

National report for Finland 3 / 2018 (no secrets)

Date 10.1.2019 (time frame September – December 2018)
 Organisation Suomen Rautatiematkustajat ry, <http://www.rautatiematkustajat.fi/>
 Name Kalevi Kämäräinen

Positive points for public transport:

1. Six bidders compete to operate the [Tampere tram](#): VR Group Oy, two Finnish bus firms, Ab Stockholms Spårvägar, Go-Ahead Finland Oy and Transtech Oy ([Skoda](#))¹.
2. We suggested² more extensive use of wooden platforms in railway stations along with a society representing wood industry³ (perhaps surprisingly, they have been accepted only as an exceptional feature in this forested state). As it happens, the administration approved the idea⁴ and a wooden platform has been constructed on a trial basis⁵. The idea is to have cheaper platform structures than before.
3. Also, in a surprise move, [Minister of Economic Affairs](#) Mika Lintilä announced he will resolve the effects of reintroducing at least some of the so-called inland sleeper routes with the help of a fact finder⁶. Over the years, we have made several proposals to see them running again⁷. It remains to be seen, how self-reliant conclusions the fact finder can make (being the customary "VR says this and that", nothing will hit the rails).
4. VR is running a direct but very restricted Tampere – Kouvola service on trial basis over the new Riihimäki triangle track (local "Ordsall Chord" for freight). The test period will last until next June.⁸
5. In an all-time first, the Ministry of Transport and Communications asked the public about passenger train services and views on regional service novelties.⁹

Negative points for public transport:

1. Passengers served by the so called railbuses made by Vagonka (nowadays Skoda Vagonka) have criticized VR for not trying to catch fare dodgers on some remote routes (this has an adverse effect on the economy of the already weak services). Lo and behold: fare inspectors' headquarters is situated in the South of Finland, so it is admittedly pretty "challenging" to supervise services running some 500 kilometres away during a work shift...¹⁰
2. VR must find out, if there is something wrong with the fire safety of the 16 Vagonka units¹¹. Their reliability is also otherwise questionable, as they have been replaced by bus services quite frequently on some routes¹².
3. Modern railway traffic once again proved its vulnerability, as one telecommunications switch broke down during maintenance work and caused a standstill for almost two hours (delays naturally lasting even longer)¹³.

NOTE: Further details provided per request (this time almost all sources only in Finnish).

¹ <https://yle.fi/uutiset/3-10558592>

² https://api.hankeikkuna.fi/asiakirjat/f0938a03-2bfd-4d92-82a0-5cc1ed57309e/f9111161-28cc-426b-a177-bde12aa95a29/LAUSUNTO_20180502122000.PDF

³ https://api.hankeikkuna.fi/asiakirjat/f0938a03-2bfd-4d92-82a0-5cc1ed57309e/27ac92b2-5d1b-41e8-aa76-d57ef42964c7/LAUSUNTO_20180503131000.PDF

⁴ https://api.hankeikkuna.fi/asiakirjat/f0938a03-2bfd-4d92-82a0-5cc1ed57309e/5bb4df4c-7974-472e-b7aa-8f73610900c5/JULKAISU_20181022055722.pdf

⁵ <https://www.sipoosanomat.fi/artikkeli/726324-nikkilan-juna-aseamalla-otetaan-lauantaina-kaytoon-45-metrinen-matkustajalaituri>

⁶ <https://www.kainuunsanomat.fi/kainuun-sanomat/kainuu/elinkeinoministeri-lintila-selvityttaa-yojunan-paluumahdollisuuden/?fbclid=IwAR2cqpnbKqpeBmkXp1s0Uajix0GH0VIGUj6PObr3i4vMhe1kqokHQ2o9PEw>

⁷ <http://www.rautatiematkustajat.fi/Updates.htm>

⁸ <https://kouvolansanomat.fi/uutiset/lahella/0696a4b4-0b41-4327-ab39-29deba56346b>

⁹ <https://www.lvm.fi/-/ministerio-pyytaa-alueiden-nakemyksia-junaliikenteen-kehittamisesta-982647?fbclid=IwAR1zr3vw6Op0SjviV9EyVNHqKhW8W0XcenOCzNoAim50anKa0-DSi9ZhTks>

¹⁰ https://www.karjalainen.fi/uutiset/uutis-alueet/maakunta/item/200993?fbclid=IwAR0TH67I13SoSO-Tqj7_0P9mSE4iDvcax72Y_gmxFgq960fv058OqxP_YoDg

¹¹ <https://yle.fi/uutiset/3-10459918>

¹² <https://yle.fi/uutiset/3-10470744>

¹³ <https://yle.fi/uutiset/3-10413954>