What are your thoughts and wishes regarding the Radbahn project?

Meet the Radbahn team and discuss the future of Berlin’s urban space with us. We organize lively events for young and old and warmly invite you to open discussion rounds and individual consultations. We provide information on current participation offers and events on our website, in our newsletter and on our social media channels.

The Three Pillars of Reallabor Radbahn

Since 2019, the concept has been further developed as “Reallabor Radbahn”, which is a publicly funded project within the federal program National Projects of Urban Development. The project will run until the end of 2023 and is about to be taken off the paper and put onto the road.

Constructional Prototype – How does quality of life improve through structural changes in urban space?

Through the construction of a test site of a couple of hundred meters, we will take the Radbahn concept to the streets and let it prove itself in the real world. We see the test site as a participatory, experiential space. It will make the project visible and tangible, and enable people to experience how the space under and alongside the elevated viaduct can be redesigned as a bike park in such a way that it fulfills their various needs.

Scientific Supervision – What opportunities and risks does the construction of Radbahn entail?

Together with spatial planners and traffic planners, various studies will be conducted to examine the potential and risks of redesigning of the area under the viaduct. All project findings and results will be compiled in a final report, which will serve as a list of criteria for how the remaining nine kilometers of the Radbahn, as well as similar projects in other communities, can be achieved.

Public Discourse and Dialogue – What needs do people have along the Radbahn route?

The project’s approach is driven by the idea that making cities should be a collaborative effort. Through workshop formats, events, and ongoing opportunities for conversations and discussions, Reallabor Radbahn creates an accessible urban space that is inspired and cultivated by the community that uses it.
Protected from wind and weather, an approximately nine-kilometer-long bike path will run partly under and partly alongside the elevated subway line, from Bahnhof Zoo in the west of the city to the Oberbaumbrücke in the east. Here, young and old will be able to ride safely through three Berlin districts and explore their characteristics, while being separated from all other traffic for most of the way. The Radbahn, contrary to its name, is not “just” a bike path, but an urban space that can be experienced in many ways and that addresses the different needs of many citizens. This bike park serves as a place of encounter and movement. Along the Radbahn, people should feel a sense of deceleration and be able to enjoy themselves while moving through the hustle and bustle. Those who only want to rush from A to B miss out on consciously perceiving of their own surroundings and fellow human beings.

The Radbahn vision was developed in 2014 by paper planes e.V. It grew out of an idea to breathe new life into the largely forgotten space under the elevated railway viaduct of Berlin’s U1 subway line, which is protected as a historic monument.

Illustration: Lena Kunstmann

Radbahn. An urban space in the making.