



Belarusian motorways to start commercial use of BelToll system

Time has come for new roads

August 1st brings tolls to M1 motorway

By Artem Kovalevsky

The Brest Region is the first to meet all vehicles and travellers entering Belarus from the West and, from August 1st, will be levying tolls along the length of its M1/E30 motorway: part of the international Berlin-Warsaw-Minsk-Moscow-Nizhny Novgorod transport corridor. Specialists of the road's old Fedkovich toll station are now replaced by 16 road toll collection points.

The new system is quite simple, with vehicles using special onboard devices to automatically pay the correct toll fee. Special tollgates have been installed along the whole length of paid roads (in the Brest Region this is a road section from Kozlovichi border checkpoint to the border with the Minsk Region).

Fixed to the windshield, the device uses wireless technologies to connect with each tollgate, registering the vehicle's journey and deducting money from the carrier's balance. There's no need to stop, ensuring that traffic flows more smoothly. Naturally, longer journeys on the toll road incur greater fees.

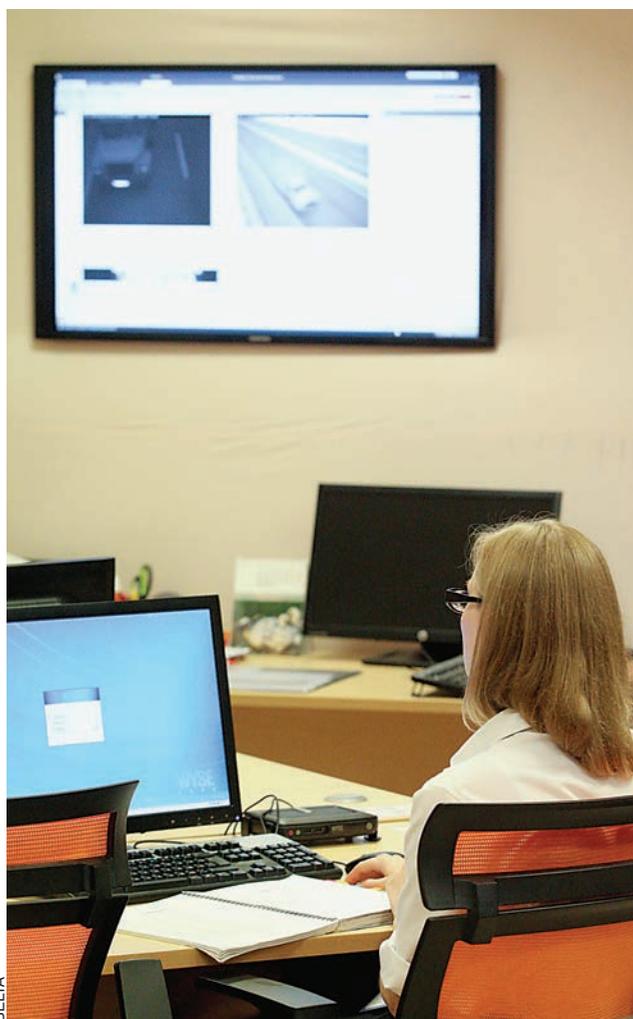
Passenger cars pay 0.04 Euros per kilometre, while two-axle vehicles weighing over 3.5 tonnes pay 0.08 Euros and three-axle cars over 3.5 tonnes pay 0.1 Euros. Meanwhile, vehicles weighing over 3.5 tonnes, with four or more axles, pay 0.12 Euros for each kilometre of toll road, making the approximate cost for a journey on the M1 paid section 10-30 Euros.

The toll fees are modest but should pay for maintenance, to ensure the roads of international importance are

kept in superb order, making journeys faster and more comfortable.

It may seem that new rules tackle all drivers who travel through Belarus; however, drivers of only categories of transport vehicles should pay.

Vehicles registered within the Customs Union are exempt if they weigh under 3.5 tonnes, including mopeds and motorcycles, wheeled tractors and self-propelled vehicles registered in Belarus. Naturally, emergency vehicles and public transport are also exempt from paying fees. Meanwhile, drivers of all transport vehicles weighing over 3.5 tonnes (regardless of place of residence) should pay, as should those driving vehicles under 3.5 tonnes but which are registered beyond the borders of the Customs Union.



In the data control centre of the BelToll system

Local residents using the road regularly, for instance travelling between Brest and Baranovichi, won't be affected by the toll, so have no need

for worry.

European countries have been using similar mechanisms for many years, with their efficiency long proven.

Bypass for automobiles

Belarusian Development Bank to finance construction of automobile bridge and bypass in Brest

The Bank is to provide credit for the construction of a Western bypass for Brest city, helping transport flow between the left and right banks of the River Mukhavets, and aiding the border-checkpoints of Varshavsky Most and Kozlovichi.

Br70 billion s is being allocated for the two-stage project, which will see an automobile bridge completed across the River Mukhavets this year, alongside reconstruction of Zubachev Street. This should significantly resolve transport problems in Brest.

Significant borrowing

China granting 150 million Yuan for building student hostel

An agreement on technical and economic co-operation was signed on July 16th in Beijing, aimed at furthering friendly relations and technical and economic co-operation between Belarus and China. It is now on public display on the National Legal Internet Portal, detailing the volume of the loan from the People's Republic of China: 150 million Chinese Yuan (about \$25,000,000). The loan is to be used for the building of a student hostel.

Demand determines supply

Ministry of Finance to release \$300-400 million of foreign currency government bonds onto the domestic market by the end of the year

"The actual sum will depend on market demand but the bonds will be available to private individuals, as well as companies," emphasises Vladimir Amarin, the First Deputy Minister of Finance of Belarus. Speaking at a press conference in Minsk, he noted, "This year, about \$570 million of government bonds have been placed on the domestic market, including \$470 million for legal entities."

The Deputy Minister for Finance told journalists that, this September, Belarus can decide whether to place more Eurobonds (adding to bonds worth \$1.8 billion, already released by the Republic). In July 2010, Belarus placed its first bonds on the European market, for a period of five years, worth \$600 million and paying a return of 8.75 percent. In August, a second set was released, worth \$400 million, and paying 8.25 percent.

ICT sphere is leading financially

Highest salaries in June to those engaged in information technology

The National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus has announced salary data for June, showing almost no change in average salary levels. Those employed with computers and data processing continue to lead, earning almost Br13 million per month (over \$1,400).

The next highest average salaries in June were registered in such fields as the manufacture of coke, oil products and nuclear materials: almost Br10 million (\$1,100). Airline staff received about the same while engineers took fourth place with just over Br8 million (over \$900).

The first six months of this year, compared to last, saw the biggest salary rise for those working in water transport, building and the manufacture of precast reinforced and concrete constructions and products. Salaries in industrial spheres have risen by almost 20 percent in real terms (compared to Jan-June 2012).

Establishing new format for technological consolidation

Construction holdings to build modern houses at affordable prices to meet the needs of citizens



New technologies for Minsk homes

By Svetlana Lipskaya

Belarus' construction policy is following a path of affordable housing, while embracing reasonable market rates. In addition, export and staff potential is being enhanced and integrated

structures are being established via three major construction holdings: Belstroy, Belmontazhspetsstroy and the Belarusian Cement Company. Regional holdings are being piloted in the Mogilev Region, tasked with building unique sites in Belarus and abroad, while improving

construction, engineering and architectural services.

Not long ago, the Construction and Architecture Ministry developed a much-awaited document, outlining how tenders are to be organised for the building of affordable high-rise housing in Minsk and across regional centres. Criteria have been set, with the best applicants chosen by commission majority vote.

From 2014, energy efficient housing will become the norm, reducing the consumption of heat and energy by 5 percent by 2015; and a further 10 percent by 2020. Total consumption should fall by 20 percent and we will see a gradual shift towards the use of renewable energy sources: heat pumps, bio-gas, wind and solar energy. The Council of Ministers' Presidium debated the new concept, aiming to protect our construction market and enhance professional responsibility while ensuring that homes are affordable and of good quality.