



FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

The 1st International Conference on
Decarbonizing the Road Sector 2025
„Global Strategies for Infrastructure
and Road Users“

Wednesday 7 – Friday 9 May 2025
Vienna, Austria

Welcome Message by Vera Hofbauer and Alexander Walcher



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Director General "Transport"
Federal Ministry for Climate Action,
Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation
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PIARC First Delegate of Austria



Alexander Walcher MSc
Managing Director ASFINAG BMG
designated PIARC Vice-President
President of the Austrian PIARC National Committee

Distinguished members of the international road community,

we would like to invite you to join the **International PIARC Conference on Decarbonization of Roads 2025**, scheduled for May 2025 in Vienna. We plan for an exchange forum on the latest insights regarding decarbonizing the road sector for practitioners in road administrations, mobility providers and in the construction industry.

The decarbonization of road traffic and road infrastructure is a primary objective of Austrian Mobility and Transport. Austria is eager to be a front-runner in Climate Action especially in the road sector; therefore, we would like to share our achievements through the PIARC network.

At the same time, we are aware of the necessity to keeping up the pace by looking internationally for new technologies and innovations emerging in tackling the Climate Crisis provided by other countries – and here we trust in PIARC as the primary hub for worldwide exchange of knowledge in the road sector!

We believe in a joint effort for Climate Action and we invite you to experience the unique Austrian hospitality within an ambitious professional environment!

See you in Vienna on May, 7th – 9th 2025!

Mission Statement

The decarbonization of road traffic and road infrastructure is a primary objective of Austrian Mobility and Transport Policy. Our paramount strategy document, the Austrian Mobility Masterplan 2030 was presented at the PIARC World Road Congress in Prague at two high level sessions just recently. While topics and items to be covered by the conference in detail will be defined by the PIARC Strategic Plan 2024-2027 and the dedicated committees, I would like to draw your attention to some of Austria's recent achievements in the sector concerned:

By initiative of the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, the National Road Research Association's guidelines for road planning, construction and maintenance have been subject to a new developed "climate check", a process which enables road related technical guidelines to be screened for their effects on climate change and their potential to support Climate Action;

ASFINAG, Austria's provider for highways and expressways, has been developing a leading-edge CO₂-calculator for comparing construction methods for use in procurement and decision-making processes; Until 2030, ASFINAG will be providing around 1.500 charging stations along its highway network. Also, there has been set up a pilot project for CO₂-neutral construction site logistics; In addition, until 2030 ASFINAG will reach CO₂-neutral operation by means of using renewable energy sources such as solar panels along the highway network, wind power, hydro and geothermic sources;

Another issue when tackling the climate crisis is green space management along road networks, areas which are especial prone to migration of epiphytes – here innovative projects have been set up using artificial intelligence;

Summarizing, Austria is eager to be a front-runner in Climate Action especially in the road sector, therefore we would like to share our achievements through the PIARC network. At the same time, we are aware of the necessity to keeping up the pace by looking worldwide for new technologies and innovations emerging in tackling the climate crisis provided by other countries.

Conference Objective

This PIARC conference will serve as a dynamic forum for practitioners in road administrations, mobility providers, and the construction industry to exchange the latest insights and innovations on decarbonizing the road sector. Focused on the work of PIARC Technical Committees TC 3.5 "Road Infrastructure for Road Transport Decarbonization" and TC 4.5 "Decarbonization of Road Construction and Maintenance", the event will explore cutting-edge policies, technologies, and practices to achieve net-zero goals. Through thematic sessions on planning, technologies, incentives, construction, maintenance, and operations, the conference aims to foster collaboration, share practical strategies, and inspire actionable solutions for a sustainable future in road transport.

Decarbonization has become a transversal theme for PIARC Technical Committees during the 2024-2027 cycle due to the importance of this aspect for its 129 member countries. The 1st International Conference on Decarbonizing the Road sector will be a kick-off of a series of international conferences to be hold every four years to exchange knowledge, policies and practices worldwide to achieve the decarbonization of the road sector.

Topic introduction by PIARC Technical Committees TC 3.5 and TC 4.5

Road infrastructure for road transport decarbonization (TC 3.5)

(<https://www.piarc.org/en/PIARC-Association-Roads-and-Road-Transportation/PIARC-Technical-Committees/Strategic-Theme-Road-Safety-Sustainability/Technical-Committee-Road-Infrastructure-Road-Transport-Decarbonization>)

On-road freight and passenger transport represent over 75% of global inland transport and must decarbonize to achieve the goals of The Paris Agreement. Technical Committee 3.5 "Road infrastructure for road transport decarbonization" shares information from road agencies to accelerate deployment of best practices and avoid missteps by sharing lessons learned. The purpose of this TC includes sharing knowledge on the modern technologies and policy consideration to introduce electric roads.

There is also a need to produce more green energy among the nations, and the road sector has the possibility to contribute to the energy production by deploying smart energy solution on and along the roads. It is important to learn more about these possibilities.

Issues

- 3.5.1 Study national strategies and policies for decarbonization of the road passenger and freight transport sector and their objectives and deployment plans
- 3.5.2 Study Electric Road Systems (ERS) to decarbonize the road transport sector
- 3.5.3 Study solutions to decarbonize the road transport sector with a focus on road users, including technology solutions
- 3.5.4 Study solutions for alternative energy production and sources in the road sector, including solar panels and wind turbines along road

Chair and Secretariat

- Chair: Jan PETERSSON (Sweden)
- English-speaking Secretary: Timothy SEXTON (USA)
- French-speaking Secretary: Patrick DUPRAT (France)
- Spanish-speaking Secretary: Antonio MURUAIS RODRÍGUEZ (Spain)

Decarbonization of Road Construction and Road Maintenance (TC 4.5)

<https://www.piarc.org/en/PIARC-Association-Roads-and-Road-Transportation/PIARC-Technical-Committees/Strategic-Theme-Resilient-Road-Infrastructure/Technical-Committee-Decarbonization-Road-Construction-Road-Maintenance>

The work of Technical Committee 4.5 "Decarbonization of Road Construction and Road Maintenance" aims at five topics: it improves logistical and technological decarbonization efficiency of road construction projects, introduces new technologies for measuring and inspecting road decarbonization initiatives, addresses decarbonizing road construction project logistics, focuses on decarbonization of construction and maintenance equipment, and involves carbon calculators. The focus includes real-world impact assessment on decarbonization of road construction and maintenance across all stages of road projects. The work primarily identifies issues causing a carbon impact during road construction and maintenance phases. It involves identifying and assessing logistical and technological inefficiencies of projects and proposing mitigation strategies based on case study analyses, literature studies, and surveys. An essential aspect of assessing decarbonization effects involves identifying decarbonization indicators and measures through best practice analysis.

Issues

- 4.5.1 Improving logistical and technological decarbonization efficiency of road construction projects and maintenance
- 4.5.2 New technologies for the measurement and inspection of road decarbonization initiatives
- 4.5.3 Decarbonizing road construction project logistics
- 4.5.4 Decarbonization of construction and maintenance equipment
- 4.5.5 Carbon calculators

Chair and Secretariat

- Chair: Janusz BOHATKIEWICZ (Poland)
- English-speaking Secretary: Louis BETTINI (Australia)
- French-speaking Secretary: Josh MATTHEIS (Canada-Quebec)

Preliminary Programme

	Day 1 Wednesday, 7 May 2025	Day 2 Thursday, 8 May 2025	Day 3 Friday, 9 May 2025
08.30	Registration, Welcome Coffee	Welcome Coffee	Technical Visit
09.00	Welcome, Introduction and Keynotes Keynote	Session 4 “Decarbonization of Road Construction”	
10.30	Coffee Break		
11.00	Session 1 “Decarbonization Road Policy and Planning”	Session 5 “Decarbonization of Road Maintenance”	
12.30	Lunch Break		
14.00	Session 2 “Technologies for Decarbonizing Road Transport”	Session 6 “Decarbonization Road Operations: Harnessing Energy Production On and Along Roadways”	
15.30	Coffee Break		
16.00	Session 3 - Panel Discussion “Incentives and Efficiency in Decarbonizing Infrastructure and Transport”	Session 7 “Closing Session”	
17.30	End of Day 1	End of Day 2	
19.30	Congress Dinner		

*Each session will feature a Q&A-Part with the speakers enabling the audience to actively participate in the knowledge exchange.

Session overview

Session 1: Decarbonization in Road Policy and Planning

- Examines how governments and organizations integrate decarbonization into transportation policies.
- Highlights innovative planning frameworks for achieving net-zero goals.
- Discusses cross-sector collaboration, economic incentives/penalties, and regulatory tools to drive decarbonization.
- Explores strategies to ensure social equity and compensation in the transition to sustainable road systems.

Session 2: Technologies for Decarbonizing Road Transport

- Showcases emerging technologies aimed at reducing emissions in road transport.
- Focuses on electric vehicles, hydrogen fuel cells, and alternative fuels.
- Explores advancements in vehicle efficiency and smart mobility solutions.
- Considers approaches to managing and decarbonizing existing vehicle fleets.

Session 3: Incentives and Efficiency in Decarbonizing Infrastructure and Transport

- Analyses funding mechanisms to accelerate decarbonization.
- Shares strategies for boosting efficiency in infrastructure development and transport systems.
- Reviews case studies of successful public-private partnerships and financing models.

Session 4: Decarbonizing Road Construction

- Highlights low-carbon materials and construction techniques.
- Discusses life-cycle carbon assessments and carbon capture technologies.
- Focuses on innovation in design and procurement processes to reduce emissions.

Session 5: Decarbonizing Road Maintenance

- Explores strategies for reducing emissions during road maintenance activities.
- Examines the use of sustainable materials and recycling practices.
- Focuses on efficiency improvements in equipment and maintenance operations.

Session 6: Decarbonizing Road Operations: Harnessing Energy Production On and Along Roadways

- Discusses renewable energy solutions integrated into road networks.
- Explores energy capture and storage technologies along roadways.
- Focuses on leveraging road infrastructure for broader energy system benefits.

Session 7: Closing Session

- This session will wrap up key insights and actionable strategies from Conference sessions.
- Chairs will summarize lessons learned, innovative ideas, and practical benefits.
- An interactive segment will invite participants to reflect on takeaways and share perspectives.
- Closing remarks will highlight collaboration and commitment to progress.

Pre-registration PIARC Decarbonization Conference 2025

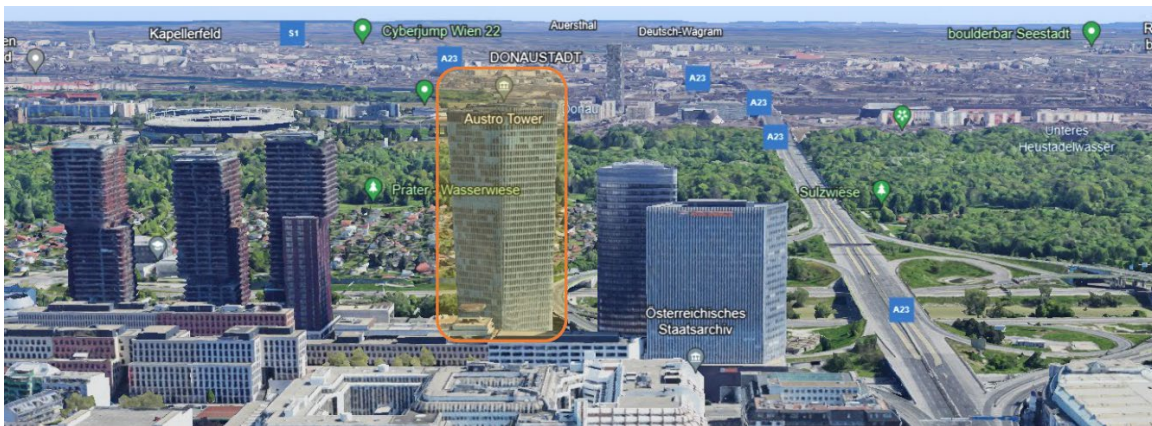
By signing up for pre-registration you will receive more detailed information regarding the content and the programme of the upcoming conference in May 2025. Pre-registered persons will be kept up-to-date by receiving the first and second announcements and the official invitation to attend the conference. The pre-registration serves only the purpose of being kept up-to-date and doesn't replace the required official registration for participants due for February 2025: <https://www.asfinag.at/PIARC-Decarbo2025/>

Further steps

- February 2025: Second Announcement with program published and registration opened
- April 2025: Planned registration re-confirmation
- May 2025: Conference takes place

Location

The conference will take place in Vienna, the capital of Austria, in the centre of Europe. The location is in the 3rd district of Vienna, in the Austro Tower, the headquarters of ASFINAG. Thanks to its central location, the Austro Tower is easily accessible by public transport. Also, in terms of decarbonizing transport, we would like to encourage you to familiarize yourself with public or decarbonized travel options.



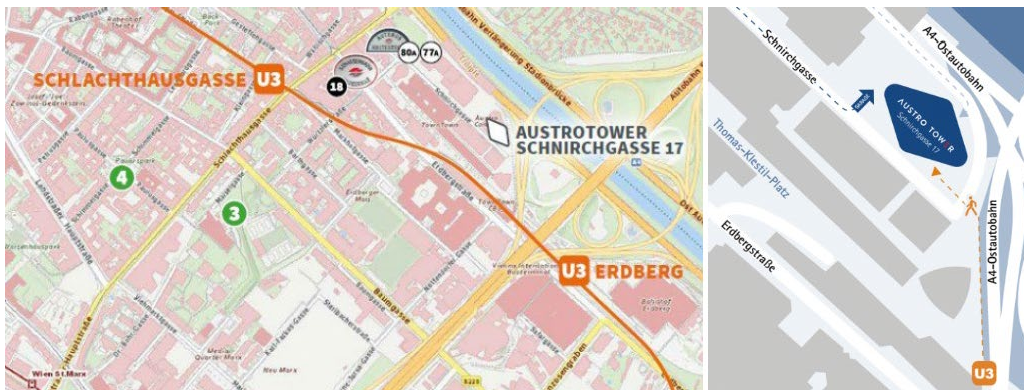
Getting there by Public Transport

The building is located next to the station “Erdberg” of the subway line U3. Take the exit “Thomas-Klestil-Platz” in direction to Schnirchgasse and walk for about 100 m.

From the airport (VIE) to Austro Tower:

- Public transport: approx. 35 minutes, € 4,50 (single)
more information and options: <https://anachb.vor.at/>
- City Airport Train: 30 minutes, € 14,90 (single) € 24,90 (return)
more information: <https://www.cityairporttrain.com/en/home>

Take the train to the station "Wien Mitte/Landstraße". Follow the signposting system in the building and walk directly to the "Landstraße" subway station (line U3). Take the direction "Simmering" of line U3 – the 4th stop “Erdberg” will be reached after approx. 5 minutes. If you take the City Airport Train to Wien Mitte you need an additional ticket for the subway!



From the main railway station (“Hauptbahnhof Wien”):

The easiest way from the main railway station to the ASFINAG Head Office is to take the TRAM 18. Leave the tram at exit Baumgasse from where it is a less than 5 minutes’ walk to our office.

Tickets can be purchased at the main railway station for € 2,40 (single) or € 8,00 (one day).

Public Transport Tickets

24, 48 or 72 hours VIENNA

"All you can ride" in one, two or three days. Travel freely and change as often as you like.

The ticket is valid on all public transport services in the core zone of Vienna.

- 24 hours € 8,00
- 48 hours € 14,10
- 72 hours € 17,10

Individual Transport Connection

Travelling to the Austro Tower by car is not recommended, as there are hardly any public parking options available.

Taxi: It takes about 15 minutes by taxi from the airport (VIE) and the price will be around € 40,-.

VISA Information

For visa and travel information, please contact the Austrian embassy nearest to you. If you require a letter of invitation, please contact Florian.Matiasek@bmk.gv.at

Under the following link you will find detailed information regarding entering and staying in Austria. <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/travel-stay/entrance-and-residence-in-austria/visa>

Hotel Recommendation

We recommend that you book hotel rooms as early as possible, as bookings can often be cancelled free of charge at short notice before arrival. Hotels near the Austro Tower are for example:

- Moxy Vienna City East (5 min by walk)
- Mercure Grand Hotel Biedermeier Wien (10 min by walk and U3 subway)
- Novotel Wien Hauptbahnhof (20 min by walk and U1-U3 subway)
- Hotel Mercure Wien Zentrum (20 min by walk and U3 subway)
- Novotel Wien City (25 min by walk and U3 subway)
- 25hours Hotel Wien MuseumsQuartier (25 min by walk and U3 subway)

Organisers

PIARC

The World Road Association AIPCR/PIARC, Association mondiale de la Route, World Road Association, today known by the acronym PIARC, was founded in Paris in 1909 and is the oldest international association in the field of roads and transport. It is a non-political, professional and non-profit organisation whose members can be states, regional authorities, institutions, companies and interested individuals. The organisation currently has over 2,000 members in more than 140 countries around the world. 129 countries - like Austria - are official members of the organisation. In 2009, the World Road Association celebrated its 100th anniversary.

A central task of the World Road Association is the international exchange of experience at expert level. More than 20 international working groups (technical committees and task forces) have been set up for all sectors of the road and transport industry. Every four years, the association organises the World Road Congress, the International Congress on Winter Road Services and a series of seminars and conferences, provides numerous specialist publications, various tools and instruments on its website and publishes a quarterly magazine (Routes/Roads).

Incidentally, the abbreviation PIARC stands for 'Permanent International Association of Road Congresses' and thus refers to the original and still valid purpose of the association, namely the organisation of world road congresses at which the results of international cooperation are presented and exchanged under the patronage and presence of the department heads responsible for road transport. Since 1908, 27 World Road Congresses have been held, including one in Austria, in Vienna in 1979.

www.piarc.org

PIARC AUSTRIA

The Austrian National Committee of the World Road Association was founded at the occasion of the World Road Congress in Vienna in the year 1973. The Austrian "Forschungsgemeinschaft Strasse – Schiene – Verkehr" (Research Association for Road, Rail and Transport) provides the secretariat for the Austrian National Committee of PIARC. The National Committee's major tasks are to support Austria's First Delegate and the Austrian members in the Technical Committees as well as to provide the exchange of road research related information between national and international level.

Since 2022 Austria's official representative at the World Road Organisation is Mrs. Vera Hofbauer MSc from the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology. Together with the National Committee's president and the secretary general he represents Austria in the Council of PIARC. From 2004 to 2012 the Honorary President of the Austrian National Committee Mr. Zotter also served as the representative of all National Committees to the Executive Committee. In 2020 Mr. Alexander Walcher has been elected new president of the Austrian National Committee. In 2024 Mr. Walcher was elected Vice-President of PIARC by its council.

www.piarc.at

ASFINAG

We are your reliable partner on Austria's motorways and expressways. ASFINAG was founded in 1982 and is a company owned by the state. Our tasks: We plan, fund, build, maintain, operate and collect toll along almost 2,249 kilometres of motorways and expressways.

Transport links are lifelines – for the economy and for people alike. They are essential for economic supply, for jobs, but also for commuters and tourism.

The ASFINAG system is considered a best-practice example in Europe. After all: ASFINAG funds all expenses – from new roads to functioning winter services to clean service areas – solely with its own resources. Toll revenues are directly reinvested into our infrastructure – ensuring even higher safety. In short: We don't receive subsidies from the state budget.

Our vision 2030

„As a reliable, innovative and sustainable mobility partner, we connect regions and people in the heart of Europe.“

Our mission

Together with our partners, we are ensuring mobility for generations to come. With forward-looking, sustainable and innovative solutions, we represent part of Austria's major shift in mobility.

We invest in the quality of our network, constantly developing it both ecologically and economically with Austria's overall mobility system in mind.

As a competent road operator, we offer our customers safe and efficient motorways and expressways.

With our modern toll products & digital information services, we are a customer-oriented service provider.

www.asfinag.at

Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology

The Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK) houses a wide range of important and promising subject areas, all of which are indispensable for Austria and its citizens in their everyday lives.

Not only does the BMK set the course for a sustainable and climate-friendly policy and economy, it also regulates and manages transport on Austria's roads by land, air, water and rail, ensures energy supply, promotes research and the provision of innovative technologies "Made in Austria" and implements the mobility of the future today.

www.bmk.gv.at/en/

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