

Articles about Toll Road from Asia Plus News

TAJIKISTAN INTRODUCES PAYMENT FOR USE OF AUTOMOTIVE ROADS

DUSHANBE, June 23, 2009, Asia-Plus /Avaz Yuldoshev/ -- Deputies of the Majlisi Namoyandagon (Tajikistan's lower chamber of parliament) have endorsed a bill requiring amendments to the country's law on automotive roads and road activity. The amendments, in particular, provide for introduction of payment for use of automotive roads.

A regular sitting of the fifth session of the Majlisi Namoyandagon of the third convocation, presided over by its speaker, Saydullo Khairuloyev, was held on June 23.

Presenting the bill, the First Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications, Jumakhon Zuhurov, noted that the amendments, in particular, proposed to introduce payment for use of the Dushanbe-Khujand-Chanak highway, rehabilitation of which was nearing completion.

"The Chinese Government has provided \$281.2 million in a form of long-term loan and the payment is introduced in order to repay the loan, recoup the investments we made and maintain the highway," the deputy minister said.

In the meantime, MP Yusufjon Ahmadov noted that introduction of payment for use of automotive roads violated constitutional rights of citizens. "Under Article 24 of the country's Constitution citizens have the right of free movement across the country and the amendments restrict this right," said Ahmadov, "There are more than 23 million kilometers of automotive roads across the world and only some 200,000 kilometers of them are the paid ones. However, the countries that have the paid automotive roads also have alternative free roads. Moreover, many countries such as Germany, Great Britain, Denmark and Sweden have already given up the paid automotive roads."

MP Shodi Shabdolov seconded Yusufjon Ahmadov, noting that endorsement of the amendments would seriously affect the population and lead to increase in prices in the country.

Parliamentarians endorsed the bill after long and lively discussions.

PAID MOTOR ROADS DO NOT MEET PUBLIC INTEREST, SAYS EXPERT

DUSHANBE, June 24, 2009, Asia-Plus /Payrav Chorshanbiyev/ -- The introduction of road pricing does not meet public interest because the country's economic situation is hard and the population's paying capacity is very low, Tajik lawyer Shokirjon Hakimov said in an interview with Asia-Plus, commenting on the bill requiring amendments to the country's law on motor roads and road activity that was endorsed by parliament yesterday.

We will recall that the amendments, in particular, provide for the introduction of road pricing in Tajikistan.

"Indeed, some countries now use the road pricing," said Hakimov, "Meanwhile, these countries have alternative roads alongside the paid motor roads. In Tajikistan, it is impossible to construct the alternative motor roads that would be used free of charge both economically and geographically."

The expert added that there were rumors that the law requiring the introduction of road pricing had been initiated by separate entrepreneurs close to the government in order to use the paid motor roads in their own interest in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF ROAD PRICING QUITE A LOGICAL MOVE OF THE GOVERNMENT, RESEARCHER SAYS

DUSHANBE, June 24, 2009, Asia-Plus /Payrav Chorshanbiyev/ -- The introduction of road pricing in Tajikistan is quite a logical move of the government, Firouz Saidov, the head of the department for social and labor market studies within the Center for Strategic Studies under the President of Tajikistan, said in an interview with Asia-Plus.

According to him, payments will be collected for use of motor roads of republican significance that may become international highways in the future. "Foreign carriers, including heavy trucks, will use these roads alongside with local vehicles," said the senior expert from the Tajik think tank said, "We have to repair these roads with the lapse of time while the country cannot constantly apply to international donors for financial support. Therefore, the government had to make such changes to the legislation. As a result carriers themselves will pay for maintenance of roads."

Saidov stressed that the road pricing was not Tajikistan's innovation. "Such a practice is widely used in many countries of the world," said Saidov, "For example, in some countries, users of motor roads pay for construction and maintenance of roads."

The other point what mechanisms of collection of funds for the use of motor roads will be used in Tajikistan, the expert said. "I think payment rates should not be equal for all users. The rates should depend on type and weight of vehicle and some other parameters. The rates for local and foreign carriers should be different."

DUSHANBE-CHANAK ROAD ONE OF WORLD'S DANGEROUS HIGHWAYS, SAYS MINISTER OF TRANSPORT

DUSHANBE, July 17, 2009, Asia-Plus /Mavjouda Hasanova/ -- International organization, Auto Transport, has listed highway from Dushanbe through Khujand to Chanak (near the Uzbek border) among the most dangerous roads in the world, Minister of transport and Communications Abdurahim Ashour remarked at a press conference in Dushanbe on July 16.

According to him, many fatal traffic accidents take place on this road. "16 people have died in traffic accidents that have taken place on this road over the first six months of this year alone," said the minister, "In all, 271 traffic accidents have taken place in the country over the report period and more than 100 people have been killed and 340 others have been injured in those accidents."

On the government's decision to introduce road pricing scheme and charging traffic along the Dushanbe-Chanak highway, the minister said that the decision would ensure traffic safety. "Experts from the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade jointly with our specialists are currently working on the tariff issues," Ashour said, adding that specialists estimated economic profit Tajikistan will have from introduction of the road pricing scheme. "The rehabilitated Dushanbe-Chanak highway will bring profit of 25 million US dollars per year with regard to traffic," he said.

The minister further added that it could not be ruled out that road pricing scheme would be introduced for other rehabilitated highways as well.

BRITISH COMPANY TO INSTALL TOLL COLLECTION EQUIPMENT ON DUSHANBE-KHUYAND-CHANAK HIGHWAY

KHUYAND, October 23, 2009, Asia-Plus /Bakhtiyor Valiyev/ -- British company, Innovative Road Solutions LTD, will install equipment for controlling passenger traffic and collecting tolls on the Dushanbe-Khujand-Chanak highway, Asia-Plus has learned from Isomkhon Avliyoyev, the head of the Sughd directorate for automotive roads.

"Innovative Road Solutions LTD will also carry out work on maintenance and technical service of all systems," Avliyoyev said. According to him, seven toll stations will be built along the highway and land plots have already been allotted for construction of three of them. As it had been reported earlier, the highway from Dushanbe to Chanak on the Uzbek border in northern Tajikistan will be a toll road and drivers will pay a toll for use.