

How to get to school when there is a strike?

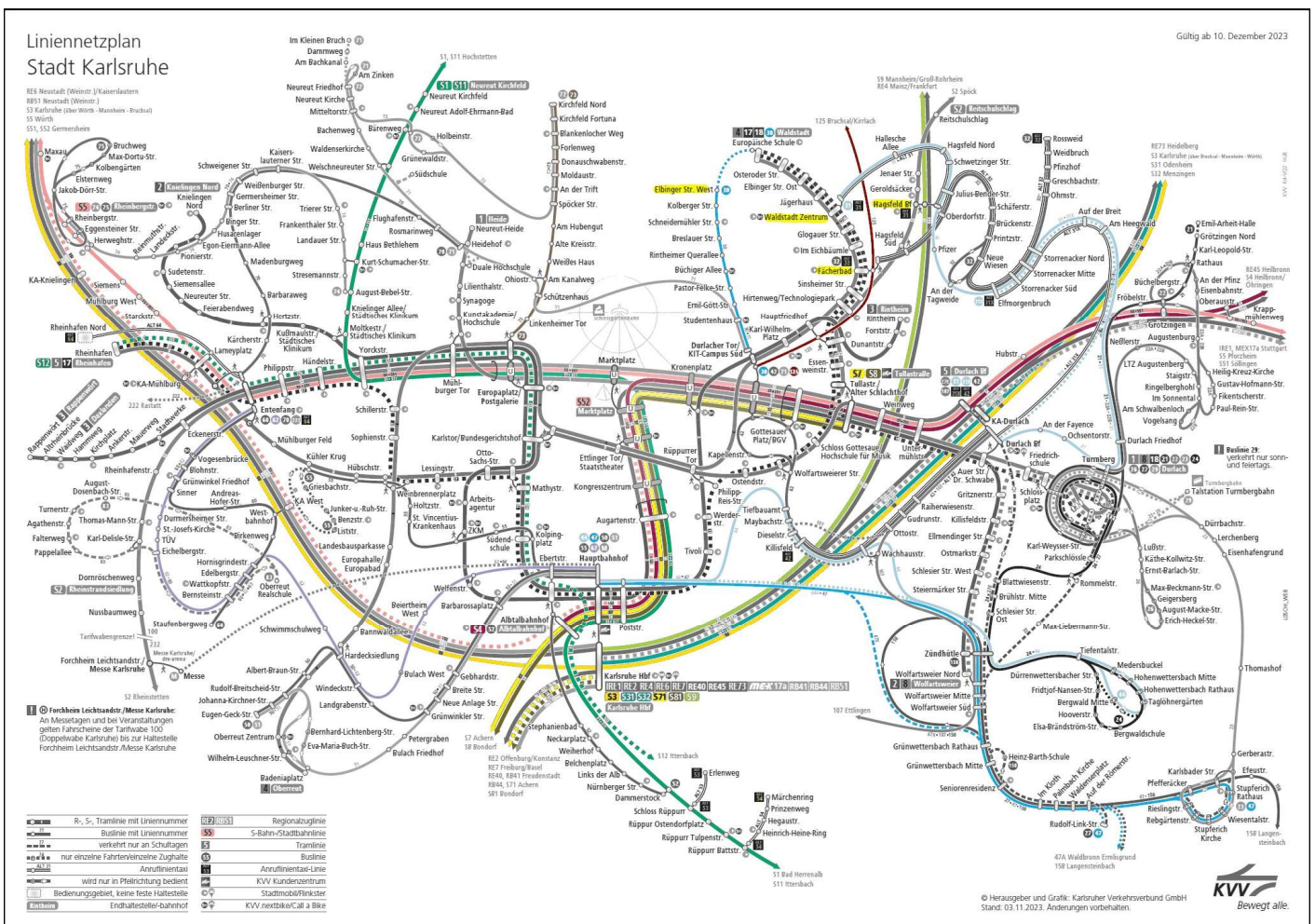
Strikes - transport companies and trade unions

When you hear in the news that "the trains are on strike in Karlsruhe", it never means that there are no trains running at all and certainly not that there are no buses or trains running. To put it simply, you can say that either the trains that take you TO Karlsruhe are on strike or - together with the buses - those that carry you WITHIN Karlsruhe are on strike, but never both at the same time. In addition, the Karlsruhe transport company (VBK) recently set up an emergency timetable for some bus routes when they were on strike.

We will briefly explain why this is the case at the end of this document for those interested, but first to the question "How do I get to school?" if, as is currently the case, the Karlsruhe transport company is suffers a strike by the Ver.di labour union.

When Ver.di goes on strike at VBK

When Ver.di is on strike, light rail, regional trains and long-distance services usually run as usual. During the last warning strikes by Ver.di, the lines shown in colour on the following map were in normal operation or with an emergency timetable:



Information on whether this will be the case again during the next strike can be found at <https://www.vbk.info/index.html>

Getting to Durlacher Tor, Hauptbahnhof or Durlach station is almost as easy as usual. From there, however, it becomes more difficult. Nevertheless, there are or were four ways to get closer to the school by public transport than just to Durlacher Tor.

When Ver.di last went on strike, VBK set up emergency timetables for bus routes 30 (Durlacher Tor - Waldstadt) and 31 (Durlach - Waldstadt). We don't know whether this will happen again during the next strike. It is also clear that the options shown on the following pages for getting to school are not really good for most pupils, especially the youngest ones. Our primary aim here is to help you look for all the options that might be available. The emergency timetable was also available in the KVV information centre shortly after the strike was announced: <https://www.kvv.de/fahrplan/fahrplanauskunft.html>

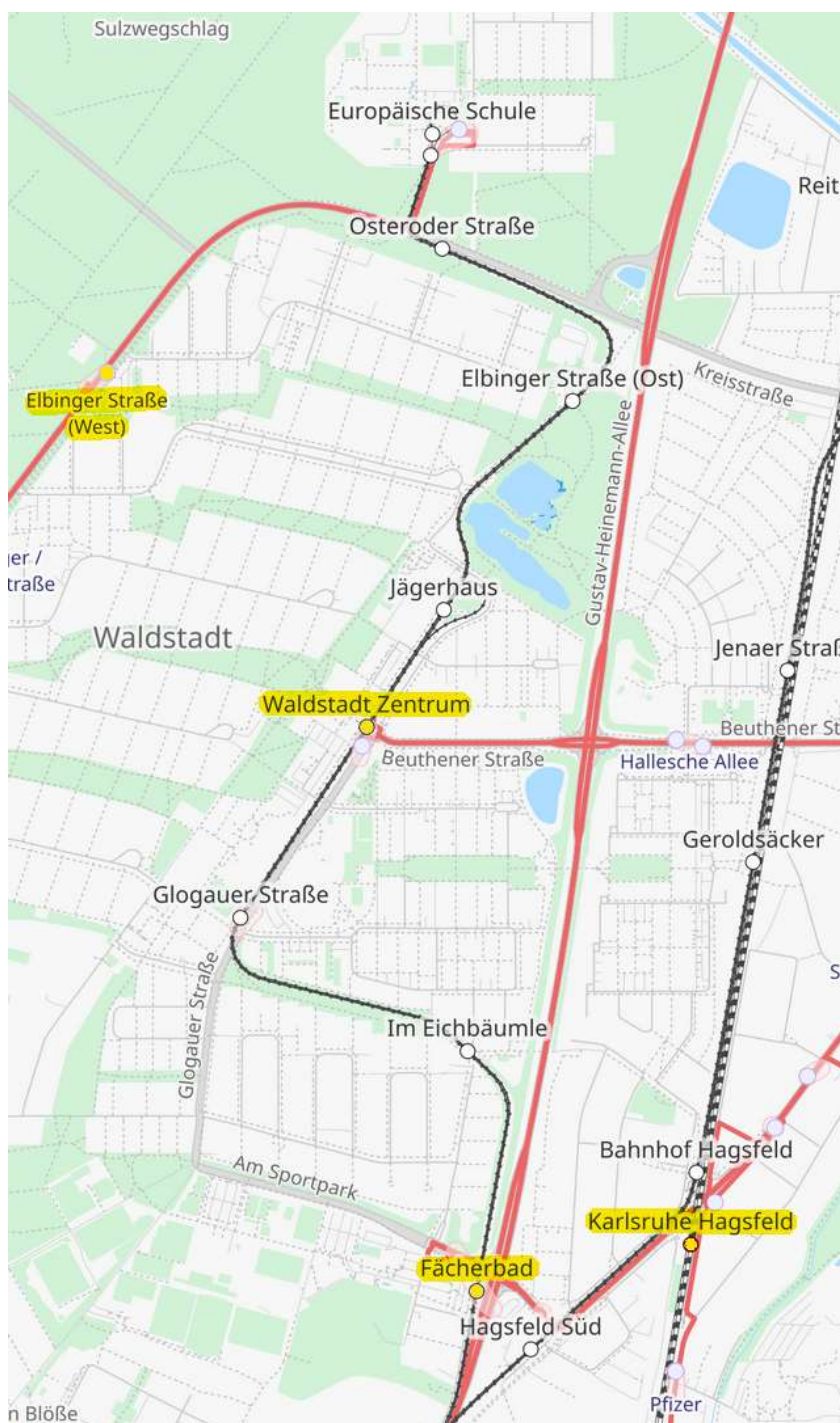
In addition to the buses on the emergency timetable, it is highly likely that there will be a way to get to Hagsfeld during the next Ver.di strike with bus 125 (Bruchsal - Durlacher Tor) and the S9 (Graben-Neudorf - Karlsruhe) and therefore still relatively close to the school. However, it is helpful to have a folding bike or a scooter.

This meant that the following stops could be reached:

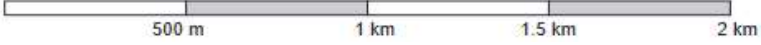
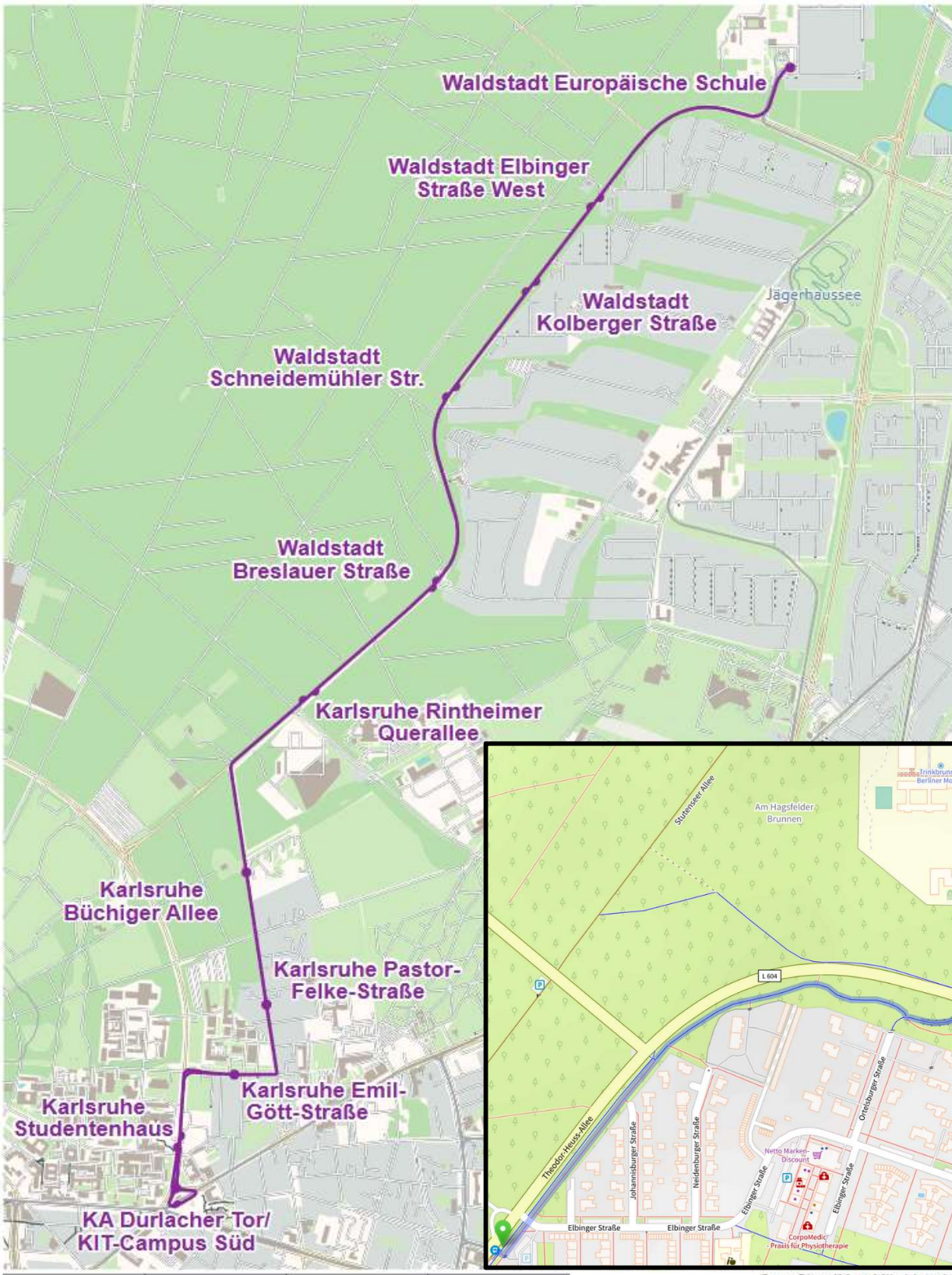
- Elbinger Straße West
 - by Bus 30
 - 1 km to school
- Waldstadt Mitte
 - by Bus 31
 - 1.5 km to school
- Hagsfeld Bhf
 - by S 9
 - 3 km to school
- Fächerbad
 - by Bus 125
 - 3 km to school

You can find out more about the four options on the following pages. The maps are from KVV - <https://www.kvv.de/fahrplan/fahrplaene/linienverlaufsplan.html> – and from <https://www.openstreetmap.org/>

The route of the bus is always shown in purple or the train in black and the footpath from the bus stop to the school in blue.

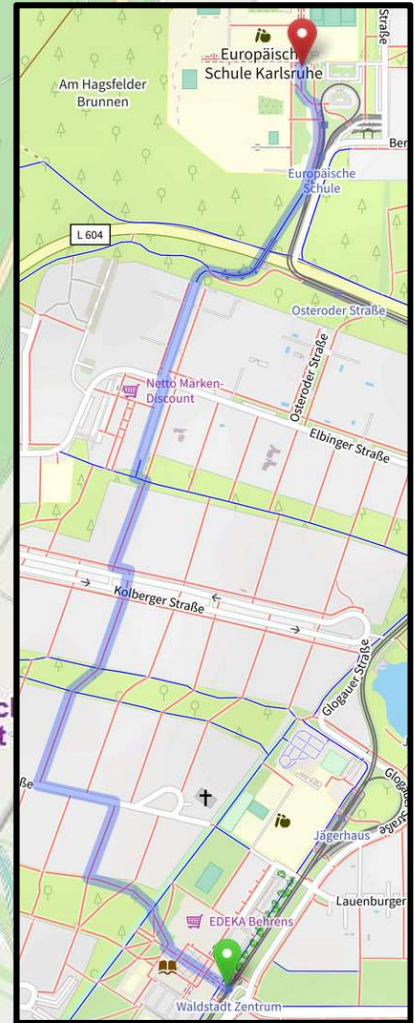
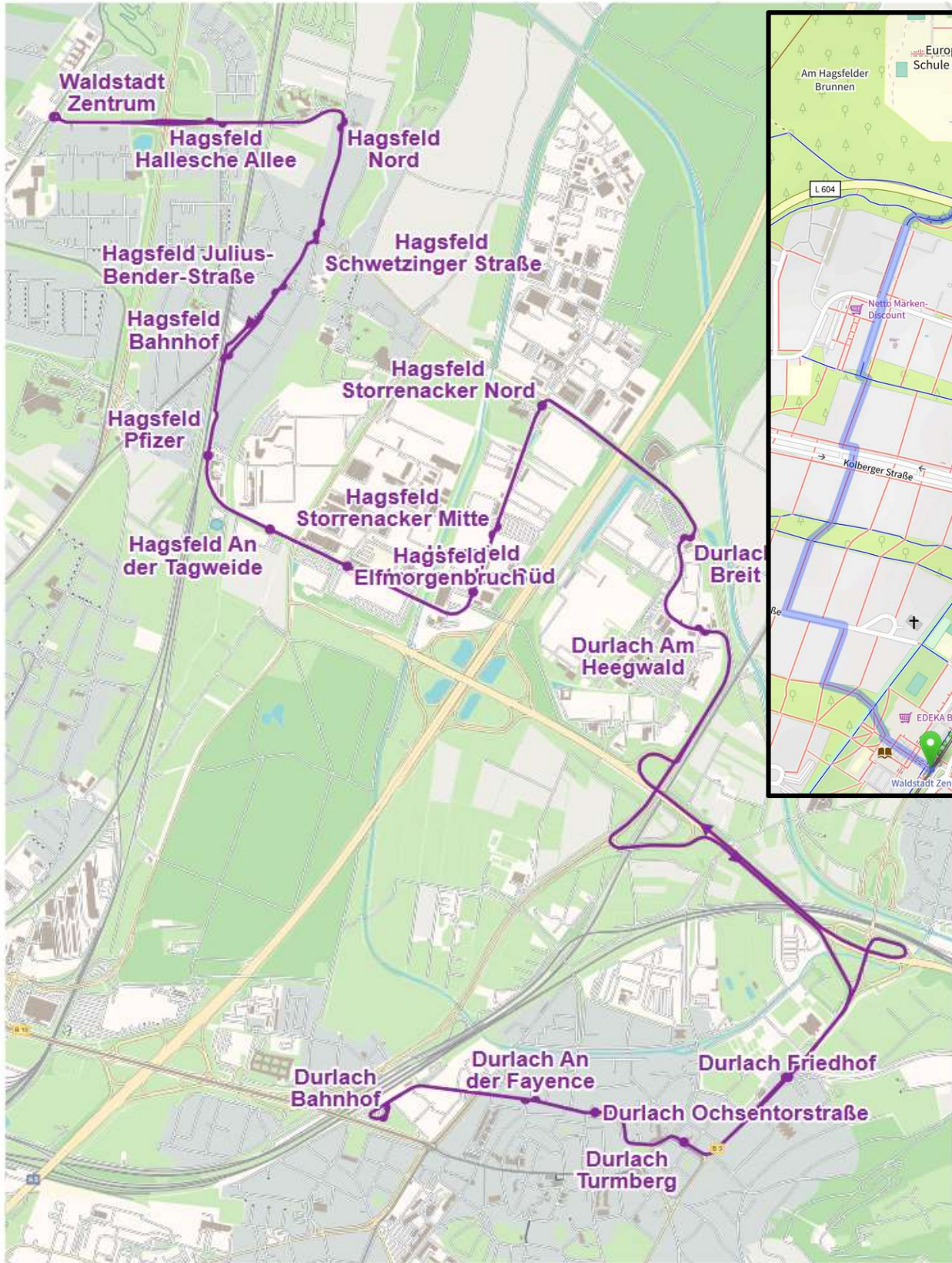


Verlauf der Linie 30



OpenStreetMap-Mitwirkende

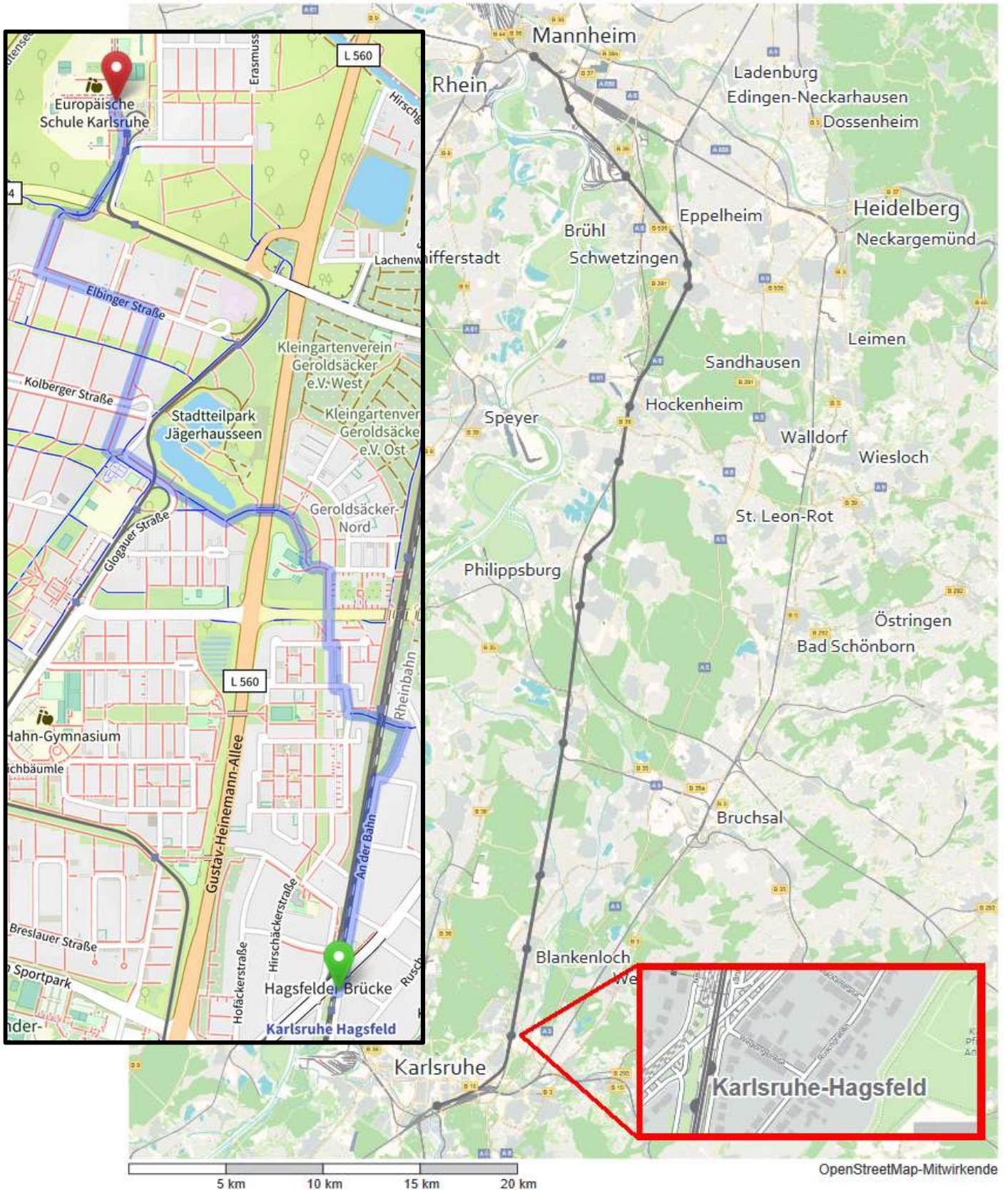
Verlauf der Linie 31



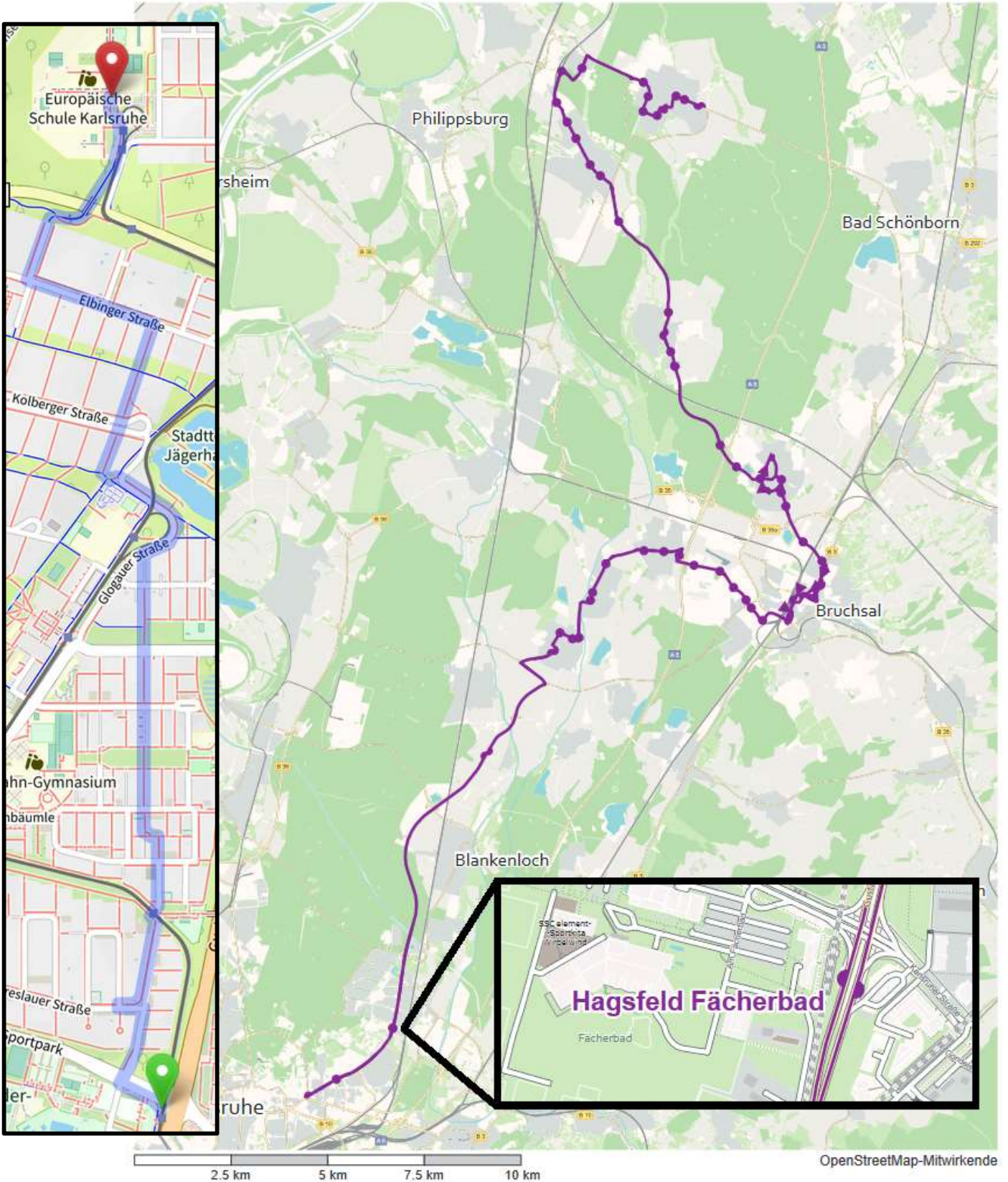
500 m 1 km 1.5 km 2 km

OpenStreetMap-Mitwirkende

Verlauf der Linie S9



Verlauf der Linie 125



Where can I get the latest information?

The information in this document is based on past experience and, as I said, should help you to find out more quickly the next time there is a strike, when you can - hopefully - quickly check that everything is as it was last time.

The official website is the KVV timetable information centre: <https://www.kvv.de/fahrplan/fahrplanauskunft.html>. For many trains and buses, you can also find the estimated actual departure times for the next time, i.e. the departure times taking delays into account.

An alternative that should be just as up-to-date is the timetable information for Baden-Württemberg: <https://www.bwgt.de/ihr-nahverkehr/reiseinformationen/fahrplanauskunft>. In addition to the delays, you can also display the approximate current positions of the trains and buses on the map.

The latter is also possible on various websites that are operated by third parties without a mandate from KVV:

- https://travic.app/?z=15&x=940331.5&y=6281290.6&l=osm_standard&ol=
- <https://app.kalive.de/>
- <https://europe.motis-project.de/>
- https://mobility.portal.geops.io/de/world.geops.transit?layers=strassennamen,haltekanten,haltestellen,tramlinie_n,buslinien,world.geops.traviclive&x=936276.79&y=6277698.97&z=13.48&baselayer=world.geops.travic

Transport companies in Karlsruhe

There are several transport companies that operate regional rail and bus services in and around Karlsruhe.

Deutsche Bahn (DB) operates the long-distance trains and, with its subsidiary DB Regio, many local trains. The S 3, 9 and 39 light rail services, the RB 41, 44 and 51 regional trains and the RE 4, 6, 9, 40, 45 and 73 regional expresses all stop in Karlsruhe.

The Albtal-Verkehrsgesellschaft (AVG) operates most of Karlsruhe's light rail services, i.e. the trains that connect the surrounding area and the city centre of Karlsruhe. These are lines S1, S11, S12, S31, S32, S4, S5, S51, S52, S7, S71, S8 and S81. The S2, S3 and S9 are not operated by AVG. Put simply, AVG is owned by the city of Karlsruhe.

Verkehrsbetriebe Karlsruhe (VBK) operates the city centre lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 17 and 18, the light rail line S2 and almost all public bus lines in Karlsruhe. An example of an exception is bus route 125, which in simple terms belongs to the city of Karlsruhe

Private bus companies also operate public bus routes. One example is bus route 125. Our school bus routes 11 to 14 are also operated by private bus companies.

Labor Unions

There are not only several transport companies that organise local public transport in Karlsruhe, but also several trade unions in which their employees are organised. Ultimately, it is up to each employee to decide whether and which trade union to join, but there are clear focal points which mean that the effects of strikes affect different transport companies.

The train drivers' union (GDL) and the railway and transport union (EVG) are collective bargaining partners of DB and DB Regio on the one hand and AVG on the other. However, collective bargaining is conducted separately. In the past, strikes have affected either one or the other company. However, as AVG shares DB's infrastructure, it is possible that its journeys may also be cancelled if GDL or EVG are actually striking DB. VBK has not been affected by GDL or EVG strikes in the past.

The trade union Ver.di is the collective bargaining partner of both the municipal transport operators, to which VBK belongs, and the private bus companies, such as those that we have commissioned to run our school buses. Here, too, collective bargaining is conducted separately.