

# Extension of the Kölner Ring (Cologne Ring Road)

Current Situation - Future Outlook



**Straßen.NRW.**

Landesbetrieb Straßenbau Nordrhein-Westfalen

**Niederlassung Köln**

# The Kölner Ring

**The Kölner Ring**  
**- one of the most important**  
**traffic hubs in Europe**

The A 1, A 3 and A 4 motorways encircle the Cologne municipal zone like a ring. With daily traffic volumes now averaging around 100,000 vehicles on the A 1 and A 4 and 160,000 vehicles on the A 3, the Kölner Ring is one of the highest-volume and consequently most congestion-prone roads in the Federal Republic of Germany. This is why the Kölner Ring is to be extended in the West (A 1) to 6 lanes and in the East (A 3) to 8 lanes.

Road	Intersection/junction	Year	1936 / 37	1952 / 53	1958	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000					
A 1 / A 3	AK Leverkusen					15,000	32,174	43,852	53,748	65,566	64,674	78,421	92,621	99,937					
A 1	AK Leverkusen-West						32,174	43,852	57,962	75,160	71,973	83,081	100,317	118,913					
A 1	Köln-Niehl						18,571	40,643	50,007	69,032	66,009	72,089	85,419	90,037					
A 1	AK Köln-Nord						21,615	45,569	52,251	76,561	77,771	81,861	85,974	89,000					
A 1	Köln-Bocklemünd						20,755	45,891	67,035	78,461	70,760	86,096	92,100	98,000					
A 1	Köln-Lövenich						23,677	56,645	65,579	84,954	81,010	101,762	112,728	114,393					
A 1 / A 4	AK Köln-West							8,750	8,750	29,843	46,275	50,422	52,022	56,614	74,651	86,910	102,435		
A 4	Köln-Klettenberg							10,200	12,100	30,222	47,628	55,768	71,406	59,048	81,779	95,017	111,654		
A 4	AK Köln-Süd							15,000	15,000	41,103	52,881	57,489	78,090	76,977	81,278	93,578	114,483		
A 4	Köln-Poll							4,000	16,900	24,000	37,251	46,262	52,922	70,154	66,883	74,026	80,038	111,996	
A 4	AK Köln-Gremberg							4,000	16,900	15,000	45,965	47,535	50,000	73,764	48,389	59,904	66,936	76,257	
A 3 / A 4 / A 59	AD Köln-Heumar							8,500	25,000	24,300	48,851	55,473	65,278	90,961	99,846	130,900	147,108	154,949	
A 3 / A 4	AK Köln-Ost							8,500	25,000	24,300	44,763	55,473	78,927	108,368	113,271	127,363	152,165	164,429	
A 3	Köln-Dellbrück							8,500	25,000	25,000	40,825	56,039	71,897	93,134	96,077	131,419	134,725	157,080	
A 3	Köln-Mülheim							4,404	17,400	33,400	33,000	61,148	66,158	65,673	100,800	95,250	117,347	134,376	143,582
A 3	Leverkusen							4,404	17,400	33,400	35,000	58,570	79,095	87,369	99,900	75,241	126,887	140,906	153,503
A 1 / A 3	AK Leverkusen																		

<= 40,000 vehicles/day
  40,000 <= 80,000 vehicles/day
  80,000 <= 120,000= vehicles/day
  120,000 <= 160,000 vehicles/day

**The table shows growing**  
**congestion on the Ring Road**  
**prior to 1965 and traffic**  
**volumes continuing to rise.**

On about half of the 52 kilometre-long Kölner Ring, the planned extension has already occurred. The need to expand the other half of this motorway ring road is not in dispute. However, the required measures should be carried out with the least possible disruption to traffic. Traffic advisories and traffic rerouting devices plus regulated feeding routes should help reduce the volume of traffic around the ring.

The planners at the Cologne branch of Straßen.NRW have also taken into account the needs of people living in the vicinity of these motorways. Their objective is to guarantee mobility for the growing volumes of traffic while at the same time ensuring the best possible level of noise protection. The extension of the Kölner Ring will require investments totalling around half a billion euros.

## Extension sections

### A 1 between the Leverkusen and Köln-West intersections

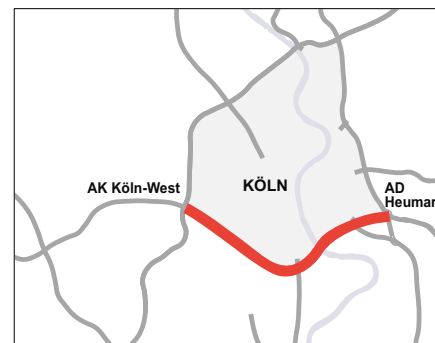
Between the Leverkusen and Köln-West intersections, extension of the A 1 to 6 lanes was completed back in 1996. In the area between the Köln-Nord and Köln-West intersections, widening of the road to 6 lanes is planned in two stages:

- Köln-Nord intersection up to the Cologne-Aachen German Rail Bridge (7.5 km)
- Cologne-Aachen German Rail Bridge up to the Köln-West intersection (2.2 km)



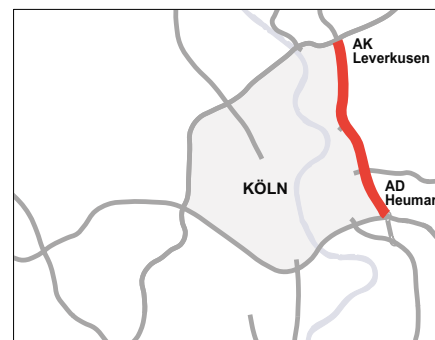
### A 4 between the Köln-West intersection and the Heumar triangle

This section of the Kölner Ring was extended to 6 lanes in the 1990s. Widening of the motorway with the “doubling” of the Rodenkirchen Rhine Bridge relieved the traffic situation considerably. As well as this extension, the new Eifeltor junction was also constructed along this section of the ring. This junction provides a link to the Köln-Eifeltor container railway station, where goods can be offloaded from road to rail transport.



### A 3 between the Heumar triangle and the Leverkusen intersection

The most critical area of the A 3 is the section between the Heumar triangle and the Mülheim junction. This is where traffic currently flows via three narrow lanes in each direction. There are no hard shoulders, which means that even small disruptions can quickly lead to traffic congestion. This is why this particular section of the A 3 is being extended first. The section between the Mülheim junction and the Leverkusen intersection will follow. There is already a motorway cross-sectional road here with 2 x 3 lanes and hard shoulders. The extension is planned in 5 stages:



- Heumar triangle to the Köln-Ost intersection (3.6 km)
- Köln-Ost intersection to the Köln-Dellbrück junction (1.6 km)
- Köln-Dellbrück junction to the Köln-Mülheim junction (2.2 km)
- Köln-Mülheim junction to the Leverkusen junction (4.6 km)
- Leverkusen junction to the Leverkusen intersection (2.0 km)



# Feeder Roads

## A 4 between the Kerpen and Köln-West intersections

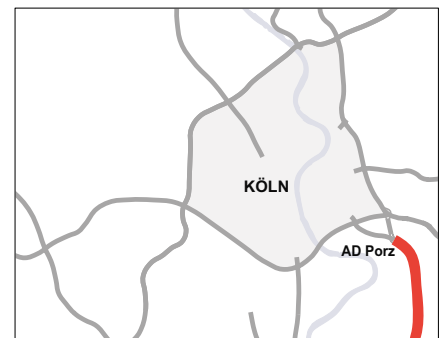
To improve east-west traffic flows, the A 4 will be expanded to 6 lanes. The Cologne branch of the NRW roading company, "Straßen.NRW" has divided the 12 km total length of this road into two construction stages. The first section between the Kerpen intersection and the petrol station and motorway rest area will be completed in the spring of 2004. The entire project, including a new A 4 / Bonnstrasse part junction to and from Aachen should be finished by late 2005. A further A 4 / L 361n junction will follow in due course.

For the entire Cologne Ring Road complex to function properly, extension of some feeder routes will also be required.



## A 59 between the Porz triangle and the Bonn-Beuel-Ost junction

The long-term trunk road requirements plan includes expansion of the A 59 to 6 lanes.



## Staged expansion process

By the year 2009, the entire Kölner Ring (Cologne Ring Road) should be a 6-lane roading system. Completion of the A 3 as an 8-lane motorway will follow. During the construction period, information on the expansion of the Kölner Ring will be made available to nationwide traffic at selected car parks and drivers will be advised to take wide detours in order to bypass the roadworks area. As large road construction projects on motorways that are still open to traffic always present inherent accident risks, NRW roading company, Straßen.NRW, together with the Cologne regional authorities and motorway police have launched a joint road safety campaign, "Sicher im Ring" ("Safe in the Ring"). This campaign is designed to draw the attention of all traffic users to the dangers of driving in the roadworks area and is an appeal to drivers to adopt a careful and considerate approach.

Information signs at motorway rest areas





**Straßen.NRW. ("NRW Rooding")**  
**Niederlassung Köln (Cologne Branch)**

Director: Uwe Dewes  
Am Grauen Stein 33  
51105 Köln  
Germany  
Phone: +49 (0)221 8397-0  
Email: niederlassung.koeln@koeln.strassen.nrw.de  
Internet: www.strassen.nrw.de



Director:  
**Uwe Dewes**

Contact:  
Laurenz Braunisch  
Phone: +49 (0)221 8397-364  
Fax: +49 (0)221 8397-100  
Email: laurenz.braunisch@koeln.strassen.nrw.de



Dep. Director:  
**Heinz-Jürgen Hermanns**

**For further information, see:**

[www.strassen.nrw.de](http://www.strassen.nrw.de)  
Information on the regional NRW rooding construction company, its branches, projects, latest traffic congestion forecasts, plus other associated links

[www.verkehrsinfo.nrw.de](http://www.verkehrsinfo.nrw.de)  
Traffic overview for the entire region

[www.autobahnpolizei-koeln.de](http://www.autobahnpolizei-koeln.de)  
Information from the motorway police in the Cologne regional administration area, plus other associated links

08000-787277  
Phone line for Straßen.NRW. information and questions about motorways in NRW, duration and extent of roadworks/road closures/detours etc.

**Masthead:**

Straßen.NRW.  
Zentrale Kommunikation  
(Central Communications)  
Fürstenbergstr. 15  
48147 Münster  
Germany  
Phone: +49 (0)251 1444-168 and -169  
Fax: +49 (0)251 1444-363  
Email: kontakt@strassen.nrw.de  
Internet: www.strassen.nrw.de

Münster, May 2003

