

CANTON OF BERN, DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING, DISTRICT IV

AARWANGEN TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT – NISTRA ASSESSMENT



Client	Canton of Bern, Dep. of Civil Eng.
Processing period	2018 - 2020
Project costs	approx. 174 Mio. CHF

In the future, through traffic will bypass Aarwangen on a new road west of the town. The NISTRA evaluation tool, developed by the Federal Roads Office, is used to assess the advantages, disadvantages and costs of the project.

The high volume of traffic on the main road through the town of Aarwangen affects residents and leads to congestion. A new western bypass road will divert through traffic around the town. This will relieve the pressure on inhabitants of the town center, obstructions to slow-moving traffic and public transport will be reduced,

and traffic safety will be improved. In addition, the main road through town can be made more attractive.

The Department of Civil Engineering of the canton of Bern commissioned R+R to evaluate the bypass project using the NISTRA evaluation tool developed by the Federal Roads Office. The advantages and disadvantages of the project are analyzed, benefits quantified and costs determined. NISTRA combines three different assessment approaches (cost-benefit analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, qualitative analysis).

In addition to Aarwangen itself, the assessment also takes the neighboring communities of Langenthal, Thunstetten and Bützberg into account, as these will also be affected by the changed traffic flows.

NISTRA yields a positive overall rating considering environmental, economical and social factors. Even with a negative rating on some aspects concerning environment and spatial development, the positive project effects predominate. The focus is on the benefits of shorter travel times, improved access, a safer traffic flow and less noise and exhaust emissions for residents.