



NOTE

Date 13-08-2024  
Casenr. 2023-422

2023-422, Level crossing accident, Aarhus, 17-08-2023. Resume, conclusion and recommendation

1. Resume

On 17-08-2023, a cyclist was hit in a level crossing at Tueager, Aarhus. The level crossing was a bicycle and pedestrian crossing located between the light rail stops Aarhus Universitetshospital and Gl. Skejby. The cyclist drove out in front of a moving light rail train and was seriously injured in the accident.

5. Conclusion

The primary cause of the accident was the cyclist's inattention to the light rail train when crossing the light rail tracks.

Probably one or more of the following circumstances had an influence on the course of the incident:

- The physical structure of the half barriers could mean that cyclists from Tueager only immediately before crossing the track became aware of a possible upcoming light rail train.
- Since a building partially blocked the view of cyclists coming from Tueager, a cyclist could risk becoming aware of an oncoming light rail train very shortly before passing the level crossing.
- Riding an electric bicycle could lead to a higher speed than when riding bicycles without an electric motor, and this in combination with the fact that the level crossing was very busy, especially during rush hour, may have led to the cyclist's primary focus was on driving through the half barriers themselves, rather than on the surroundings and thus the light rail trains when crossing the light rail tracks.
- The combination of the fact that the cyclist was an experienced user of the level crossing (for several years had used the level crossing when driving home from work, but seldom had to stop for light rail trains), was on their way home for vacation, and was listening to music in their headphones, could have reduced the cyclist's attention to the surroundings when entering the level crossing.

## 7. Recommendations

When cycling from Tueager, the overview conditions, combined with i.e. the physical structure of the half barriers, risk causing a cyclist to only become aware of a possible upcoming light rail shortly before entering the level crossing. Furthermore, the level crossing at Tueager has been overrepresented in terms of accidents or incidents compared to comparable level crossings on Aarhus Light Rail's infrastructure.

DK-2024 R 4 of 13-08-2024.

The Accident Investigation Board recommends that the Danish Transport Agency ensures that Aarhus Light Rail carries out a risk assessment of whether the safety conditions for cyclists coming from Tueager are sufficient in relation to the actual use of the crossing.