

## **Intentions of Building a Metro in Vilnius**

An essential renewal of transport system is planned in Vilnius, a capital city of the Republic of Lithuania. A 700-year-old city with the most breathtaking Old Town in Eastern Europe has been suffering from traffic jams for the last decade. Therefore Vilnius city municipality together with the government seeks modern solution - a new public transport system.

Currently Vilnius city has 456 km of trolley-bus lines that are daily used by 400 thousand passengers. Another 300 thousand passengers each day travel by buses. 33.9 percent of citizens travel by public transport. The population of the city is 540 thousand and in the metropolitan area the population reaches 900 thousand. 99 percent of public transport is filled during rush hours. The average travel speed does not exceed 20 km/h, thus the popularity of public transport among citizens decreases rapidly.

While aiming at the higher passenger traffic standards and trying to improve traffic condition, Vilnius city municipality initiates procedure of introducing a new means of transportation. The preparations of the auction of possibility study are underway. This should answer a question what means of transportation Vilnius city needs. 2006 - 2008 public opinion polls showed that 57 percent of citizens approve the idea of metro. The idea of tram system was approved only by 20 percent of citizens.

Vilnius city government makes preparations for the concessionary metro constructions that would be financed by private funds. Consultants, investors, builders and operators are needed for substantiation and realization of the metro system. For that purpose the non-governmental organization 'Vilniaus metro' was established. It gathers and organizes all the information related to the intentions of Vilnius city government.

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