

THE TRANSPORT SYSTEM BRINGS US CLOSER

SWEDEN GROWS WITH THE RAILWAY

VISION
2050



As Europe becomes increasingly interconnected, Sweden risks losing both accessibility and competitiveness. We are convinced that the trend can be reversed and that the railway has a key role to play as the backbone of an integrated and seamless transport system for a growing, climate-friendly and more dynamic Sweden. That is why JBS has developed a shared vision together with all the leading players in the railway sector.

Efficient transport is key to prosperity

Today, Sweden is a rich country in many respects. Together with our Nordic neighbours, Sweden almost always comes out on top in international comparisons of living conditions, democratic stability, gender equality and general prosperity. This was not always the case. For a long time, Sweden was a poor and sparsely populated country on the periphery of Europe. Since the mid-19th century, however, the country has changed and developed into a highly specialised industrial knowledge economy based on refined natural resources, engineering and strong experiential values.

A key factor in this favourable development has been the ability to move people and goods efficiently, and there are no signs that this will become less important in the future – on the contrary. Greater mobility generates economic development, spreads ideas and new impulses, and is the basis for social development and dynamism. Efficient transport is also crucial for competitiveness in a world where more and more countries can develop their industrial capacity and reach new markets. The transport system provides the necessary resilience for society and lays the foundations for the prosperity that many people now take for granted.

Mobility, in turn, requires a well-functioning infrastructure. The massive expansion of railways during the industrialisation of the 19th century, and the breakthroughs of cars and aviation in the 20th century, changed the way Sweden looked and functioned. But in the last half century the situation has changed. The share of Sweden's GDP spent on infrastructure has been declining for a long time, even though the amount of people and goods transported has multiplied. This is unsustainable in the long term.

Today we see potholes on the roads and recurrent disruptions to rail traffic as a result of underinvestment in infrastructure. Debt for infrastructure maintenance is at a record high, while many new infrastructure projects that would enable even greater prosperity in the future have to wait for lack of funding. This means that Sweden is losing international competitiveness at a time when other European countries are investing in and expanding their railways and opening up to more international traffic and trade.

We in the railway sector want to see a Sweden that invests in the future – that invests in areas that lay the foundations for opportunity, prosperity and development towards a more vibrant, safer and more competitive Sweden.

This is our vision.

1. Growing concerns in the world

Increased focus on the EU, closer trade and value chains, resilience, NATO and defence needs.

2. A new digital age taking shape

Information, connectivity and machine intelligence driving fundamental change.

3. Re-industrialisation and energy

Climate and energy challenges at the heart of the green transition.

4. Changing geographical density

Enlargement of regions and loosening of work and daily life.

5. High expectations in the digital age

Increasing demand for "everything instantly and secure".

6. Transformation of the transport system

A new cross-border, climate-friendly transport landscape is on the horizon.

External developments point to the need for

- Fast and efficient travel and transport both within Sweden and to and from the Nordic region and Europe.
- Energy-efficient solutions to manage the green transition.
- A strong and robust transport system
- Increased capacity in all areas
- That the infrastructure maintenance debt is paid off quickly
- The transport sector moving into the next technological era.

Society is constantly changing and being shaped by all the changes that are sometimes called external trends.

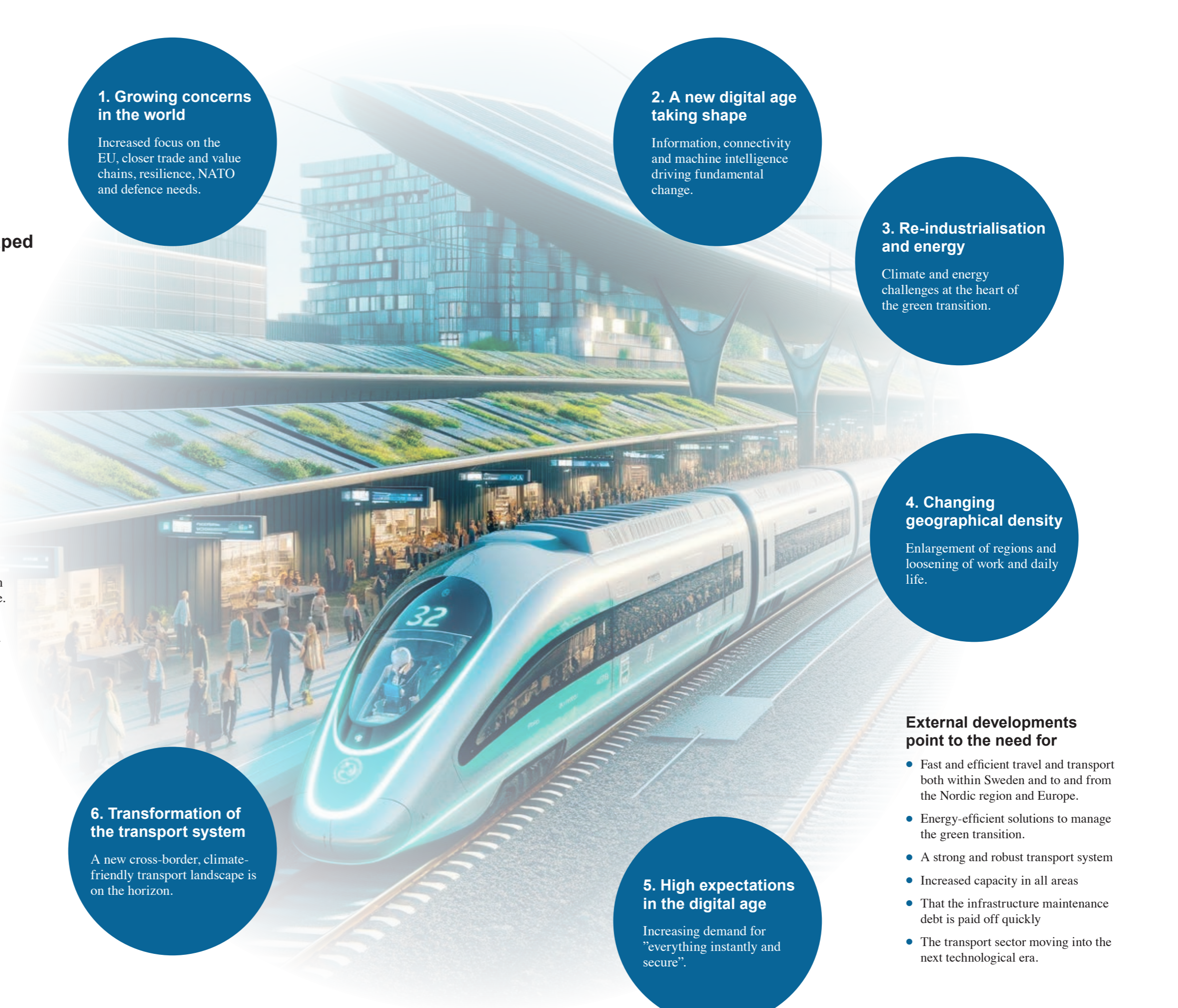
A new era dawns

Today we are on the brink of a new era of rapid technological development, new economic patterns, a changing security situation with the NATO membership, and climate change further emphasising the importance of transitioning to more sustainable societal systems. Each of these areas contains a revolutionary force for change and challenges our habitual assumptions.

The image opposite shows six key areas in the world that are shaping Sweden's future.

The ability to understand and harness the power of global developments will be crucial to Sweden's prosperity and development over time. Just as the railway helped industrialisation to take off in the 19th century, efficient transport, energy and skills will be some of the most important keys to a positive future.

The Swedish railway can and will help Sweden to succeed in this new era.



The transport system brings us closer

Our vision for 2050 is a transport system that brings us closer. Closer to each other, closer within and between our regions and closer to our neighbouring countries and the rest of Europe. And not least closer links between different modes of transport. It is about stepping up and taking the leap to a whole new level of integration, efficiency and smart solutions in transport systems. We set the bar high and want to see the following four areas met by 2050.

Sweden grows with the railway

Our vision for 2050 is that the Swedish railway is the backbone that has ensured the achievement of the EU's transport policy goals. Multimodal cross-border transport solutions and new railway capacity have become a success story for Sweden. Shorter journey times have made Sweden more accessible and competitive. The share of passengers and goods transported by rail has increased significantly since 2020. Citizens, businesses and the public appreciate and use the advantages of rail as a reliable, energy-efficient and visible mode of transport.



The road to 2050 is multifaceted. All railway stakeholders need to take responsibility together and solve some of the most critical issues without blaming others or each other. We also need the environment to create the right conditions. It is no longer possible to work magic with our knees. The way forward requires much more responsibility and commitment from politicians, authorities and companies.

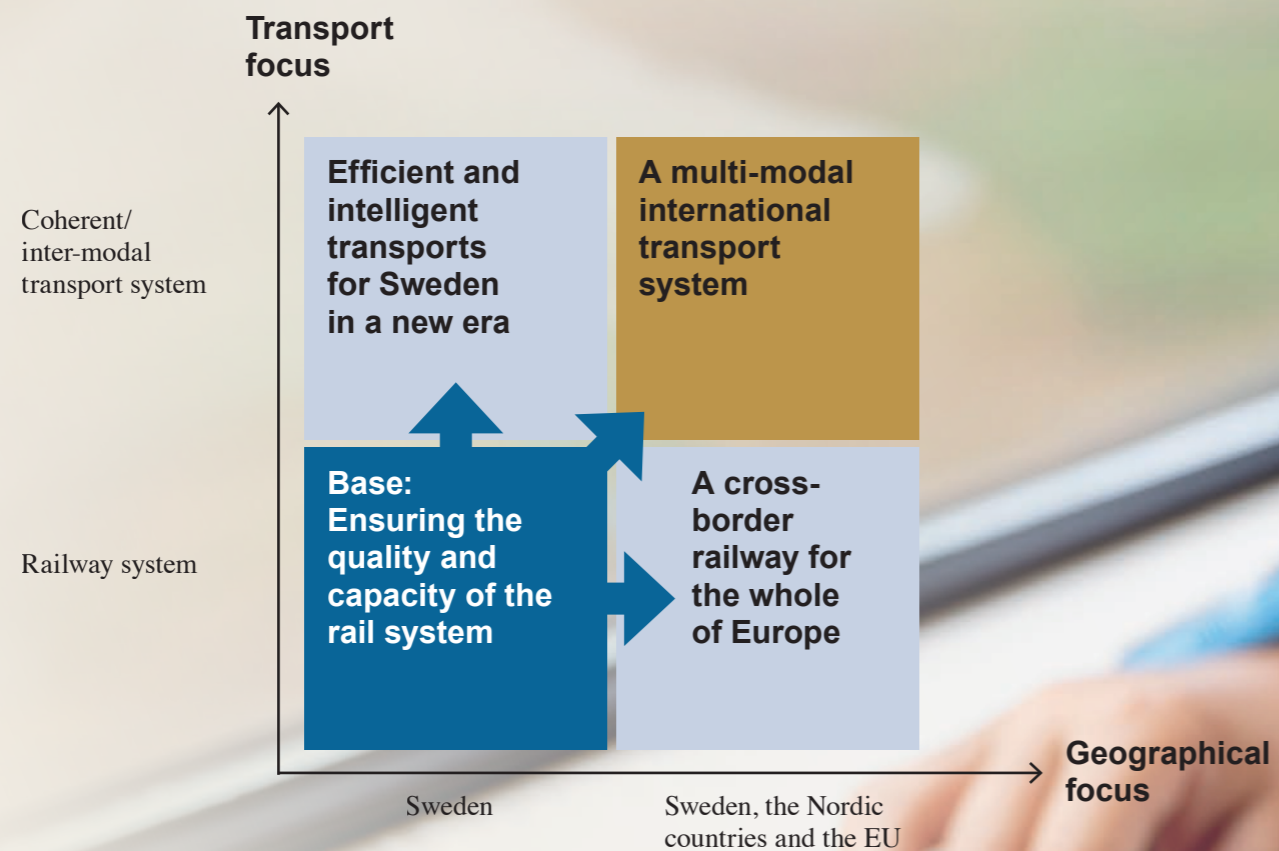
The road to 2050

Increased resources and commitment will be required for the railway to create even better conditions for a safe, dynamic and prosperous Sweden in a changing era.

Success requires thinking beyond the current Swedish railway system. This involves ensuring smooth cross-border transport to and from Europe and developing a coordinated and well-integrated multimodal transport system, where well-functioning information solutions provide more practical and seamless experiences for travellers, freight buyers and other stakeholders in society.

This journey is not easy but it is necessary. It requires both concrete solutions to practical challenges and new forms of co-operation. It is about being curious and taking advantage of the opportunities that arise, whether it is about using new technology or new knowledge about organisation and processes.

We in the railway sector want to set the pace and drive the development in the areas that need to change. The starting point is that we want to create something new, not just continue with familiar solutions and working methods.





To achieve the vision, JBS will produce a roadmap during spring 2024, covering both long-term development areas and actions that will deliver results in the short term. The work will be carried out in broad dialogue with stakeholders in the transport sector.

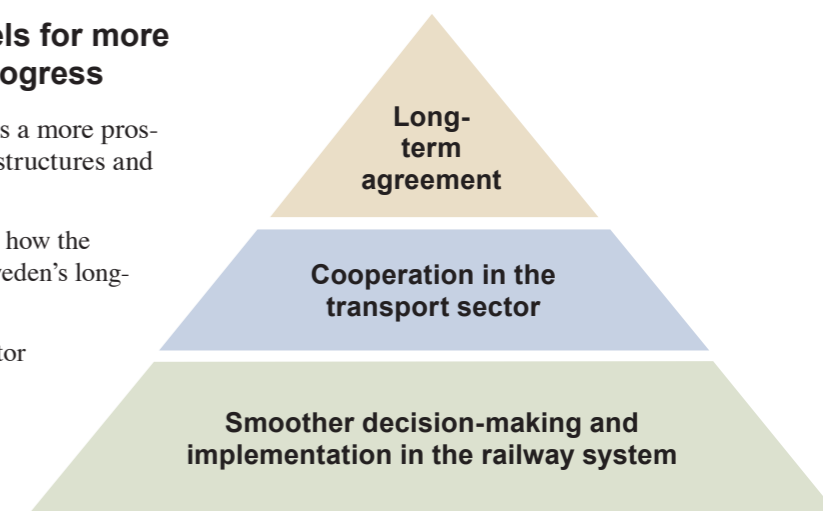
Strategic initiatives and roadmap

Achieving the vision requires two main perspectives:

1. structures and governance models for more effective planning and smoother progress

In order to build a transport system that provides a more prosperous and competitive Sweden requires better structures and governance models:

- A long-term agreement that sets the direction – how the transport system must be developed to meet Sweden’s long-term needs.
- Structures for coordination in the transport sector – developing systems and solutions for true multimodality.
- Structures and governance models for a more effective railway system – models and regulations for efficient sector cooperation.



2. Concrete areas for action in the near future

There are a number of different areas of action that can deliver results in the near future and thus address many of the current bottlenecks. Examples of areas that are already underway or in the pipeline, for example through JBS, are:

- More efficient planning, allocation and use of capacity.
- Improved punctuality, passenger information and comfort.
- More efficient maintenance planning and execution.
- Trimming measures in different functions
- Connecting and actively exploiting the opportunities of digitalisation.
- More standardisation and regulatory simplification.
- Balance in charges, incentives and framework conditions for increased competitiveness.

VISION N 2050

A shared vision
developed by JBS
in collaboration with
Sweden's leading
stakeholders