

URBAN RESEARCH Dec 6th

Title: Urban Station Communities: What are they and what will they become?

Date: December the 6th, 2013

Location: Gothenburg, [Vera Sandbergs Allé 8](#), at Vasa 6 (Chalmers Vasa-området)

Time: 1.00 - 4.00pm with possibilities for continuing discussions during an after work at Chalmersvillan the Library, Gibraltargatan 1a, (next door to Vasa 6).

Purpose: Discuss challenges about urban planning in station communities and develop research questions to enable a research project about urban station communities. See below.

Invited guest: Anne Leemans, Brussels, Secretary - General at the Yellow Design Foundation.

Registration: [Link](#) (at the latest the Dec 2nd)

Questions?: Amie Ramstedt, amie.ramstedt@grkom.se, +46 (0) 303-738218

Alice Dahlstrand, alice.dahlstrand@trafikverket.se, +46 (0)10-1235983,
+46 (0) 70-2548872

Program:

1.00–1.15pm Introduction, Ann-Louise Hohlfält and Jessica Algehed, Mistra Urban Futures

1.15–2.00pm Low Carbon stations for Low carbon cities- Quick-scan desk research on trends, challenges and opportunities in adapting urban interchanges for low carbon future, Anne Leemans, Yellow Design Foundation

2.00–2.30pm The creation of a project to develop Urban Station Communities. What challenges do municipalities and government agencies face and what are their needs of knowledge? Alice Dahlstrand, Trafikverket and Amie Ramstedt, Göteborgsregionens Kommunalförbund.

2.30–2.45pm Coffee break

2.45–4.00pm Discussions

4.00pm- After Work at Chalmersvillan

The Development of Urban Station Communities - towards resource-efficiency and sustainable lifestyles? (Mistra Urban Futures) A project group with members from Göteborgsregionens Kommunalförbund, Trafikverket, Göteborgs Universitet and Chalmers have conducted a general literary review of what is known about station societies and their planning, developments, identities and prospects of becoming sustainable nodes in expanding economies. A general question that emerged as a focal point for continued research development is; How are station communities valued as living places and as a solution in the ambition for a sustainable development?

Building on the literary review, 10 municipalities in western Sweden, together with Göteborgsregionens Kommunalförbund, Västra Götalandsregionen, Länsstyrelsen, Boverket, Jernhusen, SP - Sveriges Tekniska Forskningsinstitut and IVL - Svenska Miljöinstitutet are interested in taking part of knowledge development about urban planning in station

communities and to start a research project within Mistra Urban Futures 2014. To create communities where the station will add value and become a catalyst for urban development the municipalities have asked for further knowledge about:

- How do we create a shared vision and an active dialogue with residents, government agencies and local industry and commerce early in the process? Following this how do we then together plan and act in accordance with our shared vision, even when facing criticism and limitations.
- How do we solve the problems of noise, vibration and risks near station settlements?
- How do we identify the uniqueness of each municipality so as to attract existing and new residents as well as industry and commerce? How do we highlight this uniqueness during our transformation?
- How do we create, enable and promote attractive sustainable transport to and from the station that suits people's lifestyles?
- How do we maximize the value of the land near stations? How do we plan and structure these areas to get the most out of them in terms of mixed functionality, e.g. meeting areas, offices, shops and flats?

Anne Leemans graduated in 1981. In 1990 she joined an international design group and from 1991 manages their Brussels-based design subsidiary. Between 1993 and 1996 she coordinated the design development process of Thalys, the first pan-european railway initiative. In 1999 she created Fontana identity and design specializing in the creation, development and implementation of visual identity and (corporate) branding programs on behalf of national and international organizations and brands. In 1997 she became a board member of the Belgian Institute for the Promotion of Industrial Design which in 2004 became Yellow design Foundation (YdF). Since 2004 she also acts as the Secretary General to Yellow design Foundation.

The vision of the YdF is that we believe that there is a clear need to examine and diminish the fossil-fuel dependence of the station, its land-use, and its contextual integration as well as to look into the development of new transfers of energy, new synergies that can possibly generate new financial models. On the other hand we strongly believe the synergetic effects of these efforts and their impact on the surroundings, the public space and users of the interchanges have not been sufficiently examined nor exploited. To be sure and considering the above, we believe interchanges can even be centers of profit to cities.

This clearly requires a transversal approach by experts in an array of disciplines ranging from civil engineering, transport, urban planning, architecture, finance, sociology, anthropology, design and even linguistics. With this in mind, YdF initiated this "Low Carbon stations" project, an international research project on what it takes to make multimodal, attractive, safe, energy and resource efficient, financially sound interchange stations that will integrate well in the low carbon cities of the future. Currently, YdF develops the SPIN-UP methodology together with participants in Scandinavia, notably Storstockholms Lokaltrafik, Jönköpings Länstrafik and Trafikverket.