

Petition IGLS abstract in English

Reasons and arguments for bypassing Schmitten in a tunnel (north) and not by an open main road south of the village

1. Relieve from the traffic of the extremely narrow passage through the village center.
2. Not a bare shifting of the traffic emissions and dangers from the village center to the south of the village.
3. No unnecessary destroying of valuable culture – and agriculture land over a length of 2300 meters length and 6 – 8 meters breadth on the sunny terrace of Schmitten. An area equivalent to about 4 – 6 football fields would disappear under cement and asphalt. (In small Switzerland every 1 second one 1 square meter of land is used up by the building industry).
No obstruction of agriculture and farmers working the land.
4. No cutting up, fragmentation, obstruction of protected dry- meadows of national importance and recorded in the respective federal inventory.
5. No destruction of the local leisure area and hiking trails of Schmitten. One of the hiking trails leads in only 15 minutes to the platform overlooking the world famous viaduct of the Rhätisch Railway crossing the Landwasser- River. This viaduct which is part of the UNESCO world heritage of the Albula-Bernina stretch is standing equally half way on Schmitten ground and Filisur. The platform is located on Schmitten grounds. Schmitten is part of the ELA Nature Park.
6. No destruction of the extraordinary Flora and Fauna in a unique countryside on the sunny terrace of Schmitten. No obstruction of interlinking the biological islands of the Albula valley from Tiefencastel to Schmitten, as initiated by the department of nature and environment Grison.
7. No destruction of the culture landscape which evolved over long times and was created by earlier generations in strenuous efforts to safeguard the survival of the people in the mountains. The heaps of stone thus still give evidence of these times gone by. Today the sunny terrace is the existence of 3 farmer families.
8. No interruption of traditional routes used by game, in particular deer, frequented particular during winter time by several dozens. Eagles and falcons are cruising regular over the countryside in question.
9. “The terrace of Schmitten is situated in the buffer zone of the UNESCO world heritage Albula – Bernina Bahn” so defined by Dr. Oliver Martin chief of Federal Department of culture, BAK Bundesamt für Kultur. The UNESCO - label allocated to this stretch of the Rhätische Bahn is already extensively commercialized by touristic organizations of the canton Grison. With the construction of the new road (as planned) the UNESCO - label might be endangered. The referenced UNESCO- convention became part of the Swiss federal law, (SR 00451.41), since it was ratified by the Swiss government.
10. No conflict with potent Government – and No government Organizations (NGOs) like Nature - and Environment -Protection organizations.
11. **The community of Schmitten would loose its most important capital it is possessing now , in particular the nearby beautiful landscape in the south with its inherent potential for recovery and restful relaxation in fresh, clean and crisp mountain air. All this together with all perspectives for a meaningful future development of the village.**