

CATEGORY Territorial/urban

LOCATION Skien, Porsgrunn

POPULATION Skien 51 670, Porsgrunn 34 540

Grenland area 117 273

STRATEGIC SITE 88 300 ha

PROJECT SITE Skien 140 ha, Menstad 296 ha, Porsgrunn 146 ha, Hærøya 149 ha

SITE PROPOSED BY Skien Municipality, Porsgrunn Municipality, Telemark County

OWNER OF THE SITE Various public and private owners

COMMISSION TO WINNER Planing commission

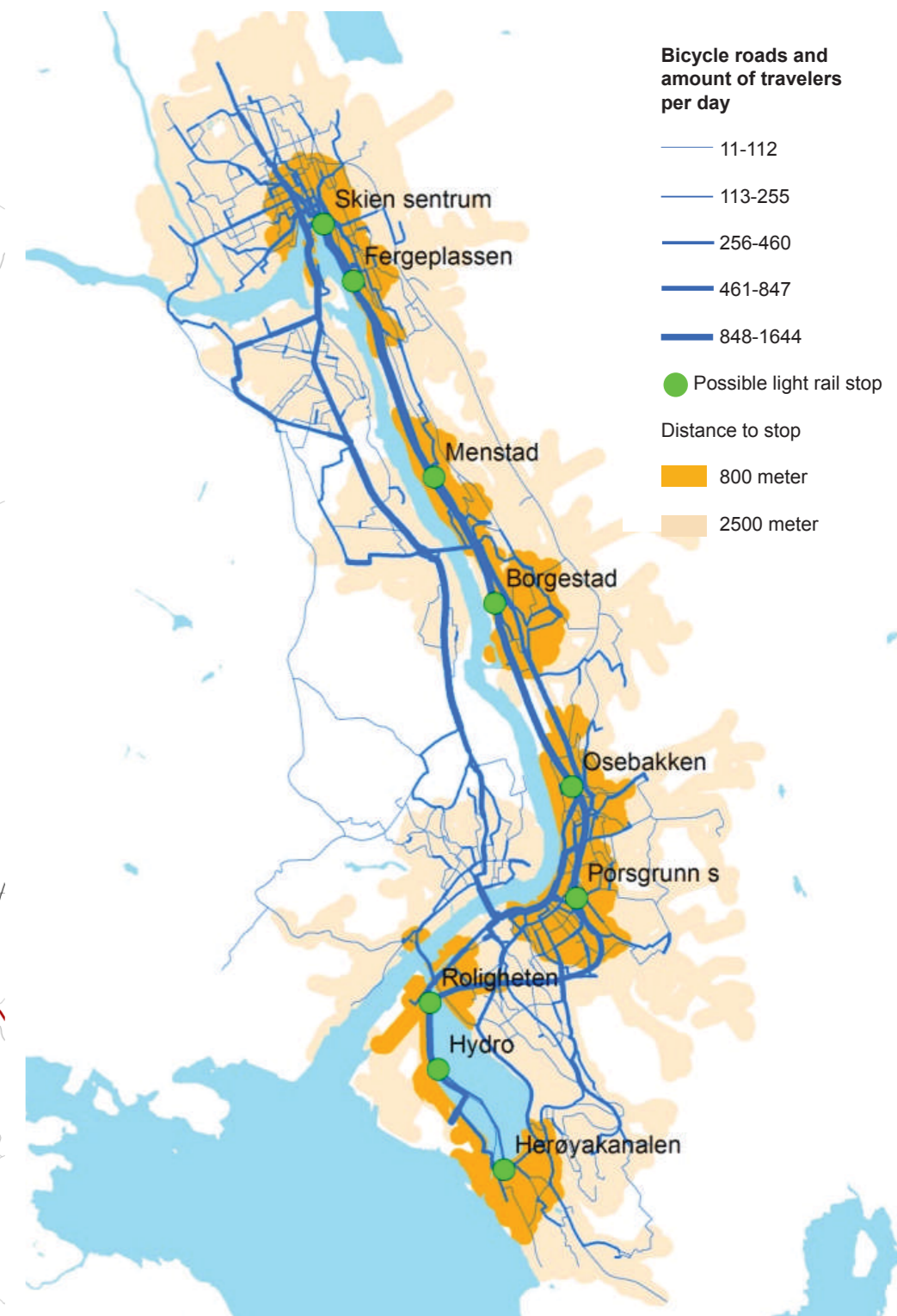
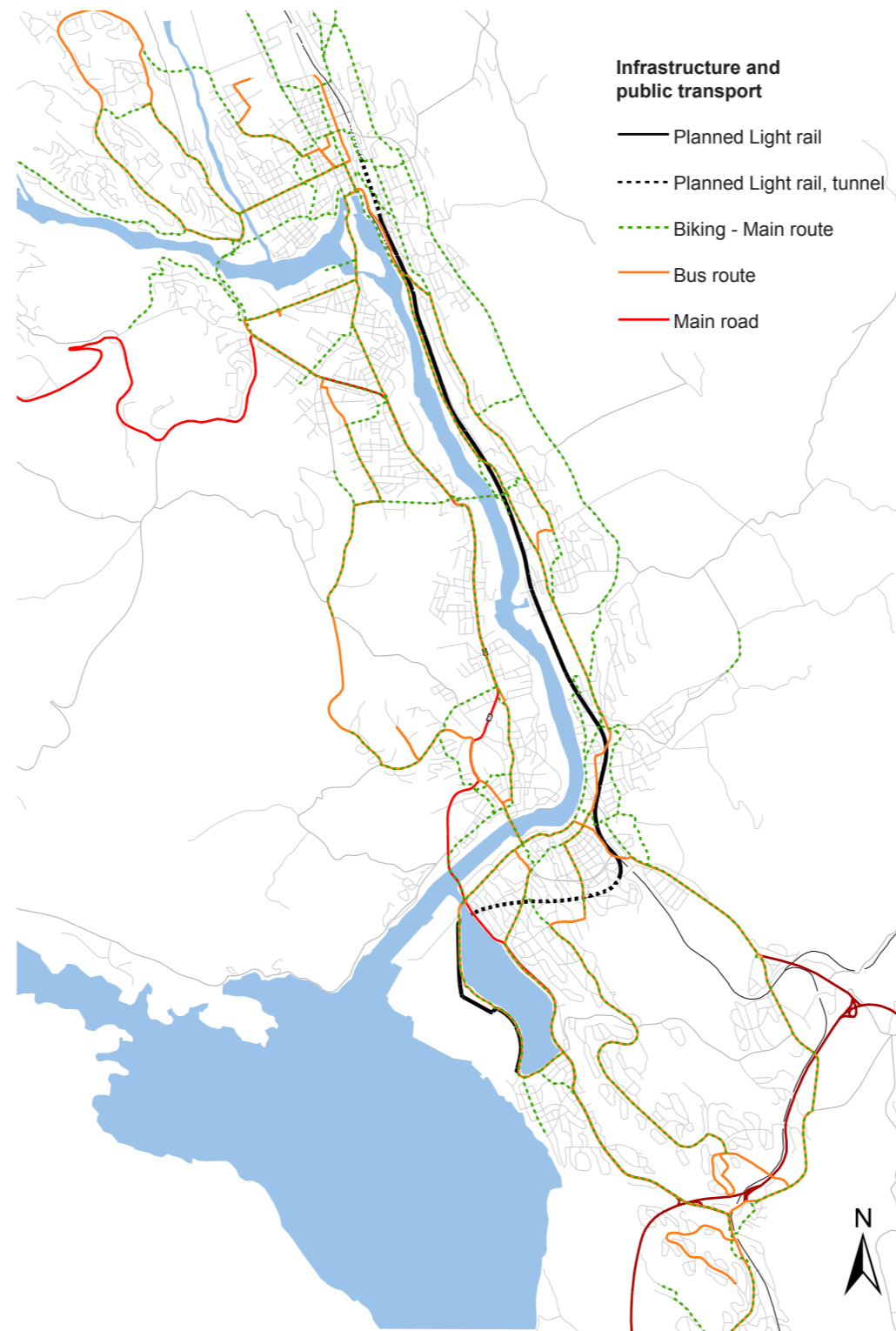
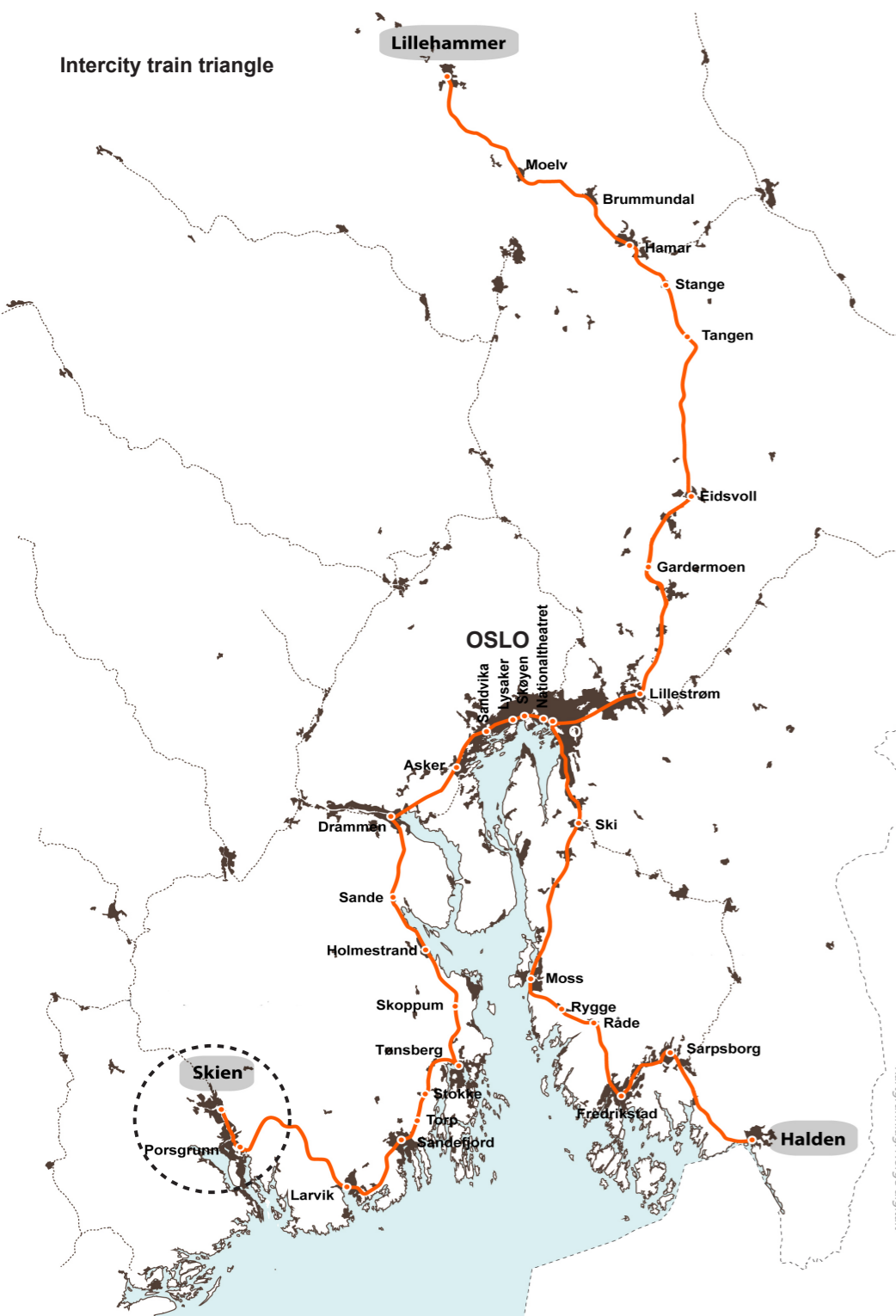
A TWIN CITY STORY

Skien and Porsgrunn are two bordering cities in Telemark County that for many years have had intertwined histories. This has been a co-existence that both sides have benefited from, and the two municipalities now collaborate on an increasing number of areas. The cities also physically interact; Last decades' substantial urban sprawl has converted the two cities into one continuous urban field of over 100 000 inhabitants. This has allowed for generous access to space and quality living, however the sprawl has led to an unfortunate infrastructural situation. Only a minuscule 5% of travelers use public transportation. In comparison, ¼ of all travelers in Oslo use public

transport, while the Norwegian national average is 8 %, almost twice as much. With Europen, Skien Municipality, Porsgrunn Municipality and Telemark County want to invite to a discussion about a sustainable development of the twin city area.

NEW URBAN MOBILITY

The competition calls for an exploration of the potential in the twin city collaboration and aims for a development that will strengthen the area's its position in the region. The municipalities and the county wish to use infrastructure as the driving force of change,



therefore Skien, Porsgrunn and Telemark County ask the European 11 contenders to:

- Propose a strategy for a new sustainable mobility in the twin city urban field.
- Investigate on a conceptual level how a new strategy can be implemented in four strategic nodes along a light rail corridor.

This strategy should aim to create an attractive, modern and sustainable urban area. How can new infrastructure be used as a successful tool that will contribute to regional, urban, demographic

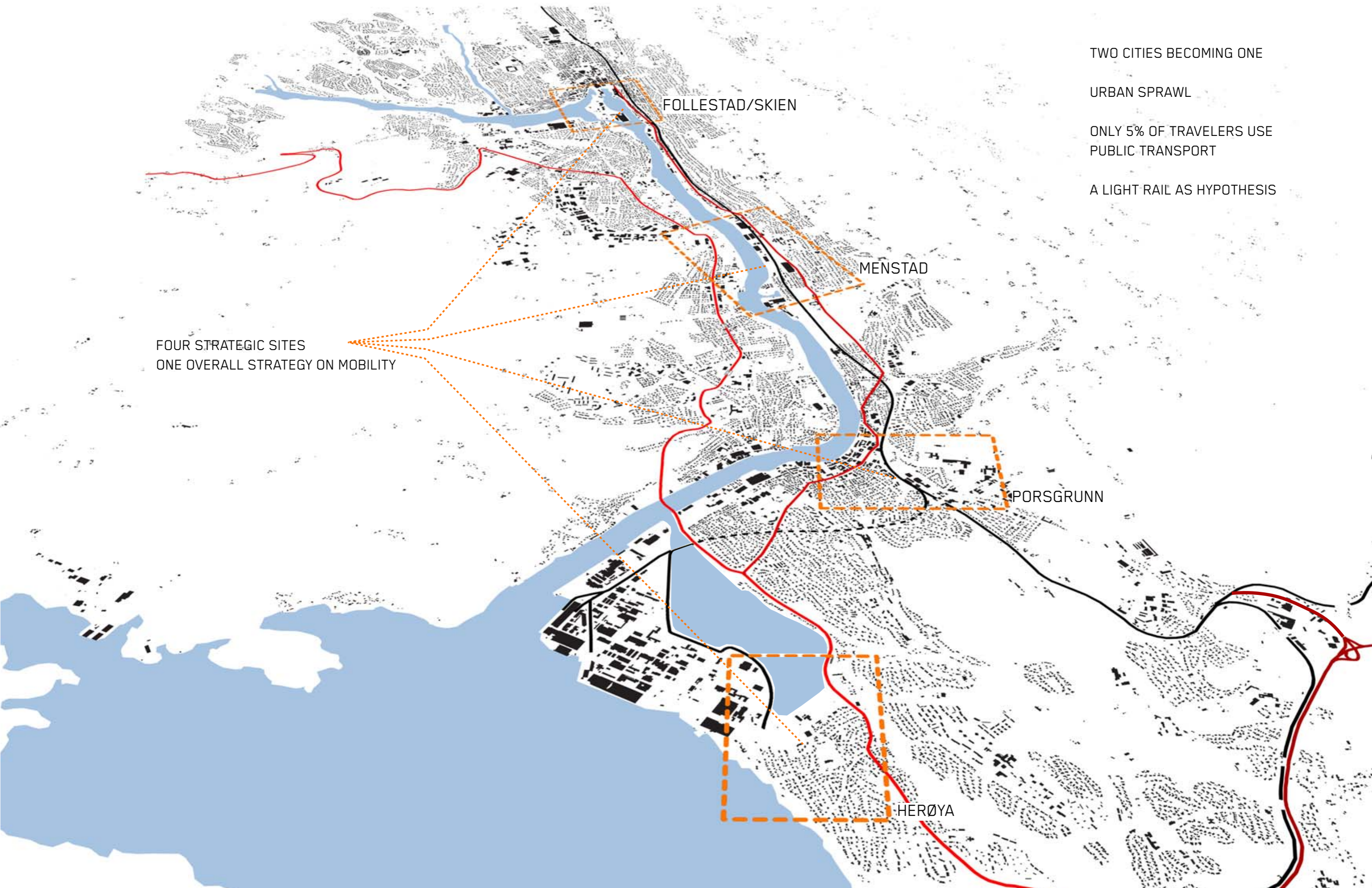
and economic growth and solve the challenges related to sustainable transportation of people in the region? A key element in the strategy should be a light rail connection between the two municipalities.

FOUR STRATEGIC SITES

Four strategic sites are selected as test beds for the common strategy. Acting as stops in a future light rail connection, they must mediate not only existing urban fabric, and local and regional flows, but also act as starting points for new development and new program. The four sites are, starting from the north, the Follestad site, a strategic point for new urban development in Skien centre; further south

the Menstad site, an industrial area between the cities, with an industrial program scheduled to be moved from the area in the coming years; and the last two sites are Porsgrunn centre and the industrial and dwelling area, Herøya. The first site calls for better internal connections, while the latter is an undefined end point in the infrastructure.

Skien and Porsgrunn have been pioneers in the industrial development of Norway. Will you help them make the leap into a common sustainable reality?



TWO CITIES BECOMING ONE

URBAN SPRAWL

ONLY 5% OF TRAVELERS USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

A LIGHT RAIL AS HYPOTHESIS

FOUR STRATEGIC SITES
ONE OVERALL STRATEGY ON MOBILITY

FOLLESTAD/SKIEN

MENSTAD

PORSGRUNN

HERØYA

Connecting cities

Europan 11 - Norge - Skien Porsgrunn

