

= Nationaltheatret Station =

Nationaltheatret Station (Norwegian : Nationaltheatret stasjon) is an underground railway station on the Drammen Line serving Vika and the central business district of Oslo , Norway . It is the second @-@ busiest railway station in Norway , behind Oslo Central Station (Oslo S) , from which Nationaltheatret is 1 @.@ 4 kilometers (0 @.@ 9 mi) away . Owned and operated by the Norwegian National Rail Administration , Nationaltheatret serves regional services to the Vestfold Line and intercity services on the Sørland Line operated by the Norwegian State Railways (NSB) , the Oslo Commuter Rail operated by NSB and NSB Gjøvikbanen , and the Airport Express Train .

The station is located below an Oslo Metro station with the same name . At ground level there is transfer to the Oslo Tramway and Ruter buses . Nationaltheatret is the only underground mainline railway station in Norway , and named for the adjacent National Theatre . The station opened as the terminus of Holmenkolbanen 's light rail services in 1928 . The railway station opened on 1 June 1980 and was upgraded to four tracks in 1999 . The older section received a full renovation in 2008 .

= = Facilities = =

Nationaltheatret is Norway 's only underground mainline railway station , located within the Oslo Tunnel on the Drammen Line . At ground level , there are three entrances to the station . On the west side of the station , the main entrance is from beneath 7 @.@ juni @-@ plassen and Victoria Terrasse , facing Ruseløkkveien ; and , there is an entrance from Johanne Dybwads plass , which is the site of the National Theatre . From the east , there is an entrance from Henrik Ibsens gate . There is a large , open vestibule near the surface at the entrance to Ruseløkkveien . It has high @-@ mounted windows facing south , giving natural lighting . The area features escalators and elevators to the platforms , manned ticket sale , lockers , kiosks and cafés . The station is also equipped with ticket machines and features baggage trolleys , washrooms , automated teller machines and a Western Union bank . Parking is available 300 meters (1 @.@ 000 ft) away at Vika , where car rental is also provided . Bicycle parking and taxi stands are located at street level .

There are two platforms and four tracks , with the older tracks 1 and 2 serving west @-@ bound trains towards Skøyen and Drammen , while the newer tracks 3 and 4 serve east @-@ bound trains to Oslo S. The platforms are 242 and 250 meters (794 and 820 ft) long , respectively , and located 30 meters (100 ft) below the surface . The station has a capacity for 40 @.@ 000 passenger per day and is the second @-@ busiest in Norway .

= = Service = =

The Norwegian State Railways ' intercity services along the Sørland Line call at Nationaltheatret , up to four times per day per direction . The fastest service to Kristiansand takes 4 hours and 23 minutes and 7 hours and 59 minutes to Stavanger . NSB 's regional service along the Vestfold Line also calls at Nationaltheatret , normally with a one @-@ hour headway . Eastwards , these continue past Oslo S and serve the southern part of the Dovre Line until Lillehammer . All eight lines of the Oslo Commuter Rail stop at Nationaltheatret . However , not all services of all line operate west of Oslo S. The Airport Express Train operates direct , high @-@ speed services to Oslo Airport , Gardermoen every 20 minutes , with the journey taking 28 minutes .

Located above the railway station , but nonetheless underground , is a metro station , which serves all six lines of the Oslo Metro . The next west @-@ bound station is Majorstuen (formerly Valkyrie plass , but that station exists no more) , while the next east @-@ bound station is Stortinget . At ground level , there is transfer to lines 13 and 19 of the Oslo Tramway . The station is located on the Briskeby Line and serves westbound trains heading along the Briskeby and Lilleaker Lines , and eastbound station , via Jernbanetorget , along the Ekeberg Line and the Grünerløkka ? Torshov Line . The station also serves Ruter buses 30 , 31 , 32 , 70 , 82 and 83 .

= = History = =

Planning of the extension of the suburban light rail Holmenkollen Line to the city center started in 1901 . Construction began in 1912 , but stopped again in 1914 because the municipality and the company could not agree on the location of the terminal station . The municipality wanted it at Ruseløkkveien . The following year , the municipality launched a contest to make the best suggestion for the tram networks . It took five years to select a winner , and this allowed the municipality and company to make a compromise by locating the terminus at Nationaltheatret . But not until 1926 was permission granted for the station . Construction commenced and the station and tunnel opened in 1928 .

By the 1930s , Oslo had two main railway stations , Oslo East Station and Oslo West Station . Serving as the terminal station of the Drammen Line , Oslo West Station (Oslo V) was located in Vika , at the heart of the central business district of Oslo . The much larger Oslo East Station (Oslo Ø) served most commuter , regional and intercity trains . In 1938 , the Station Committee of 1938 was established to look into a possible connection of the Drammen Line to Oslo Ø . Led by Axel Grenholm , the committee recommended building a branch from the Drammen Line as a tunnel under the city center , allowing all trains would terminate at Oslo Ø . It was proposed that the tunnel would run from Lassons gate west of Oslo V to Fred . Olsens gate , with an intermediate station close to the location of Oslo V.

In 1946 , the Planning Office for Oslo Central Station , led by Fin Hvoslef , was established by the government . In 1950 , they presented a new report , which recommended that a new route for the tunnel be considered , to ease construction and increase safety . This was in part based on an engineering report from 1949 , which had made the first detailed plans for the line . Another committee , led by Oddvar Halvorsen , was established in 1960 to look at the matter again . Also it recommended a tunnel and a central station . However , it felt that the tunnel should be longer and intersect with the Drammen Line at a point between Skarpsno and Skøyen , and build a second station at Frogner . The proposal was presented to the Parliament of Norway on 4 November 1961 , along with several other matters related to rail transport investments . Construction of the Oslo Tunnel , Oslo Central Station and Nationaltheatret was passed unanimously .

Another planning office was established in 1962 , initially led by Erik Himle . The final plans for the route were passed by parliament in 1968 , and construction started in 1971 . The initial station was entirely blasted in bedrock and consisted of a single platform , 220 meters (720 ft) long and 11 meters (36 ft) wide . Adjacent to the bedrock is a layer of construction concrete and above the platforms , there are corrugated steel plates to catch drips and to reduce noise . The section of line past Nationaltheatret was part of a 480 meters (1 570 ft) section of the Oslo Tunnel designated Studenterlunden . Of this , 280 meter (920 ft) was to run with the Common Tunnel of the Oslo Metro directly above it , resulting in a two story tunnel . However , just east of Nationaltheatret , the two lines diverge , so the metro station is not directly on top of the railway station .

The tunnel was officially opened on 30 May 1980 by Minister of Transport and Communications Ronald Bye and officially taken into use on 1 June . The tunnel , including Nationaltheatret , cost NOK 625 million Norwegian krone (NOK) , of which Oslo Municipality had paid NOK 170 million . At first , the tunnel and Nationaltheatret was used by commuter trains from Lillestrøm to Drammen and Spikkestad , and trains from Eidsvoll and Årnes used the tunnel and turned at Skøyen . On 27 May 1989 , Oslo V was closed and all traffic started running via Nationaltheatret .

From 1998 , the Airport Express Train would start operating , and more capacity would be needed , both at Nationaltheatret and through the Oslo Tunnel . In 1995 , NSB held an architecture competition to expand the station , which was won by LPO Arkitektur og Design and their design " Next To Nothing " . Construction commenced in October 1997 and consisted of building 830 meters (2 720 ft) of new tunnel , a new double platform , a larger vestibule , escalators and artwork . During the work , 110 000 cubic metres (3 900 000 cu ft) of rock were blasted and 33 000 cubic metres (1 200 000 cu ft) of concrete were poured . The station was decorated with works by Anne Karine Furunes , Terje Roalkvam and Katrine Giæver . The

upgrades cost NOK 920 million and was officially opened by King Harald V on 16 December 1999 .

The new entrance was designed by Arne Eggen and decorated by Terje Roalkvam . Other art was designed by Bård Breivik and Ole Enstad , including reuse of some of the original vestibule art from 1980 , including a green marble wall designed by Katrine Giæver that runs along the hallway leading to the metro station . The new platform was built using typical 1990s materials , such as glass , metal and concrete , contrasting the old platform which was much darker and featured dark terracotta tiles which were popular during the 1970s .

In 2008 , the old section of Nationaltheatret Station was renovated , including tracks 1 and 2 and the two original entrances . Upgrades included new lighting , a new public address system , new escalators which have lighting that changes color , a more powerful fire safety system , improved emergency exits and replacement of cables and baldachin . The upgrade made the old section lighter , and visually similar to the new section , as it was previously painted in dark red . Between 2008 and 2012 , the Norwegian National Rail Administration is performing a major upgrade to the section between Lysaker and Etterstad , including the permanent way past Nationaltheatret . Among the upgrades are axle counters , mounting of an overhead conductor rail , new switches and new tracks .