Enhancing the crossing for amphibians and monitoring the impact

THE SOLUTION

- Deepening the ballast between each 11th and 12th sleeper (or even more frequent) and installing amphibian plats at the inside and outside of the rail at two sides: a) Canton Waadt between Yverdon and Yvonand, section of about 1.5 km with one rail (deepening ballast since 2017, installing plats early 2021), b) Canton Aargau closed to Oberrüti early 2021, section of 900 m with two rails.

- The installation was done by SBB

- The manufacturing of this plats has been developed by the cantonal department of nature protection of Aargau (further information here, video of installation)

- The 2-year monitoring whether the amphibian cross better the rails has been funded and mandated by the national department of environment (BAFU) to the national coordination platform for amphibian and reptils karch. The monitoring was then conducted by WLS GmbH.

- The national department of transport authorised this system (no adverse impact on rail topography)

Outcomes

- Faster and more directed crossing of amphibians
- No observation that amphibians died due to the air pressure of the train
- The final report should be available at the end of 2021 and acknowledged by BAFU.

Keywords: Amphibians, Crossing, Monitoring