Welcome to Vestfold and Telemark County

Terje Riis Johansen,
Mayor of Vestfold and Telemark County

Meeting of the North Sea Commission Transport Group on October 28, 2021 at Herøya Industrial Park in Porsgrunn, Norway
Vestfold and Telemark County in a Nutshell

• Population: 422,000 inhabitants in 23 municipalities

• Central location, good connections to Scandinavia and Europe

• Norway in miniature

• The settlement pattern is diverse, more than 80% of the population lives in the urban areas along the coast

• Skien is largest city and the capital of the region – forms part of the urban area of Grenland (120,000 inhabitants)
A Region that Looks Outwards
The Jutland Corridor

- There are two international transport corridors from Norway to Hamburg in the Norwegian National Transport Plan:
  - Oslo-Gothenburg-Copenhagen-Hamburg
  - Oslo/ Stavanger-Larvik/Grenland/Kristiansand-Hirtshals-Hamburg
  (The Jutland Corridor)

- The EU has given the Jutland Corridor up to Hirtshals/Fredrikshavn priority (part of ScanMed) – new opportunities for multi-modal and green transport should be explored.
Vestfold and Telemark County – transport and sustainability is a core activity

• The region is a regional plan authority and active with developing society in partnerships with local governments, state authorities and other actors (ex. «Grenland bypakke» and «Bø Sauherad bygdepakke»).

• The county operates 450 busses and 10 ferries, develops and maintains 3,100 kms of regional roads (in addition to bicycle lanes), and is the largest owner of the Torp Sandefjord International Airport and much more.

• The county is promoting sustainable transport.
The county has ambitious political goals towards a green transition with sustainable economic growth
Vestfold and Telemark County – An Industrial Region

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22.2 billion NOK annually, 19,200 jobs
A Region of High-Technology

Green Technology
Research, Innovation and Development
Industrial Circular Economy