

Highway Lviv-Krakovets

The idea of the project of highway Lviv-Krakovets – elaborated and implemented on concession basis – started in early 1998. Investor of the project: Consortium “Transmagisral” created by joint stocks of Ukrainian commercial banks, companies, private investors. Information about particular investors is not available, except few articles in mass media.

Lviv-Krakovets part of highway constitutes the part of international transport corridor N3 Berlin-Wroclaw- Lviv-Kiev. On the German territory the highway already exists, on Polish territory it is being built and it’s absent on Ukrainian territory.

The project foresees the construction of new highway (only 6 km of highway at the beginning coincides with existing road Lviv-Krakovets) starting from its 6th km till 84,4 km.

The project had 3 options for a road on its stretch near Zashkiv and Zavadiv, one affecting protected area and big logging volumes needed, another – doing directly through the villages Zashkiv and Zavadiv.

The project passed 2 stages and the last stage of planning is under development. Investors elaborated technical and economic assessment of the highway and the EIA was approved by the Ministry of Environment of Ukraine and Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine as well as project documentation was also approved.

Ecological considerations

The EIA of project and consequent decision of the Ministry of environment of Ukraine on its approval (so called Ecological *Expertiza*) had some shortcomings and didn’t comply with national legislation.

- 1) public participation was lacking and no public opinion taken into account;
- 2) no assessment of impact on threatened species (listed in the Red book of Ukraine), habitat of which will be destroyed during construction;
- 3) project foresees noise pollution of protected areas;
- 4) no reference to the impact on human health;
- 5) no reference to the protective zone (resettlement of residents is obligatory) and its size;
- 6) there were few serious comments by experts that pointed on the need for additional ecological assessments and excluded positive decision of Ministry.

Local citizens filed a suit to court challenging the conclusions of Ecological *Expertiza* of the project of highway by the ministry of environment, claiming violation of the right to participate in this decision-making process. The court dismissed the suit and now the plaintiffs are filing an appeal to the appeal court of Kiev Region.

The construction would become possible after the completion of the third phase of planning – elaboration and approval of working construction documents and issuing of building permit.

Land issues

In 1998 village council disagreed with option of highway going through the village. Later on village council gave preliminary permission to allocate the land plot within the village for highway construction and few years later suspended this decision grounding this by the negative opinion of local citizens on this project.

All higher level authorities approved allocation of land to the investors, even including the government of Ukraine approving the allotment of particularly valuable lands for the highway construction.

The highway will cut only villages Zashkiv and Zavadiv on its way to Krakovets, thus it's obvious why local dwellers of these villages started active protesting against this construction.

Thus, active local group initiated local referendum with the main question – are you supporting or opposing construction of highway through your villages (Zashkiv and Zavadiv)? Second question referred to abolition of the decision of village council on the preliminary approval on land plot allocation for the highway construction. Almost 100% of local people voted against the highway construction.

As the result the village council cancelled its previous decision and refused to sign necessary documents on land allocation to the investor.

Seven local landowners that need to be resettled because of the highway construction with further removal of their houses are now hesitating and half of them refuse to leave their houses and gardens and move to other places.

The lack of land certificates will make impossible construction of highway through these villages.

Tourist potential consideration

Another important issue is the tourist potential of the area.

As a result of highway construction near 5ha of the artificial lake need to be destroyed and the trees of the forest nearby will be cut. This area had being used by local people, visitors from Lviv and youth NGOs for summer sport activities and in winter the hills are planned to have ski lifts.

The highway construction will affect the possible recreational development in the future.

The scientific assessment of the recreational development of the territory is expected to be commissioned soon.