

## Supporting green rural mobility on state level

Nahverkehrsgesellschaft

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Baden-Württemberg mbH |



## Agenda

- 1. The German context of rural transport planning
- 2. ... and how we fit into it: Tasks and topics
- 3. What the state level can provide
  - Money
  - Knowledge and tools
  - Networks
  - Freedom and flexibility
- 4. Outlook





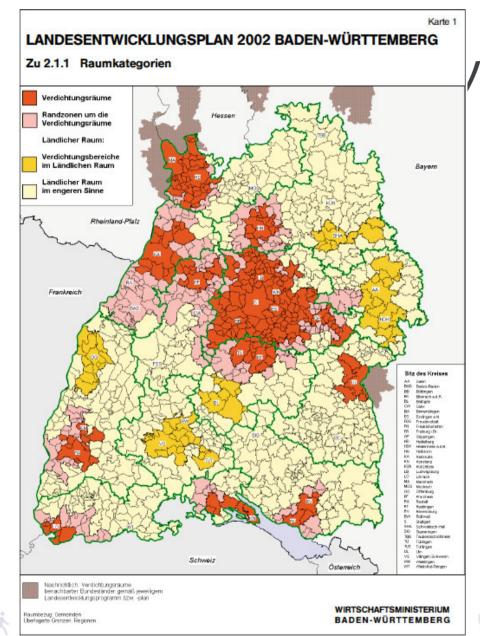
# The German context of rural transport planning

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Setting

## Setting – Baden-Württemberg

- ca. 35,700 sq km (of which 2/3 rural)
- ca. 11.1 m inhabitants (of which 1/3 rural)
- pop. density 311/sq km
- "industrialised countryside"
- important car manufacturing industry
- hotspots of traffic-related air pollution
- Green transport minister since 2011







## Setting – a (much simplified) division of tasks

#### **Federal**

- legal framework
- fuel taxation
- grant funding of infrastructure investment (major road + PT projects)
- owner of Deutsche Bahn (= also biggest bus operator)

#### States ("Land")

- planning, tendering + financing regional rail services
- grant funding of other transport infrastructure (all modes)
- framework for land use planning + road user charges

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rural development policy

#### **Local Authorities**

- planning, tendering + financing local public transport services
- contributions to infrastructure investment
- land use planning
- walking + cycling
- parking + local traffic regulations



## Tasks and topics

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## "Kompetenznetz ÖPNV" at NVBW



- voluntary initiative of state government
  political sign
- outside established pattern of roles and responsibilities
  - encourage "thinking out of the box"

#### **Main activities**

- strategy development (state level)
- advice + consulting
- management of funding programmes
- communication + networking
- research + innovation

#### **Main topics**

- spatial: focus on "rural areas",
  but no strict definition
- modal: local public transport apart from mainline / regional railways - e.g bus, DRt, community transport, ridesharing







## "Guaranteed mobility" – Baden-Württemberg's ambition for rural public transport

- all communities served at least hourly all days until midnight
- coordinated network consisting of regional rail, regional trunk bus routes, other bus services, DRT
- comprehensive information and through ticketing
- "public transport not just for the captives"



## **Modernising DRT**

- DRT known since 1970s
- different concepts and degrees of flexibility
- complementing "big" public transport in areas and times of low demand
- often operated by taxi/PHV companies as subcontractors to public transport providers
- recent "revival" thanks to digitalisation



## **Developing community transport**

#### Bürgerbus – "Citizens drive citizens"

- voluntary engagement in local public transport
- use of small buses (car driving license is enough)
- first service opened in 1985
- growing variety of concepts

#### **Strengths of the concept**

- closely linked to local situation
- close to customer needs
- open for unconventional ideas





## What the state level can provide

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## Money

In spite of **legal allocation of planning and funding** local public transport (bus, tram, DRT) **to local authority level** (provinces and larger towns), the state offers **financial support** for local public transport **related to specific issues**:

- partial grant funding of infrastructure (50-80 % of costs)
- partial grant funding of vehicles (e.g. up to 200.000 € standard bus)
- shared funding of regional trunk bus routes (operating costs!)
- co-funding DRT so far "experimental services" only (after calls for proposals)





## Money

For community transport (and other small-scale, new, localised services), "funding" is not only about the amount of money available, but also the conditions for getting it.

#### Questions to think about:

- What is "public transport" according to the rules?
- What are reasonable standards and requirements?
- Where should the "rest" of funding come from?
- Who will fill in the application?
- Is this only about transport?







## **Knowledge and tools**

**Information and advice** for community transport:

- "Bürgerbus manual" (►) and other brochures
- webseite <u>www.buergerbus-bw.de</u> with map and in-depth additional information (FAQ)
- seminars and presentations
  - building expertise locally
- case-by-case advice
  - back-up expert knowledge



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Stationen auf dem Weg zum BürgerBus







## Knowledge and tools

- web-based tool for DRT planning and management
- web-based tool for integrating timetable data into trip planners
- research on electric vehicles for community transport
  - electric minibus available for local trials







#### **Networks**

- create easy-to-access possibilities for learning and contact with others
  - seminars/webinars with "Academy for the rural regions"
- participate in existing networks
- "talk about transport beyond transport"
  - ▶ inter-ministerial working group on rural mobility







## Freedom and flexibility

The **broad range of settings**, interests and conditions in rural communities calls for **a use of rules "within reason"** 

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For innovation and tailored solutions, don't

- over-specify things
- exclude exceptions
- expect perfect solutions
- assume city-like capabilities

Do ... start a dialogue, support creativity and "learn from the ground"!





## Outlook

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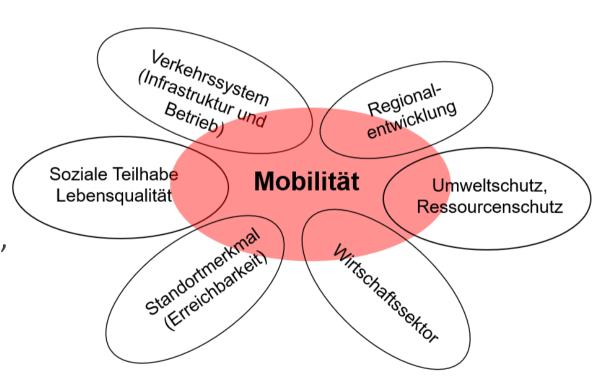
## To sum up and look ahead

Sustainable truly rural mobility ...

- ... needs working together
- ... is more a puzzle than a painting
- ... is of interest for many

Truly sustainable rural mobility ...

... starts with community transport,
 but does not end there!







## **Further reading**

Bürgerbus – German experiences in community transport

in: World Transport Policy+Practice 2013, vol. 19, no. 1

online: <a href="https://www.eco-logica.co.uk/pdf/wtpp19.1.pdf">https://www.eco-logica.co.uk/pdf/wtpp19.1.pdf</a>

"Bottom-up" mobility services – Experiences with community transport in Germany

in: Rural Accessibility in European Regions (ed: E. Vitale et

al.), Routledge 2021, ISBN: 9780367539252

online: <a href="https://www.routledge.com">https://www.routledge.com</a>





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