



Ghent's successful integrated transport system could be a model for Cambridge.

Ghent is an historic city in the Flanders region of Belgium. It has a population of ~256K and a university with 9,000 staff and 50,000 students, the largest in Belgium. The city has become a hub for research-orientated companies. The historic centre is an attractive tourist destination.

The city is served by de Gentse tram, a comprehensive light rail / tram system. Since the 1990s this has been

expanded and improved to meet the city's growing demands and now has four lines serving 91 stops.

The tram links to the city's five rail stations and international connections are made at regional airports. Further

Ghent has a successful tram / light rail system and is one of Europe's most pedestrian and cycle-friendly cities

expansion is planned that will add two more lines and additional stops.

Ghent is also a cycle and pedestrian friendly city. The de Gentse tram is complementary to active travel and demonstrates how these modes can work together.

The tram resurgence has become an integral part of the city's status as a vibrant centre for trade and culture.



PHOTO: GK TRAMRUNNER229 / OWN WORK / CC BY-SA 3.0 / 2005

facts

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| Case Study authors & date | Gordon Theobald (2024) |
| Location | Belgium |
| City population | ~265K |
| City area | 158 km ² |
| Number of lines | Four |
| Number of stations | 91 (most request) |
| System length | 80 km (50 miles) |
| Underground | One tunnel under station (~150 meters length) |
| Service frequency | 5 minutes (peak times) |
| Track gauge | 1,000 mm (3 ft 3+3/8 in) |
| Number of trams by supplier(s) | Legacy Gent PCC trams, 27 HermeLijn trams (2007), 26 Bombardier Flexity 2 trams (2021) |
| Opened (year) | 1874, decreased to 1961, expanded since 2005, latest stations added in 2024. Further expansion to six lines planned |
| Typical fare | Adult: €3 |

