

Redevelopment of the boulevard Emile Bockstael

Brussels (BE)

Complete civil engineering mission



Owner
Beliris - S.P.F. Mobilité et
Transports

Architect
MULTIPLICITY

Cost of the works
€ 7,92 M excl. vat

Studies
2025 - 2027

Execution
2028 - 2030

GC



Located in the north of Brussels, the **boulevard Emile Bockstael** is a 2 km long structuring axis that has undergone numerous developments over the decades. The long-standing priority given to cars has led to soil sealing and a reduction in green spaces, contributing to flood risks and heat islands. As a response to climate challenges, a comprehensive redevelopment (covering an area of 36,000 m²) has been initiated.

A redesigned boulevard for all

The aim is to transform this road into an avenue shared between the different modes of transport, while improving road safety. Among the planned developments:

- **Cycle paths** separated from traffic and widened pavements to encourage active mobility.
- **Living spaces developed in consultation with local residents**, integrating the existing tree heritage.
- **An asymmetrical structure**, defined according to the most accident-prone areas, particularly at crossroads.

A sustainable water and vegetation management

The boulevard has many mature trees, which will be preserved and integrated into a revegetation strategy aimed at enhancing biodiversity and freshening up the public space.

Water becomes a key element of the project:

- **Infiltration areas and drainage beds** to limit waterproofing.
- **Evapotranspiration and running water** to replace traditional gutters.
- **Infiltration and retention of rainwater** to prevent flooding and promote its reuse.

In the area around the school and Rue des Horticulteurs, where the water table is particularly high, an approach inspired by Dutch models is proposed: making the water visible on the surface thanks to a controlled opening in the ground, allowing natural regulation of the water level. During dry periods, this space can be used for recreational activities.

Making water an urban asset

Thanks to an integrated approach based on precise analyses (topography, sewerage network, vegetation), this project demonstrates that it is possible to **reconcile climate adaptation, hydraulic resilience, and the living environment**. Far from being a constraint, water is becoming a structuring and beneficial element for urban development.

