traffic and rail-bound traffic, as well as to enable control and evaluation of the efficiency, quality and funding of the public transport net.

The authorities shall publish their contracted operators, as well as the methods of assignment that are planned, in the official newspaper of the European Union at the latest one year before the initiation of the free tendering procedure or before a contract is directly awarded. Contracts concerning the provision of a maximum of 50,000 km of public transport per year do not need to be published. On request by the concerned party, the authorities are obliged to account for the reasons for their decision to award a specific contract for public transport.”

These guidelines are a part of SKL's support to the Regional public traffic authorities who wish to draw up an annual report. The guidelines have been drawn up by a working party within SKL with representatives for the administration managers from the regional public transport authorities as well as employees from SKL. Consultation has taken place with authorities such as Trafikanalys (Transport Analysis).



What is to be included?

Article 7 of EU Public Passenger Transport Regulation 1370/2007.

“Each competent authority shall make public once a year an aggregated report on the public service obligations for which it is responsible, the selected public service operators and the compensation payments and exclusive rights granted to the said public service operators by way of reimbursement. This report shall distinguish between bus transport and rail transport, allow the performance, quality and financing of the public transport network to be monitored and assessed and, if appropriate, provide information on the nature and extent of any exclusive rights granted.”

The requirements of the EU’s Public Transport Regulation can be divided into two blocks, the first very detailed and the second more general:

Contents, block 1:

- Selected public service operators (list)
- Decisions made concerning public service obligations (register)
- Compensation payments for the contracts in force for each contracting entity, separate accounts for rail and bus transport
- Any exclusive rights/directly awarded contracts and reasons for these

Block 1 contains data that the regional public transport service authority must be able, in its capacity of public authority, to publish in different ways, since they relate to decisions or entered contracts which are to be seen, entirely or partially, as public documents. Thus, by systematically compiling these, their own work can be facilitated.

The annual investigation initiated by Transport Analyses (a government agency for transport analysis) in 2013 of concluded contracts between the country’s RKM (regional public transport authorities) and private entrepreneurs in public transport shall, both in aggregated form and on detailed levels be made available to every RKM in accordance with the agreement made with Traffic Analysis in the second half of the year 2013. This compilation should be included as a part of the RKM’s Annual Report. In so doing the reports drawn up by Traffic Analysis with the help of data from RKM are also used and quality assured.

Contents, block 2:

- The effectiveness of the public transport net (degree of tax subsidy, junctions etc.)
- The quality of the public transport net (CSI, accessibility, rail transport punctuality can be acquired from Swedish Transport Administration)
- The financing of the public transport net (traffic, infrastructure, maintenance – figures that are reported in and can be acquired from Traffic Analysis’ compilation, Local and Regional Public Transport)

The data in block 2 are decidedly more comprehensive and general. In some of the transport supply programmes that have been published so far, parts of these

data are described, for example in the current situation analysis and back-grounds. Also, the work performed within the framework of SKL's open comparisons corresponds with what is required. Thus, a reference to, or quotation from, SKL's open comparisons for public transport, should sufficiently serve as an account of the many details that are required. Data from "Local and Regional Public Transport" from Traffic Analysis can also be used.

Today, the question of how the concept of "Fully accessible junctions" shall, and can, be accounted for. Together with many other interested parties in the sector, SKL has called attention to this difficulty. In this regard, responsible authorities on a national level need to agree upon a definition.

Publication

Since the publication is to be published annually it is an appropriate decision-making task for the regional public transport board. In this way the report becomes public and can be spread via accessible channels.



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The EU's Public Transport Regulation and the Swedish Public Transport Act implied several new commitments for the regions, for regional associations, county councils and municipal associations. One such commitment is that of an Annual Report on public transport. In these guidelines concepts are explained and suggestions provided for methods and sources for the compilation of an Annual Report on public transport.

For information on the contents
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© Sveriges Kommuner och Landsting, 2013
ISBN/Order number: 5339
Illustration/photography: Photographer Thomas Henrikson
Production: Birgitta Granberg

Order or download on webbutik.skl.se. ISBN/Beställningsnummer 5339