

## Abstract

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### **Implementing ecological knowledge in road planning: Road 73, a practical example from Sweden.**

The old road 73, from Stockholm to Nynäshamn, has probably been used since the Viking age and only, little by little, upgraded and broadened. Increased traffic during the past fifty years made the road known as a “road of death” and called for a completely new road.

However, the region is especially rich in natural and cultural landscape values, and these assets had to be given the same dignity in the planning of the new road as traditional concerns about traffic safety, accessibility and regional development.

To meet this obligation, ecological processes and their requirements, cultural heritage in all aspects, outdoor activities and landscape aesthetics were interwoven into all process levels, from feasibility study down to design and building phases. A unique collaboration between different fields of expertise evolved and resulted in an road architecture that underlines and supports landscape features. In addition, road near habitats have been enhanced to provide greater opportunities for wildlife and efforts were made to ensure safe animal crossings. Groundwater catchments have been protected by lined ditches and run-off water is collected and cleaned before being released into sensitive waterways. In the wider surroundings, natural habitats received special protection status. Overall, the new road was built with an approach to integrate nature, wildlife and people. Raised environmental awareness by everyone involved in the project coupled with specific environmental adaptations made this achievements possible without a significant increase of the costs. Today, the new road 73 is known in Sweden as “a road to the future”.