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NEWSLETTER

ROAD WORKERS, HEROES OF SERBIA

WORK IN TIME OF COVID-19



Prof. Zorana Mihajlović, PhD:

„I am expressing the deepest gratitude to all transport and construction workers who had been working all the time during the state of emergency and who deserve credit for Serbia's continuous performance during the coronavirus outbreak. It is time that all the others returned to work so that our economy could recover, while adhering to protective measures.“



Prof. Zorana Mihajlović, PhD

Now responsibility lies with us



“It is time citizens returned to their jobs in order to recover the economy, but they need to adhere to the prescribed protective measures“, minister Mihajlović said.

When the state of emergency and the ban on movement in Serbia were lifted at the beginning of May, Serbian Deputy Prime Minister, prof. Zorana Mihajlović, PhD, said that it meant the end of only the first and the most difficult stage of battle against the outspread of coronavirus.

“As of today, we are entering a new phase of battle against the COVID-19, and that’s life with the virus. The state of emergency and the curfew have been lifted, but the battle against the virus is not over. From the time of orders we are entering a time of recommendations and, instead of appeals to stay at home, now I am appealing to all citizens to remain responsible! To adhere to protective measures prescribed by the experts,

because in that way they will protect themselves and the others. Now all responsibility lies with us“, Mihajlović pointed out.

“If protective measures are adhered to, we will continue to help our doctors, nurses and the entire healthcare service save lives of citizens in the best possible manner“, minister Mihajlović added.

“I am once more expressing my deepest gratitude to all construction and transport workers who had been working all the time during the state of emergency and who deserve credit for Serbia’s continuous performance during the coronavirus outbreak. It is time all others returned to work so that our economy could recover, which will not be easy at all, while adhering to all protective measures. May we all remain in good health!“, Deputy Prime Minister Zorana Mihajlović said.



Acting Director Zoran Drobnjak

“Works did not stop“

Acting Director Zoran Drobnjak: “Thanks to all road workers across Serbia, because they worked continuously during the epidemic as well – on the sections in the North, South, West and East of Serbia, while adhering to and conducting measures enacted by the Government of Serbia.

We are continuing at the same pace. We have great challenges ahead of us: works on the Belgrade Bypass, resumption of motorways and I and II category state roads construction, completion of the section from Batrovci to Kuzmin...

I’m looking forward to new infrastructure projects and wish everyone a happy new beginning.“



Section from Ostružnica to Bubanj potok in less than two years

Serbian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, prof. Zorana Mihajlović, PhD., the Acting Director of the PE "Roads of Serbia", Zoran Drobniak, the ambassador of the PR China, Chen Bo, in the presence of representatives of Chinese and Azerbaijan contracting companies, visited on 27th April, 2020, the works on the construction of the left side of the carriageway on the section of the Belgrade Bypass.

Minister Mihajlović thanked all those who work with responsibility and dedication even during the pandemic, and also the PR China which had been a support and help to Serbia from the first day of the pandemic: "I am proud of all construction sites in Serbia where at the moment more than 3,500 workers are working. Thanks to all the contractors, investors and especially workers who have been working this entire time, in spite of these difficult circumstances when concern and fear prevail."

The ambassador of the PR China, Chen Bo, said that Chinese companies had not stopped



working on the projects being implemented in Serbia, while taking care of the workers' health: "All Chinese companies have done everything to reduce the negative impact of the virus COVID-19. We have been actively participating in the battle against the epidemic. Workers' health is the most important, but we are also contributing to the recovery of Serbian economy."

The works on the section of the Belgrade Bypass in the length of 20 km, comprising the construction of the left side of the carriageway from the bridge over the river Sava at Ostružnica to the tunnel Straževica and both sides of the carriageway ending at Bubanj potok, worth 207 million euros, will be completed in less than two years.

The completion of the bypass will enable the relocation of freight transport from the city centre, which will reduce pollution and increase traffic safety.



Educational campaign of PE "Roads of Serbia" - „3 Seconds, a Whole Life“

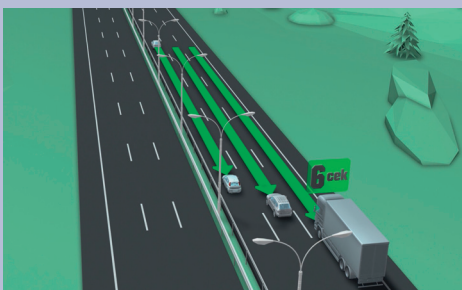
PE "Roads of Serbia" has initiated and developed the first in a series of educational campaigns for raising awareness of drivers and increase of traffic safety – "3 Seconds, a Whole Life", which began by the premiere screening of an educational video and demonstration of a safe distance for all categories of vehicles at the toll station "Beograd".

The video "3 Seconds, a Whole Life" about safe distance between vehicles had its premiere on 12th March, 2020, at the toll station "Beograd", in the presence of the Serbian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, prof. Zorana Mihajlović, PhD, the Acting Director Zoran Drobnjak, associates and experts for traffic safety.

By promoting the educational campaign "3 Seconds, a Whole Life", the PE "Roads of Serbia", as a socially responsible enterprise, wishes to improve traffic safety, guided by the postulation that road accidents may be prevented.

The PE "Roads of Serbia" allocates significant funds for increasing traffic safety and shall continue to act systematically regarding the raising of traffic participants' awareness through cooperation with the line ministry and the Republic of Serbia's Ministry of Internal Affairs", said the Acting Director Zoran Drobnjak. "We are working so that as few people as possible get killed in traffic. We





Did you know ?

- More than 500 road fatalities a year;
- More than 150 fatalities on motorways in three years;
- More than 50% of traffic accidents are a consequence of abrupt braking and rear-end collisions;
- Every fourth accident with fatalities happens due to insufficient distance between vehicles.



want to emphasize the importance of keeping distance, especially in case of fog, slippery roads and bad weather conditions”, Drobnjak explained.

The video “3 Seconds, a Whole Life” depicts a safe distance between vehicles at the speed of 90 km/h:

- a car should keep at least three seconds of distance,
- SUV vehicles (jeeps) four seconds
- heavy vehicles and buses at least five or six seconds.

Familiar TV personalities and traffic safety experts participated in the video, such as Biljana Vraneš, editor and presenter at RTS,

Vladimir Jelić, RTS presenter, Srđan Predojević, presenter at TV Prva, Slobodan Šarenac, journalist and prof. Milan Vujanić, PhD, a traffic safety expert.

“Three seconds are enough for a driver to endanger his life and the life of his dearest, but also lives of other traffic participants. Drivers saying it cannot happen to them are the most dangerous ones”, said the Serbian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, prof. Zorana Mihajlović, PhD, adding that the Ministry she runs pays a lot of attention to traffic safety and to the construction of better and safer road as well. “Good roads reduce the possibility of traffic accidents and the goal is zero tolerance to road fatalities”, Mihajlović pointed out.

Responsible behaviour in traffic, except for keeping a safe distance between vehicles, implies reduced speed of vehicles, active comprehension of traffic flow conditions and not putting other drivers in danger.

The PE “Roads of Serbia” has, as part of the Campaign, prepared a radio spot as well, messages for variable message signs along the motorways, posts for social networks, informative flyers, posters and stickers with the educational campaign visual in Serbian and English for toll station booths.



Reconstruction of state road Kula – Vrbas to be completed in November

On 13th May, 2020, Serbian Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, prof. Zorana Mihajlović, PhD., and the Acting Director of the PE "Roads of Serbia" Zoran Drobnjak, with heads of municipalities Kula and Vrbas, Damjan Miljanić and Milan Glušac and the contractors' representatives, visited heavy maintenance works on I B category state road no. 15 Kula (Bačka Topola) - Vrbas (Savino Selo).

On the AP Vojvodina territory a project, for which design documentation is being prepared, will be implemented, lasting approximately a year and a half. It is the project of the expressway from Bački breg, via Sombor, Kula, Vrbas and Novi Bečej to Nakovo on the Romanian border, which will be 175 km long. "It is a very important road, not only for this region, but for entire Serbia. The project has been estimated to cost around 800 million euros, almost as much as the Corridor 10", Mihajlović pointed out.

"After a thorough rehabilitation has been completed, the road will last more than 20 years. The works are being done in the length of 10 kilometres, they are executed in accordance with the schedule and they will be completed in November", Drobnjak pointed out and said that



the value of works is 5 million euros and they are financed by the World Bank and the European Investment Bank loans.

As part of the road Kula – Vrbas reconstruction, the works on the widening of the road, construction of bicycle lanes and new lighting will be carried out.

"The road is important because it connects two districts and will contribute not only to better quality of the citizens' lives, but will also enable the arrival of new investments and boost economic growth", minister Mihajlović said.

The Acting Director Zoran Drobnjak has also announced the completion of the reconstruction of the road Vrbas – Feketić, in the length of 9.5 km and in worth 3.2 million euros, as well as the development of rehabilitation design for the road Sombor – Kula, in the length of 39.5 km, which will cost approximately 10 million euros.

Heads of the municipalities Kula and Vrbas thanked the President of Serbia and the Government for the implementation of important infrastructure projects.

Construction of overpass at Kać to be completed

The finishing works on the construction of an overpass over the motorway Belgrade – Novi Sad, on the local road Kać – Novi Sad, were visited on 22nd May, 2020, by the Serbian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Construction,

Transport and Infrastructure, prof. Zorana Mihajlović, PhD, the Acting Director Zoran Drobnjak and the Mayor of Novi Sad, Miloš Vučević.

"The overpass will connect the citizens of Kać with the industrial zone and the settlement

The works on the overpass consisted of the construction of service roads, a road crossing and a bridge, with traffic equipment, traffic signage and the lighting. The value of the investment is 500 million dinars.



Šangaj and make movement easier for them", minister Mihajlović said.

Mihajlović pointed out that, up to now, the total of two billion dinars have been invested in road infrastructure in Novi Sad and thanked Novi Sad on the cooperation and successful implementation of all projects.

The Mayor of Novi Sad, Miloš Vučević, said that, by joining forces with the Government of Serbia, wishes become concrete and realistic plans being executed and announced new projects – the construction of a fourth bridge in Novi Sad as an extension of Bulevar Evropa boulevard and conjoining the Sremska Kamenica bypass.

Rehabilitation of motorway, section Pojate - Ražanj



*Acting Director, Zoran Drobnjak:
“Thanks to the Government of Serbia and the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, we received the funding for maintenance and rehabilitation of motorway sections. On the section from Pojate to Ražanj, which hadn't been worked on for more than 25 years, rehabilitation in the length of 13 km, worth around 350 million dinars, is under way and the works will be completed by the end of May. Rehabilitation works will be carried out in the course of this year on approximately 200 km of motorways on the sections at Subotica, Doljevac and Merošina, Niš.*

Serbian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, prof. Zorana Mihajlović, PhD and the Acting Director, Zoran Drobnjak, visited on 7th May, 2020, the works on the rehabilitation of the section of the motorway Belgrade – Niš, between Pojate and Ražanj.

“Currently the motorway is being rehabilitated on three locations and it is important that we prepare everything for traffic which will, we believe, be heavier in the forthcoming months. According to today's data, we know that 4,200 workers have been engaged on the largest infrastructure projects in Serbia”, Mihajlović said.

Minister added that, during March and April of 2020, the passage of 4.8 million cars on motorways had been registered, which is by four million vehicles less than at the same period of 2019.



“We have recorded the reduction of traffic volume by 60% and it has been estimated that the drop in the revenues will be around 30 million euros, Mihajlović said and added that there were damages in road transport and that they would be probably worth around half a billion

euros by the end of the year. On the other side, we are determined not to reduce the budget for road maintenance nor will any of the projects for the construction of new and rehabilitation of the existing road network be compromised”, Deputy Prime Minister pointed out.

Messages on VMS gantries on motorways in the battle against virus COVID-19



PE “Roads of Serbia”, joining the appeals of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and measures for preventing the COVID-19 virus outspread, as well as the campaign “Stay home”, on all gantries with variable message signs on motorways in Serbia, from the end of March, has been publishing messages in Serbian and English language:

- **Зауставите Корона вирус - останите код куће!**
- **Stop Covid – 19 - Stay home!**

PE “Roads of Serbia” also appealed on all traffic participants to stay at home, which will contribute to the protection of their own and the health of others and help the prevention of further outspread of the virus.





Kragujevac on Corridor 10 in September

The project for the construction of the road Kragujevac – Batočina is of an utmost importance, not only for the connection of Kragujevac with the road Corridor 10, but also for the connection of all regions and motorways being constructed and modernized in our country. “We believe that the works on the construction of this section in the forthcoming period will be intensified so that Kragujevac, after several decades of waiting, will be completely connected with the most important international road corridor passing through Serbia, Corridor 10“, Mihajlović pointed out.

The Deputy Prime Minister, prof. Zorana Mihajlović, PhD, while visiting the works on 15th May, together with the Acting Director



Zoran Drobnjak, associates and contractors, announced that in September 2020 we would have a completed road that has been long-awaited.

The largest part of the section of the road Kragujevac – Batočina, 25 kilometres long, has been reconstructed by widening the road profile into two physically separated traffic lanes in both directions. In order to finalize the project, it is necessary to complete the works on the section through Batočina to the existing motorway Belgrade – Niš, in the length of five kilometres. After the exit from the motorway and the overpass over the railway at the turn-off for Lapovo, a construction of a big roundabout has been planned.

With the completion of this short, but very important section, Kragujevac will be connected not only with Corridor 10, but will indirectly become a part of the European road network, which is, at the same time, an invitation to all big investors to develop their businesses in this region, the heart of Šumadija and one of the largest economic centres in the country.