Innercity as a meeting zone – Experiences, Chances and Challenges
Erfurt / Germany
Historical inner city of Erfurt

Size: 2.44 km²
Population density: 7,619 inh./km²
The „Meeting Zone“

The Meeting Zone shall be a center of encounter, exchange, linger and well-being that raises the urban life quality.
Stakeholders in the process of implementing the Meeting Zone

- Customers
- Residents
- Investors
- Retailers
- Commuters
- Tourists
- Citizens
Today's Pedestrian Zone in the late 60's and early 70's
Implementation/Transformation of the pedestrian zone in the late 70's
Erfurts Pedestrian Zone Today
Erfurts Pedestrian Zone Today
Steps towards the Meeting Zone

1976 - 1978 Implementation of the pedestrian zone

Raise of Population in the inner city through the construction of big apartment blocks

Increased traffic through increased car ownership

Focus on accessibility of the pedestrian zone through:
  - expansion of road infrastructure
  - expansion of parking spaces
  - Expansion of the public transport network (TRAM)
Steps towards the Meeting Zone


- Continual restoration to improve attractiveness of the pedestrian zone
- Vision of expanding the concept of a traffic free inner city

Problem:
- High traffic around the pedestrian zone
- Small section parking spaces leads to high parking search traffic
- High delivery traffic in the pedestrian zone
Steps towards the Meeting Zone


Measures:

- Traffic calming in the inner city
- Reduction of small section parking spaces
- Construction of parking garages at the outskirts of the inner city
Steps towards the Meeting Zone

Measures:

- Traffic calming in the inner city
- Reduction of small section parking spaces
- Construction of parking garages at the outskirts of the inner city
- Implementation of a parking guide system
- Targeted funding of private underground car parking spaces
Steps towards the Meeting Zone


Effects:
+ Reduced traffic and noise
+ Increased quality of stay
- Disappearance of customers
- Residential areas were used for parking
- Still high parking search traffic
- Illegal parking increased
- Freight traffic disturbed the impression

Unexpected:
Increased number of commuter parking in the edge of the inner city
Steps towards the Meeting Zone

Measures

- Establishing concept of the Meeting Zone
- Parking spaces within the meeting zone only for residents
Steps towards the Meeting Zone


Measures

- Establishing concept of the Meeting Zone
- Parking spaces within the meeting zone only for residents
- (High) Parking Fees around the meeting zone
- Increased inspection pressure
Steps towards the Meeting Zone


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- Establishing concept of the Meeting Zone
- Parking spaces within the meeting zone only for residents
- (High) Parking Fees around the meeting zone
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- Implementation of delivery times and testing of central delivery stations
Steps towards the Meeting Zone


Measures

• Establishing concept of the Meeting Zone
• Parking spaces within the meeting zone only for residents
• (High) Parking Fees around the meeting zone
• Increased inspection pressure
• Implementation of delivery times and testing of central delivery stations
**Steps towards the Meeting Zone**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>- Establishing concept of the Meeting Zone</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>- Parking spaces within the meeting zone only for residents</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>- (High) Parking Fees around the meeting zone</td>
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<td>2020</td>
<td>- Increased inspection pressure</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Implementation of delivery times and testing of central delivery stations</td>
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<tr>
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<td>- Blocking further roads for transit traffic</td>
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**Civitas Forum Conference – Torres Vedras - 29.09.2017**
Steps towards the Meeting Zone


Measures
- Establishing concept of the Meeting Zone
- Parking spaces within the meeting zone only for residents
- (High) Parking Fees around the meeting zone
- Increased inspection pressure
- Implementation of delivery times and testing of central delivery stations
- Blocking further roads for transit traffic
- Higher focus on cyclists
Steps towards the Meeting Zone

|------|------|------|------|

Measures

- Establishing concept of the Meeting Zone
- Parking spaces within the meeting zone only for residents
- (High) Parking Fees around the meeting zone
- Increased inspection pressure
- Implementation of delivery times and testing of central delivery stations
- Blocking further roads for transit traffic
- Higher focus on cyclists
- Implementation of P+R
Steps towards the Meeting Zone

1976 - 1994 - 2012 - 2020

Effects

+ Perceptible decrease of traffic within the meeting zone
+ Reduced pollution and noise
+ Increased quality of stay
- Inner city becomes unattractive for quick errands
- Retailers lament Disappearance of customers
- Commuter parking in the residential areas around the inner city instead of using P+R
Steps towards the Meeting Zone


Ongoing Challenges

- Changing the mind of people and their behavior
- Improving communication with citizens (evidence and argument)
- Retailers should be able to provide special conditions for parking or use of public transport
- Creating incentives for commuters to use park and ride through special conditions on public transport
- Offering special conditions for movement to and within the meeting zone using PT
Next step: Raising the quality of stay
Thank’s for your attention!