

The Conservation of the Environmental Heritage Valparaiso, Heritage for Humanity

Trolley Buses in Serrano Street, Valparaiso
Mean of mitigation of acoustic contamination

1. Introduction

Since 2010, in Chile, there is the law 19.300 about the general basis of environment which is applied by the National Commission of Environment that creates the position of President of the commission and confers the rank of Minister of State.

Within the main concepts there is the right to live in an environment free of contamination, the protection of the environment, the conservation of the nature and the conservation of the environmental heritage which are regulated by the disposition of this law notwithstanding of what other legal regulations established about this matter.

The law defines the conservation of Environmental Heritage, as the rational use, exploitation or repair of the environmental components, especially those which are owned by the country that are unique, limited or representative to secure its terms and regeneration capacity.

Additionally the same law points the kind of projects that, previous to its realization must be subjected to studies of environmental impact where the result determines if the project could or could not be applied.

In its position of Heritage Site for Humanity, Valparaiso has implemented experiences in the sphere of preservation of our heritage which is refers to rational use, exploitation or reparation, when possible, of the components of the environment, especially those agents that could damage our built heritage.

Due to this the sustainable development of our heritage and especially of our means of transportation has been in a process of fair and sustainable improvement of the quality of life of the people. Based in proper measures of conservation and protection of the environment, thus we will not endanger the expectation of future generations.

2. General Background, Trolley Buses in Serrano Street, Valparaiso, Mean of mitigation of acoustic contamination.

In the decade of the 1930 was born in Valparaiso, with particular strength, the idea of giving a big step about transportation, including the modern and comfortable trolley buses to the public system of transportation, this will change the noisy old electric trams which circulate in the city since 1903.

Finally, after a long way of bad news, in October 15th of 1952 – more than five years later from the exhibition of the first trolley – they arrived to Valparaiso. The trolley buses golden age was the years 1959-1960, when their track reached Viña del Mar.

We must point out that during the year 2010, 16 trolley buses has been recognize by its value and be declared as historic movable property monument according to the decree N# 761 October 26th, 2003 in agreement of the law N# 17.288 of the Republic of Chile. This recognition turns them into important cultural heritage of the city of Valparaiso.

3. Serrano Street, Area “Barrio Puerto”

The great Valparaiso it is known by its narrow streets where we can mention Serrano Street as one of them. Former “La Planchada Street,” is an historic and important via which is part of the original nucleus of the city in the Barrio Puerto. Since 2003, this area is part of the site declared by the UNESCO as Heritage site for Humanity. For this reason the city authority and different public organization of the State of Chile work together to:

- The generation of a road infrastructure plan to improve the public lighting, the decrease of air cable of public lighting, and the pavement (cobblestone pavement) in Serrano Street.
- Exclusive authorization for the transport of trolley buses (electric transportation) and minor particular vehicles, by this measure is forbidden the pass of diesel vehicles caused of the major problems of acoustic contamination in the area.

Objectives

Revitalization and rehabilitation of the neighbor

Mitigation of acoustic contamination of public transportation

Location

Serrano Street, Barrio Puerto



Prior situation in pictures



February 3rd, 2007. Explosion and Fire in Serrano Street



In the year 2007, an explosion and fire affected a several number of buildings of Serrano Street. This fire cause a shock in the city and become an international news due to its importance as Heritage Site for Humanity.

Current Situation



With the implementation of the improvement in Serrano Street, it was provided a better environmental quality to its neighbors and people who visit this busy street of the Barrio Puerto. Now the street is provided with:

- Exclusive public transportation to trolley buses;
- Installment of new public lighting;
- Re-pavement of the entire street with cobblestone;
- All the above, has helped to decrease the acoustic pollution in the area.

We must underline that Valparaíso was the pioneer in the use of electric trolley buses as a clean mean of transportation in Chile at the beginning of the 20th Century in Chile and until today they are one of the most important transport in the Great Valparaiso