

Traffic projects 'German unity' – a success story on the fast development of infrastructure in the newly-formed German states

Dr. Engelbert Lütke Daldrup

State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs

Engelbert.Luetkeda@bmvs.bund.de



Dr. Engelbert Lütke Daldrup was born in 1956. He studied spatial planning at the University of Dortmund and was awarded the Schinkel Prize. After passing the 2nd State Examination he worked at the Berlin Senate Department for Building and Housing from 1989 to 1995. He was Deputy Mayor (Building and Housing) in Leipzig from 1995 to 2005. He has been State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs since 2005.

Joachim Naumann

Dipl.-Ing., Ministerialrat, Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs
Joachim.Naumann@bmvs.bund.de



Joachim Naumann was born in 1945. He studied civil engineering at the Technical University of Darmstadt and subsequently worked in the construction industry. After passing the 2nd State Examination he worked for the Road Construction Administration from 1978 to 1987. He joined the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs in 1988, where he has been Head of the Bridge Construction Division since 2000.

1. Introduction

After 45 years during which Germany was divided into East and West by a heavily guarded and almost impassable border running through the middle of the country, it became apparent in 1989, for the first time, that Germany was to be reunified, something which many people no longer expected to see. As a result of the changes in Eastern Europe, especially the rise of citizens' movements, and favourable international developments, it was suddenly possible for the Great Powers to engage in negotiations that hardly anyone would have expected only a short time earlier. The joy of people on both sides of the border was thus all the greater when the barriers were actually torn down and political unity was achieved in a process that was tense but peaceful. On 3 October 1990, German unity became a reality, and people's urge to travel was scarcely manageable (**Fig. 1 and Fig. 2**).



Fig. 1
Traffic jam after the border was opened in 1989



Fig. 2
Traffic jam