

Bold concept for Helsinki-Tallinn tunnel

A pioneering design to bore a train tunnel between Helsinki and Tallinn is gaining ground after Finland and Estonia signed a letter of intent

■ Tunnel length: **103km**, making it world's longest undersea tunnel

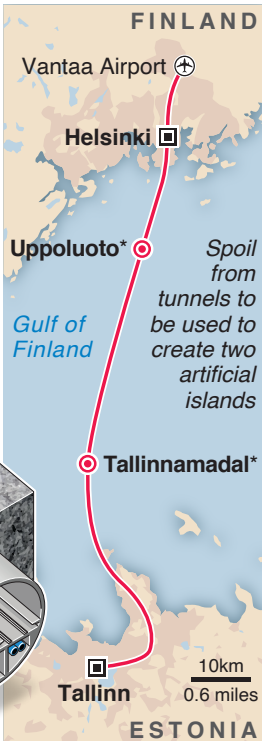
■ Current journey time by ferry: **2 hours**

■ High speed train travel time through tunnel: **20 minutes**

Norwegian Sea

FINLAND

ESTONIA



Spoil from tunnels to be used to create two artificial islands

Island nearest Helsinki would become entertainment hub with train station, shops, businesses and housing

Depth: Up to 250m

Stable granite bedrock

Tunnel diameters: **17m**. Allows them to also carry pipes and cables or be repurposed for future technologies

Each large enough to house two rail tracks



Plan headed up by entrepreneur **Peter Vesterbacka**, who made his fortune from **Angry Birds** video game (his nickname is **Mighty Eagle**). Expected cost put at **€15-20 billion**, mostly funded by Chinese backers, leading some to accuse project of being too accommodating of China's **Belt and Road Initiative**

