

Heroic deed of road workers

In the last 50 years, the bad weather conditions which struck our country, mostly Vojvodina, at the end of January were the worst. Snow, accompanied by stormy wind with the speed of over 100 km/h blowing for several days, created snow drifts over 5 meters on the roads, put on the test Serbian road workers who eventually managed to cope with this natural disaster in a proper way, unselfishly assisted by the government institutions.

Apart from clearing the roads, our heroes in the winter service, who worked for 40 hours incessantly, also cleared the highway and made way for the evacuation of people stuck in snow drifts.

Just like previous years, despite our appeals not to start journeys without proper winter equipment, the problems were caused by careless truck drivers who blocked certain highway sections and the routes in the vicinity thus preventing other vehicles from moving further and also preventing our Winter Service from intervening.

For the first time in history, the Ministry of Transport made the decision to ban the traffic for all motor vehicles on the territory of the Republic of Serbia on a segment of Corridor X from Hungarian border to Novi Sad and on certain sections in Vojvodina because of the weather conditions. Talking about the reasons for making such a decision on this significant road route, Minister of Transport Aleksandar **Antić** said: “It was a tough and complex decision as it required coordination with the neighboring countries, they had to be informed about the valid ban and traffic diversions had to be coordinated with them”. Antić added that the decision was made based on the overall estimation of safe traffic made by the road companies, PE “Roads of Serbia” and traffic police and highlighted that “the traffic on this extremely important and busy part of Corridor X had to be suspended because the fight against this disaster was impossible under traffic”.

Minister Antić pointed out that he was happy about the people who took part in this activity because “people caught in snow drifts came out alive, which we should all be proud of” stating that it was certain that “if this occurred in a western European country, the statistics would be different”. Antić believes that we were successful “because the people have a desire to fight until the end, never to give up or quit. Road workers were running these machines for 30 hours, people from the traffic police worked for two days without shifts, people from the Sector for Emergency Management were constantly in the field and the Army of the Republic of Serbia assisted others by using superhuman efforts, putting own lives in danger”.

The old people would say “God forbid it happens again” and we say we are ready for all tasks, challenges and in the upcoming period we will do our best to have all roads in Serbia cleared from snow during winter time and to enable unobstructed and safe traffic.

Obtained loan for further upgrade of the road network

On 27.11.2013 in Belgrade, European Investment Bank (EIB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / IBRD) signed three Loan Agreements with the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Serbia about the loan totaling to EUR 273.8 million for the purpose of supporting rehabilitation and upgrade of traffic safety on a segment of the national road network in the Republic of Serbia.

In the following 5 years, the project will include the rehabilitation and upgrade of traffic safety on almost 1,100 km of main roads all over Serbia. Total costs are estimated at EUR 390 million, out of which EUR 367 million is intended for the services which involve the preparation of detailed design, capacity building and technical assistance.

This project is also the support to the implementation of the first phase of the Program of the Republic of Serbia Government for the Rehabilitation of the National Road Network.

The projects will be implemented by the PE "Roads of Serbia" and will be jointly financed by the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development with loans of EUR 100 million each and the World Bank with the loan of EUR 73.8 million, while the balance of investment costs amounting to EUR 116.2 million will be provided by the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

This project is expected to significantly improve traffic safety on the national road network. Apart from this, the implementation of the project will contribute to the promotion of regional and national economic development, which is very significant, as well as enable the development of trade, provide support to the development of private sector in the country and more widely contribute to economic and social connections and unity of our region. Beside the abovementioned, these projects will take care of international, inter-town and local traffic demand, overall positive environmental and social impacts will be realized and access to markets, social services will be improved and opportunities for temporary employment of local community members will be provided.

Management from one center for the first time

Project for constructing new tunnel "Straževica" on Belgrade Bypass included its equipping with modern devices and traffic management information systems for informing about fire, burglary, video surveillance, interphone communication and emergency phones, air control, traffic detection, audio sound system, variable message signs. All installed systems are integrated into software management unit (SCADA - Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition) wherefrom monitoring and control of system operations are done and automatic management of incidents is also possible according to preset defined scenarios.

System management is performed by the Sector for Traffic Control Information Systems from the operational center "Petlovo Brdo" which is presently in test work phase and the transition to routine regime is expected after obtaining positive report on the conducted investigations. Test work regime includes monitoring and control of installed systems and in the close vicinity of the tunnel there is a fire brigade unit in case of incidents and timely reaction.

With the implementation of the project for equipping the tunnels "Lipak" and "Železnik" with modern systems for supervision and central management of tunnels and their connection with operational center "Petlovo Brdo", a bigger number of structures on the road network of the Republic of Serbia equipped with ITS systems will be managed from a single center.

Other structures on Corridor X and XI with installed management information systems will also be integrated in this command operational center for constant remote monitoring and 24h management.

The First Serbian Road Congress "The Path of Future Development"

The First Serbian Road Congress "The Path of Future Development" will be held in Belgrade on June 5 and 6, 2014.

~~Organized by "Roads of Serbia" and~~ the Road Association of Serbia "Vavita", plan to gather national and international experts on one place who will present their views, experience and papers on current topics in the following fields: studies and design in road engineering, road transport system: development strategy,

construction funding and maintenance of road infrastructure, sustainable development and environmental protection, road management, construction and maintenance of roads and structures and road traffic safety. All information can be found on the Website <http://www.kongresoputevima.rs>

Winter Service in a state of readiness

There are no surprises for the PE “Roads of Serbia” concerning Winter Service this year as well. On the day of official start of the Winter Service 15.11.2013, press conference was organized on which the Winter Service Plan 2013/2014 was presented to all present printed and electronic media and the entire public alongside with the manner of organizing and providing information about the condition and passability of roads in Serbia during the winter period.

Although the beginning of winter, a favorite season for children, was mild and without large precipitation, the road workers were in the state of alert all the time and the machines were constantly present in road depots, Zoran **Stojisavljević, Director of the Sector for Maintenance of I and II Category of Public Roads** and Head of Winter Service Headquarters stated for the Newsletter 11: “Good organization and will to perform tasks in the best possible manner were not obstructed by limited financial funds and overall crisis. Through the Department for Public Relations, the public is informed on daily basis about the conditions on the road network in the Republic of Serbia by means of reports on road conditions, appeals and warnings for drivers about frequent fogs which are sent to the Automobile Association, Emergency Management Center of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia and the media several times a day.”

In spite of winter, full engagement of 853 workers, 192 technicians, 310 machine operators and 702 drivers assisted by 701 vehicles, 308 machines, 67 000 tons of salt and 160 000 tons of grit represent a security and guarantee that the roads will be cleared as soon as possible in order to provide for normal traffic.

Novelties in financial operations of the Enterprise

Apart from regular and usual activities, the Sector for Economic, Financial and Commercial Affairs started to calculate and pay VAT for tolls and all other remunerations for the first time in 2013, which reflected on the records and monitoring of all realized revenues and expenditures of the Enterprise. As VAT liabilities, the amount of RSD 135.6 million was paid from July 2013.

During 2013, land expropriation was paid from the funds of the Ministry of Finance and the planned sum amounted to RSD 2.3 billion.

Liabilities to contractors of road maintenance works on the state roads in the amount of RSD 1,346,775,310 are taken over by the Republic of Serbia in the form of public debt, which had positive impact on the income statement through the increase of business revenues.

New assessment of the value of the road network is under preparation based on the Decree on the categorization of state roads of the RS, i.e. the Decree on amendments to the Decree on the categorization of state roads of the RS dated 30.12.2013. This Decree returns about 6,000 km of roads under the authority of the PE “Roads of Serbia” which were exempted from state roads in February 2012 and transferred to the local self-governments. After the finalization of the road network value assessment it will be entered, which will largely impact the balance sheet of the

Enterprise for 2014 which will be followed by Listing of property and liabilities of the Enterprise and the making of Annual financial report for 2013. At the moment, preparations are ongoing – harmonization of the claims of the buyers and harmonization of our liabilities to the suppliers.

Apart from the Business Program for 2013, Restatement of the Business Program is also produced necessary for the harmonization of the realized items in the current year with the planned items in the main program.

Business Program for 2014 is being made for the first time in new form which highlights financial results and reports referring to the realization in 2013 and their estimation for 2014. Such way of making the Program is a good basis for comparing the realized and the planned, which will enable more rational planning of investments for all items in the Business Program.

For monitoring the realization of investments for certain items and the preparation of quarterly reports it is necessary to have quarterly planning of investment items, which will enable precise monitoring of investments in 2014 as well. Plans with actual needs and investments of each sector are required for realistic planning and as little deviations as possible of the planned amounts from the realized ones.

For 2014, the amount of 7.7 billion RSD is planned as the subsidy from the Budget of the Republic of Serbia, 2.4 billion RSD of which are for the maintenance of I and II category state roads including local roads. Although the amount of subsidies for 2014 is higher than the subsidies in 2013 (5.3 billion RSD), it is still insufficient for roads maintenance on optimal level, which requires stable long-term source of financing, namely the return of the excise on oil derivatives.

Completed rehabilitation of old bridge over the Danube at Beška

From Hungary to Belgrade on full highway profile

As announced by the Minister of Transport of the Republic of Serbia **Aleksandar Antić** and Acting Director **General of the PE “Roads of Serbia” Zoran Drobnyak**, old bridge over the Danube at Beška was open for traffic on 27.12.2013 at noon when temporary traffic signage was removed without any formalities or ceremonies.

After completing the rehabilitation, the traffic was established on full highway profile from Hungarian border to Belgrade. New asphalt connects the banks of the Danube, central Europe and the Balkans, and twin bridges, among the longest bridges on the entire Danube, expand proudly their arches proving the capabilities of our construction workers.

National companies playing the leading role

Experts, designers, contractors, supervisors, subcontractors and all those who worked on this project of the rehabilitation of old bridge over the Danube at Beška, inserted another well done job in their professional biographies. The main subcontractor of the joint venture “DSD & Apline Bau Mayreder”, and also the main contractor of works was “Mostogradnja” A.D. which executed the works on access roads together with the company “Vojput-Subotica”. Supervision was done by the companies “Scott&Wilson”, “Mostprojekt” and “WSP” and the entire project was financed from the European Investment Bank loan. Value of works is about RSD 1.8 billion.

When visiting the works, Minister of Transport **Aleksandar Antić** highlighted that the purpose of the Ministry was to engage national companies on all major projects as much as possible. He also announced that the Government of Serbia will insist in future that conditions of the tender for road construction be such that national companies can equally participate on them as well, which possess quality proven worldwide: **“With the construction of old bridge at**

Beška 'Mostogradnja' will get additional revenues based on which it could take part in future tenders for new bridge projects?

Quality of works and safety of drivers is on the first place

Remedy of the old bridge and rehabilitation of access roads significantly increased the level of traffic safety on this part of Corridor X and enabled unobstructed flow of vehicles from the Hungarian border to the interchange Batajnica in full motorway profile, Minister **Antić** highlighted and added that the safety of traffic and participants in traffic is the main priority of the Ministry of Transport.

Zoran Drobnjak, Acting Director **General of the PE "Roads of Serbia"** said that its lifetime was prolonged for several more decades with additional strengthening of bridge bearing capacity and its reconstruction: "Serious work on the old bridge started in May 2012. For somewhat more than a year, we managed to reconstruct it so that it can last for the next 20-30 years at least as well as the new bridge. The main reason for its degradation was the inexistence of drainage system and during the reconstruction this was also implemented as on ~~the~~ **new bridge**."

Rehabilitation works are carried out with good quality and thoroughly and the value in use and unobstructed use are extended for the elderly and feeble structure of the old bridge over the Danube with modern top-class materials without any requirements for major investments in bridge maintenance in the upcoming decades.

During the rehabilitation of the old bridge Beška, 24300 m² of asphalt were removed, 6000 m of safety barriers and safety fence for pedestrians were dismantled, 12000 m² of polyurethane waterproofing and 12500 m² of waterproofing with bituminous stripes were placed, 45000 m² of bearing and wearing course of asphalt were placed, more than 5000 high value bolts were installed.

The First International Scientific Professional Conference "Modern Road Maintenance"

The First International Scientific Professional Conference "Modern Road Maintenance" was held on November 07 to 09, 2013 in hotel "Izvor" in Aranđelovac supported by the Ministry of Transport in the Republic of Serbia, Association of Road Industry Employers "Putar" and the PE "Roads of Serbia".

Significant contribution to the success of the Conference was given by the Minister of Transport in the **Government of the Republic of Serbia, Mr. Aleksandar Antić** and almost 300 participants and guests from Serbia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Croatia, Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Hungary, the Netherlands.

The purpose of this gathering was to provide stable financing source which would enable the maintenance of I and II category state roads, preservation of their value and primarily the upgrade of traffic safety. Numerous discussions in the field of road maintenance in the Republic of Serbia and the region confirmed the significance of the Conference with the purpose of obtaining actual solutions and measures the implementation of which would assist sustainable financing of roads so that in future we could deal with modernization of roads, upgrade of road network condition to a higher level and finally keep up with the developed countries.

The main topics of the Conference were: Condition of the road network in the Republic of Serbia, proposal of improvements and sustainable financing, Impact of roads maintenance on traffic safety, Maintenance of the road network in the Republic of Serbia (Integrated road information systems) and Roads and environment protection.

The participants of the round table were the following: Minister of Transport of the Republic of Serbia Aleksandar **Antić** State Secretary at the Ministry of Construction and Urban Planning Miodrag **Jokić** Acting Director of the PE "Roads of Serbia" Zoran **Drobnjak** Assistant Director of the PE "Roads of Serbia" Sađib **Thić** Director of the Sector for Maintenance of I and II Category State Roads Zoran **Stojisavljević** Vice President of "Via Via" Road Association of Serbia **Eljara Vukšević** President of the Association of Road Industry Employers "Pta" Milan **Bjović** Secretary General of the Association of Road Industry Employers "Pta" Dejan **Vjetrović** Prof. Dr **Aleksandar Cvetanović** Prof. dr Jovan **Grčić** Emeritus Prof. dr Nikola Hajdin, SANU Academy Member, Director General of the Institute of Economy Dragan **Šegrov** and Director of the Republic of Slovenia Roads Directorate Gregor Ficko.

Minister of Transport Aleksandar Antić said that it was time to turn to repairing not only to the construction of new roads and stated that he urged for the return of the excise for roads: "As a society, we are impressed by making new things, new roads, building new structures, however traditionally we do not pay sufficient attention to the existing infrastructure. We have brought ourselves into the situation to construct a new highway on one hand, and on the other the existing one is deteriorating, we are talking about new corridors but we are not either maintaining I category state roads, not to mention II category or local roads and the manner in which it is required. We should stop with such practice and pay at least equal attention to the construction of new infrastructure and the maintenance of the existing one"

Acting Director of the PE "Roads of Serbia" Zoran Drobnjak highlighted at the opening that he believed that the International Scientific Professional Conference would reach its goal – provision of stable financing source, which would enable the maintenance of I and II category state roads, preservation of their value, protection and improvement of environment and primarily improvement of traffic safety. Since the road network, almost 75%, is in poor condition, investment in it is of absolute necessity in order to permanently and continuously enable the preservation of previously invested capital and costs of users and industry reduce to acceptable level." Drobnjak highlighted that huge will to perform a job in the best possible way was unfortunately not sufficient and added that insufficient financial funds, adoption of the Business Plan and Program in the middle of the current year, inadequate maintenance of the road network and a line of other issues concerning the management of the road network were the problems we regularly faced and which we could not solve ourselves.

Prof. dr Aleksandar **Cvetanović** highlighted that the lack of money for roads maintenance in Serbia was a long-lasting problem. According to his words, the most undeveloped countries in the world have 35% to 40 % of roads in unsatisfactory condition and in Serbia this percentage is 75%: "The problem can be solved by returning the income from excises (fuel tax) to the PE "Roads of Serbia" as it was by 2012. It can be seen on the example of the European countries where 35% to 65% of retail fuel price are allocated for maintenance."

He added that in the upcoming two years a unique network of roads maintenance and database should be established based on which budget would be set, short-term and long-term objectives in roads maintenance would be defined, and standards for maintenance and systems for the management of roads maintenance would be established.

Gregor Ficko, Director of the Republic of Slovenia Roads Directorate says that it is normal for quality of the road network to reduce caused by the lack of money: "In Slovenia, 65% of the road network is in extremely poor

condition and regarding this we are below the standard of the World Bank. We also have the problem of source financing”. He stated that every year investment values reduced in Slovenia, because of which 400 million EUR were lost in the road sector in the last five years.

Completed land acquisition in 2013

Land acquisition on all sections of Corridor X, as well as on the sections on Corridor XI (highway E-763 from Obrenovac to Ljig) is finished, which enables the construction of the highway on Corridor X in the length of 257.5 km and on Corridor XI in the length of 62.5 km.

From September 2008 to December 2013, the Sector for Legal, Staff and Common Affairs submitted proposals for land acquisition of real estate to the relevant municipalities and towns for the purpose of constructing the highway on Corridor X and Corridor XI, based on which 16000 decisions were made, 15000 expropriation agreements were made for real estates and 12 billion RSD were paid for the total of 3000 ha of expropriated land.

In 2014, the beginning of land acquisition on three sections of the future highway Pojate – Preljina is planned, namely: Pojate – Preljina 27.6 km long, Adrani – Mrčajevci 18 km long and Mrčajevci – Preljina 22.6 km long.

Design of additional unstandardized signage for traffic safety improvement

PE “Roads of Serbia” ordered the design of additional unstandardized signage for the purpose of traffic safety improvement on the road network in the Republic of Serbia in the conditions of reduced visibility due to fog.

Roads in Serbia are marked with road markings and additional signs in accordance with the Law on Roads. However, due to frequent traffic accidents in the previous period due to reduced visibility caused by fog, the PE “Roads of Serbia” decided to undertake additional activities, in accordance with the standards of Germany and Austria:

Director of the Sector for Maintenance of I and II Category State Roads Zoran Stojisavljević says that the design consists of the marking of the line which separates emergency lane from the driving lane by adding white spot in the form of semicircles at certain distances and placing a board with warning to road users to reduce the speed: “Design of additional unstandardized signage is being produced and after obtaining the approval of the Ministry of Transport it will be implemented. Scope of works and value of the job will be known when the designs are completed and when we determine the critical points on the highways where this additional signage will be implemented.”

Director ~~Stojisavljević~~ mentions ~~that the PE “Roads of Serbia” annually spends about 80 million to one billion~~ RSD on the signage, which is not sufficient: ~~“Everything that can be carried brings down safety fences, signs~~ protecting net for the highway, power substations for traffic signals... The damage caused by the thefts of the signage and equipment is about one million EUR on annual level. In order to reach the European level concerning roads, Serbia has to invest between 60 and 70 billion RSD annually in the next seven-eight years. This would mean adequate routine and investment maintenance, which implies modern signage and central traffic controls and management. Electronic monitoring and management of roads includes video surveillance, road weather information stations, variable signs... However, we do not have even one-third of the required money and we spend about three billion RSD annually only for routine maintenance (pothole repairs, painting, erecting of signs).”

The main causes of traffic accidents in 99% of the cases are improper speed, technical malfunction of vehicles, fatigue of drivers and drunk driving. PE "Roads of Serbia" informs the public on a regular basis via announcements and appeals sent to the AMSS, the media and all interested parties about all traffic regime modifications and road conditions when the weather is bad thus appealing to the drivers to adapt their speed to road conditions and pay attention to the zones with modified traffic regimes or under works.

Participation in the project "Consulting Services for Road Traffic Safety – Technical Assistance"

Within the realization of the project of Corridor X construction, the enterprise "Koridori Srbije" signed the contract with the consulting company Louis Berger SAS for performing the services of Technical Assistance for traffic safety, where the PE "Roads of Serbia" is recognized as one of the key stakeholders.

The main objective of the project was to provide technical assistance to the Government of the Republic of Serbia in the field of road traffic safety in order to strengthen the capacities for the management of traffic safety and development of the comprehensive traffic safety strategy directed towards the realization of the defined results. The project started on October 20, 2011 and ended at the beginning of September 2013.

One of the main project results was the "National Strategy of Traffic Safety on the Roads in the Republic of Serbia" and "Action plan of Traffic Safety on the Roads in the Republic of Serbia", which were submitted to the competent Ministry of Transport for further adoption procedure.

PE "Roads of Serbia" as the manager of state roads in the Republic of Serbia was one of the stakeholder institutions for monitoring the implementation of the project "Consulting Services for Road Traffic Safety – Technical Assistance". Department for Traffic Safety in the Sector for Strategy, Design and Development took active participation and monitored regularly all the phases of this project through its presence on all meetings, work groups and by participating in significant seminars in the field of business activities of the public enterprise, such as "Road Safety Audit", "Risk Spot Management", "Safe Road Design", etc.

Cooperation of the Department for Traffic Safety and NIS j.s.c. Novi Sad

Department for Traffic Safety in the Sector for Strategy, Design and Development issued approvals for placing totems —displays with prices for the purpose of implementing the project of new visual identity of the petrol stations from the aspect of jeopardizing traffic safety. From November 2012 until the end of 2013, more than 100 approvals were given for the designs of NIS j.s.c. Novi Sad petrol stations and the cooperation is ongoing.

Efficiency of the Sector for Toll Collection – New Year's present for highway users

PE "Roads of Serbia" and the Sector for Toll Collection intensified operations on toll stations during New Year and Christmas holidays in order to enable unobstructed passage of vehicles because of increased traffic on the roads in the Republic of Serbia, especially on tolled motorways.

Owing to efficient execution of delegated jobs, prevention of delays and faster vehicle flow on toll stations, all road users reached their destinations without major delays and waiting during the holidays.

PE "Roads of Serbia" is exposing get pleasure from the users of its services to travel in a fast and pleasant way during these holidays.

Competition of children's drawings "Santa's Magical Plant"

By the end of last year, the PE "Roads of Serbia" organized the traditional competition of children's drawings for the children of our employees aged 5 to 12. Topic of this year's competition was "Santa's Magical Plant" and the little artists were left to select the creative technique while the jury had a tough decision to select the most beautiful ones among a large number of the submitted works of art.

The jury comprised of Milorad **Ivić**, Assistant to Director of Legal, Staff and Common Affairs, Ljerka **Ibrović**, Head of Department for Public Relations and Milica **Jauković**, Graduated Graphic Artist were very busy to select the best ones which would decorate desk calendars of our Enterprise for 2014.

Winners according to the categories are:

Age category 5 and 6: 1. place – **Nađa Stanovčić**, 2. place – **Maša Lazov** and 3. place – **Jakša Pavlović** and Teodora **Filipović**.

Age category 7 and 8: 1. place – Marija **Savić**, 2. place – Mila **Janjić**, 3. place Konstantin Homa.

Age category 9 and 10: 1. place – Vladimir **Petrović** 2. place – Teodora **Milošević**, 3. place – Aleksandra Zec.

Age category 11 and 12: 1. place – **Nađa Milentijević**, 2. place – Marko **Pešović**, 3. place – **Maša Ljekočević**.

The winner from all categories for 2013 was Vladimir **Petrović** and the prize for inventiveness was awarded to Bogdan **Danić**.

PE "Roads of Serbia" sincerely congratulates all participants at the competition and wishes them successful participation in the upcoming artistic competitions.

Nađa Stanovčić

Marija Savić

Vladimir Petrović

Nađa Milentijević

PE "Roads of Serbia" again in humanitarian activity of blood donation

Socially responsible business operations are of extreme importance for the PE "Roads of Serbia" whose employees have been taking part in the activities of voluntary blood donations for years now, organized by the Serbian Institute for Blood Transfusion.

On December 6 in Belgrade and Novi Sad, more than a hundred of employees of our Enterprise accepted to donate blood on World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims in order to increase the needed blood reserves.

As the continuation of traditionally good cooperation with the Serbian Institute for Blood Transfusion, voluntary blood donation are planned in the periods when, according to the estimates of the Institute, the reserves are on the minimum and thus proposed dates for this year are May 29 and October 2, 2014.