



**OPPORTUNITIES AND RESTRICTIONS TO SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT IN BULGARIA**

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Abstract: *The economic and financial crisis that seized the world in the recent years shows the need of sustainable development. The main ways and directions for overcoming the crisis are related to several basic functions, namely employment encouragement, population social activity, aggressive investment policy, environment protection, etc. These are the key elements in sustainable development policy, to increase the efficiency of the economy, to rationally utilize the resources and in general more sustainable lifestyle. The necessity the economy of a certain country to develop in line with the environmental requirements is directly related to the relevance of sustainable development.*

The sustainable development is a social value, which requires setting of new goals, strategies and development plans for each company and economy sector, aiming to improve environment and conditions of life. One of the tasks for sustainable development of the country is the building of a transport system that meets the demand and requirements of society both for transportation and clean environment. This task is compatible with the main objective of the Strategy for Single Transport Area Roadmap “Transport 2050”. There are envisaged significant structural changes for transforming the transport sector, aiming to create favorable environment and conditions for its sustainable development.

The transport supports the economic development of a country, enabling the access to different markets. One of the key factors for economic and social development of a certain country is the status and prospects for sustainable development for its transport infrastructure and vehicles. These are the major and of particular importance tasks, which fulfillment will contribute to the development of a contemporary and safety transport system.

The sustainable development of the transport sector necessitates the use of cleaner fuels and energy in transport. This requires effective organization of the use of different modes of transport to be implemented and achieving balance between them.

The transport infrastructure development of a country as a part of European transport network is one of the main priorities in Bulgarian investment policy. The main objective is integration of the national transport infrastructure with the European one and achieving high quality transport services. This is an important prerequisite for the economic and sustainable development of the country.

In this context, it is necessary the investments to be focused on certain priorities, as their special feature in the transport system are the effects that they realize. The role of the

investments is enhanced by the fact that they contribute to the accelerated economic integration, population social activity and for achieving sustainable development of the sector.

This paper discusses problems related to sustainable development and mobility of surface transport. The sustainability is embedded as key element in the strategy and policy for transport sector development. To achieve sustainable transport a focus is placed on environmental factors, influencing transport, as well as environment and human health. The priorities for transport sector development are characterized in the context of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Country. The principles for sustainable development are determined. The opportunities and restrictions to sustainability of surface transport in terms of safety, environmental friendliness, and control are analyzed. On this basis problems are defined and suggestions are listed for their future sustainable development.

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