

Sweden



Swedish National Road Administration (SNRA)

The SNRA is the national authority assigned the overall sectoral responsibility for the entire road transport system in Sweden. The SNRA is also responsible for drawing up and applying road transport regulations. In addition, the SNRA is responsible for the planning, construction, operation and maintenance of the state roads. Sweden has 138 000 km of public roads. SEK 8.2 billion was invested in state roads in 2002, and SEK 7.7 billion was used for operation and maintenance. The population of Sweden is about 9 million inhabitants and the BNP per capita is USD 26 500.

Organisation

There were 6 548 employees in the SNRA year 2002. The SNRA is organised into:

- a head office
- seven regional offices (see picture)
- two support and development units (Society and Traffic, Information and Administration)
- two profit centres (Traffic Registry, Driving Tests)
- and four business units (Ferry Operations, Consulting Services, Construction & Maintenance, Training & Development Centre).



The SNRA manages State shares in Swedish National Road Consulting AB (SweRoad), which offers consultancy services abroad, and 50% of the shares in SVEDAB (Svensk-Danska Broförbindelsen SVEDAB AB).

Roads and road traffic

The Swedish road network comprises approximately 138 000 km of public roads, 75 000 km of private roads receiving state subsidies, and a very large number of private roads without state subsidies, mostly forest motor roads. There is also an estimated 31 000 km of pedestrian and bicycle paths in the municipalities. 10 700 km of state roads are gravel roads. There are 37 ferry routes on the state road network.



Most human transport within Sweden takes place by road. Road transport accounts for just over 90% of the total volume of travel. There has been a dramatic increase in lorry traffic during the last 30 years, both in terms of weight and number of vehicles. 75% of the current road network is not dimensioned for this heavy traffic.

On 31 December 2002 there were in Sweden 4.5 million cars in traffic and 9.2 million registered vehicles.

An estimated 535 people were killed in road traffic accidents in 2002, which is a slight reduction on 2001. However, the number of seriously injured has risen to 4 600 according to police reports. On October 9, 1997 the Road Traffic Safety Bill founded on "Vision Zero" was passed by a large majority in the Swedish Parliament. This represents an entirely new way of thinking with respect to road traffic safety. Vision Zero is conceived from the ethical base that it can never be acceptable that people are killed or seriously injured when moving within the road transport system. It centres around an explicit goal, and develops into a highly pragmatic and scientifically-based strategy which challenges the traditional approach to road safety. The long term goal is that no-one will be killed or seriously injured within the Swedish road transport system.

Road policy

The overall aims and objectives of the operations give cause to set down the Administration's approach to certain prioritised areas in policy documents. At present, these areas are road safety, the environment, disabled persons issues, information, personnel, safety and security and total quality.

The road transport system is to be designed so that no one is killed or seriously injured in traffic. It will therefore gradually be designed to reflect human ability and the level of external violence that the human body can withstand. **The road safety policy** adopted by the SNRA emphasises that our work in this field is based on protecting human life and well-being.

The road transport system shall be developed in a way that does not jeopardise the environment or public health and welfare either now or in the future. **The environmental policy** adopted by the SNRA lays the grounds for developing the road transport system, including our own activities, towards a situation in which the climatic impact of road transports is acceptable, the energy supply is environmentally sound, the level of vehicle emissions is acceptable, noise levels are tolerable, natural resources are being conserved and the infrastructure is adapted to the natural and cultural environment.



In 2002 total investment volume amounted to just over SEK 8 billion. The seven main projects that opened to traffic in 2002 represent an investment volume of almost SEK 700 million.

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Addresses to the regional offices is available at:
http://www.vv.se/om_vv/organisation/index.htm

You can find information in different languages, mostly in English, at:
<http://www.vv.se/language/index.htm>. There you can read general facts about the SNRA, road traffic safety, policy documents, some publications and more.