

**VILNIUS MIESTO
SAVIVALDYBĖS MERAS**



**MAYOR OF VILNIUS
CITY MUNICIPALITY**

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Mr Alain Flausch
UITP Secretary General
Rue Sainte-Marie 6
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2013-06-26 Nr. A51-69857 (3.3.2.6-AD8)

Dear Mr. Alain Flaush,

We appreciate your concern expressed with regard to the future of public transportation in the city of Vilnius and the proposal to provide assistance in renewing the public transportation fleet of Vilnius.

Please be advised that a draft plan for the optimization of Vilnius public transportation was drawn up pursuant to the Resolution No. 1-1778 of the Vilnius City Municipality Council of 24 November 2010 "Regarding the Approval of the 2010-2020 Vilnius Strategic Plan and the Management and Supervision System of the 2010-2020 Vilnius Strategic Plan", which, among other public transportation optimization tasks, provides for the revision of the city's public transportation routes and schedules on the basis of the city's passenger flow surveys performed in 2012, taking into consideration the newly formed public fast-transportation network.

Once a group of legal entities were selected by open tender procedures, including the Research Institute of Territorial Planning of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, municipal enterprise "Vilniaus planas", UAB "Urbanistika", "ASL" and French company SYSTRA SA, prepared and the Vilnius City Municipality Council adopted a resolution No. 1-961 "Regarding the Approval of the Solutions of the Project "Preparation of a Special Plan for the Implementation of New Modes of Transportation in the city of Vilnius" of 19 December 2012, all preconditions for the optimization of Vilnius public transportation network were met. In preparation for the special plan, the operation and trends of the existing transportation system and public transport of the city of Vilnius were taken into consideration, and new modes of public transportation were analysed and proposed, taking into account the proposals and comments made by Vilnius residents, foreign experts and local scientists.

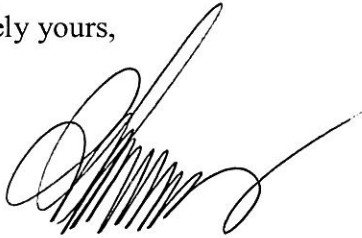


The approved special plan focuses on the reorganization of the trolleybus route network because, unlike bus routes, these lines have a contact and cable network with special support and traction substations. It should be noted that, currently, the average age of the Vilnius trolleybus fleet is more than 18 years, and the majority of traction substations and the contact and cable network system need major repairs. This requires large investments that are not currently planned for in the Vilnius city municipality budget in the near future due to certain practical circumstances.

The first stage of the optimization of public transportation provides for the elimination of economic inefficiencies caused by the duplication of new express bus routes by trolleybus routes. The specific plan establishes that, upon the introduction of the new public transportation mode and emergence of modern electric buses, trolleybus transportation should be gradually eliminated and the contact network removed, which spoils the view of the city. The third stage of the optimization of public transportation provides for complete elimination of the trolleybus contact network by implementing new fast-transportation electric bus routes.

Taking into consideration Directive 2009/33/EC of the European Parliament on the promotion of clean and energy-efficient road transport vehicles and our plans to replace the existing outdated trolleybus fleet with more innovative electric buses, we would be grateful if the International Public Transport Association could mediate in the allocation of funds from the European Union Structural Fund for the renewal of the public transportation fleet of the city of Vilnius.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Arturas Zuokas', written in a cursive style.

Arturas Zuokas
Mayor of the City of Vilnius

