

Kyiv Mayor Newsletter

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CHANGE STARTS WITH KYIV

The City of Kyiv General Plan Presentation

Klitschko: Chaotic housing sprawl must stop

As Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko declared during a presentation of the General Plan draft at Kyiv: Facing the Future International Forum, the chaotic housing growth in Ukraine's capital must stop.



“The General Plan was developed through the analysis of land use and development planning. Chaotic housing sprawl must stop! Building permits must ensure that a new development keeps pace with the expansion of public facilities and a local, on-site infrastructure provided by developers who must define ways of meeting the needs of future residents while limiting the burden on existing residents. Planning efforts and infrastructure development must interrelate and developers will have to provide a survey with planning calculations and design. This is something we have never seen done before. There must be a legislative initiative empowering local governments to control the land development in this context,” explained Vitali Klitschko.

According to Mayor Klitschko, the city acknowledges the key importance of keeping tight control over housing development to ensure its comprehensiveness. This demand results from a vital need for new schools and kindergartens. “A lot of new housing estates are being built with too few or no schools and kindergartens. They are being constructed mostly by the city and at the city’s cost. Strict rules should be imposed in this context. Construction of an apartment building or a residential complex must go hand in hand with related public infrastructure - schools and day-care centres, playgrounds, sports facilities and squares,” emphasized Klitschko.

Another polemical issue is a need for regulations that restrict building height in the historic centre. “We are very conscious of the need to preserve the city’s historic face, heritage and architectural landmarks. In this respect, we will rely on a new history/architecture survey. And we hope the Ministry of Culture will advocate its soonest completion and implementation,” said the mayor.

Klitschko outlines infrastructure challenges

In a speech at the Forum Kyiv mayor outlined the most pressing challenges the city faces today and emphasized that the new General Plan will help address them most effectively. “We have inherited some problems that pose a threat to sustainable development. A SWOT analysis discovered the main factors, looming critical for us. Firstly, this is a very frustrating driving around the city due to traffic jams, irresponsible parking and infamous marshrutkas. The city’s road network makes it a hassle to drive, walk and move across the city,” he pointed out.



He also emphasized the importance of completion of Darnytsa Road-Rail Bridge exit ramps as well as Vydubitchy railway terminal.

Also a level of metro expansion is not high enough for a European capital city. “We have to obtain significant funding to see Kyiv’s metro stations increase. In particular, the extended metro lines to Vynohradar and Troeshyna neighbourhoods are badly needed,” noted Klitschko.

“We are very intent on completing Podilsko-Voskresenskiy bridge to open it to traffic by the year-end, followed by an extension of the metro line farther into Troeshyna. The bridge project, which is almost 40 years old, is an important task not only for the city, and we still expect the government to help speed up its implementation,” he stressed.

He underlined a need to sharply accelerate the construction of park-and-ride facilities near metro stations and at the city entrances. According to the mayor, creation of dedicated bus lanes also remains quite an urgent point. “We need to replace the public transportation fleet - buses, trams and trolleybuses which have to be modern, comfortable and easily accessible to passengers with disabilities. We are replacing old vehicles but we need many more to encourage public transport usage,” said Klitschko.

Klitschko: public hearings on new General plan to begin early next year

According to Klitschko, the draft General Plan will be available for public review before its implementation. Members of the public will discuss their ideas and provide their feedback.

He said that the city openly reports all updates and introduces them to experts, urbanists and architects at the Forum. “General plans typically take some years to prepare. This is a long-term policy document that reveals the vision for the future of the city and establishes the development strategy. Today the Kyiv Institute of General Plan will unveil a blueprint for Kyiv’s future. Next year public hearings will kick off, where the public can communicate any questions in this respect. Their input will be included into the General Plan Update. All concerned residents are welcomed to contribute,” noted Vitali Klitschko.

During the presentation the mayor thanked urban planning analysts from Leipzig who have studied the main portions of the General Plan and offered their conclusions, as well as experts of the Council of Europe and GIZ, the German Society for International Cooperation, for their support and expertise. “Local and international experts shared their inputs and gave their recommendations which we will definitely include in draft General Plan and urban development policy,” he underlined.



“We are aware that there will be criticism. We are ready to consider and accommodate all concerns. We are aware there will be attempts to bring politics into this issue. What is more, is that there was plenty of doubt we were actually going to unveil the draft General Plan! You know, it is no easy task to systematize all this mess that has been mounting up for decades. Today’s Forum is the first step towards the General Plan implementation. And we

are taking it!” emphasized Klitschko.

Kyiv: Facing the Future International Forum was the platform to unveil the draft General Plan - a foundation on which all innovative decisions are based and which sets forth policies to successfully implement the city’s development strategy. Co-organized by the Kyiv Institute of General Plan and the Department of Urban Construction and Architecture under the City Administration, the Forum brought together international and local stakeholders, in particular Guinka Tchavdarova, an expert of the Council of Europe, Stefan Heinig, of the Leipzig city planning department and Thomas Schinko, a lead architect (France).

The Forum’s schedule was packed with panel discussions on such topics as Kyiv agglomeration, urban density, transportation and road network, environment and heritage preservation. International and local experts shared their strategy and vision for urban planning and development as well as their judgement about the draft General Plan.

Klitschko: Shulyavsky overpass opens to traffic



Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko dressed up as Santa Claus has formally opened the reconstructed Shulyavsky overpass which opened back to traffic. He drove his quadricycle across the bridge front-running other cars.

“We have promised to open the flyover for traffic by the end of 2019. As you see, the traffic resumed. I want to say thank you to all who have been working and will continue to reconstruct Shulyavsky overpass. And I’d like to thank Kyiv residents for tolerating all the inconveniences the reconstruction brought about,” he said. He also underlined that prior the inauguration the flyover was load-tested, with 30 tons dump trucks being used in the field test.

Klitschko stressed that this is the first time in Ukraine that an overpass has been rebuilt in such a short period of time. Originally the reconstruction was expected to take 17 months, but major work is now completed ahead of schedule - in nine months.

He reminded that demolition work began in March 2019. “Very powerful machines were used on the construction site - a super crane and mega jack. The best Ukrainian as well as German and Dutch experts offered their experience and shared the best world practice in bridge construction. The renovated overpass was gradually emerging. We used the latest construction technology - from mega jack installing the flyover parts down to polymer asphalt surfacing,” he told.

“The overpass construction brought plenty of other work - replaced sewage and heating systems as well as superseded engineering network which resulted in adjusting the budget,” stressed Klitschko. He revealed that the Kyiv Forensic Institute will perform a construction cost audit.

Mayor also underlined that work remaining on the project includes the demolition of the fifth Bolshevik plant, construction of exit ramps and a bike path. It is expected to be complete by summer of 2020.

Klitschko brothers reopen upgraded Bereznyaki indoor stadium

Together with his brother Wladimir Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko cut the ribbon to reopen the revamped Bereznyaki track and field indoor stadium. “We are unveiling the renovated track and field indoor stadium. It is such an iconic facility for both the city and the whole country. The stadium is 40 years old and for years it has not met the contemporary standards. Now we renovated it adding more buildings and upgrading its HVAC . It will provide first class amenities for athletes,” said the mayor.

The refurbished stadium, which is capable of hosting professional and amateur sports and is also a popular place for sports and recreation for the city's youngsters, has now a larger seating capacity and a new modern arena. New long sprints and long jump halls, facilities for table tennis, boxing and freestyle wrestling as well as dressing rooms with showers have been added to the existing structure. Bereznyaki stadium is now fitted with new special equipment made in Ukraine, the USA and Europe: built-in lap counters, false start detection system and photo finish cameras, a video screen to provide the match results - overall 1,300 units. The stadium building is fully accessible to spectators with disabilities. It is energy efficient and has the latest HVAC systems installed.



“The stadium will serve as the best training facility across Ukraine. We have just talked to athletes, all of them are delighted! The level of retrofit will let the stadium apply for a certificate to be able to host national and international competitions. It is my firm belief, that the stadium will encourage new sports successes serve to raise Ukraine’s popularity,” told Kyiv mayor.

Wladimir Klitschko who was shown around the facility played a game in table tennis and remarked that such a state-of-the-art training facility can only inspire to do sports. “My brother and I have never had such conditions for training. Athletes who train here have won four gold medals at the most recent Olympics in Rio. I believe, such first class amenities will provide a pathway for progress. Let us hope for winning at least 10 medals at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo,” underlined Wladimir Klitschko.

One more Kyiv's children clinic receives major upgrade



Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko inspected recent improvements to the Kyiv children hospital No. 2. The hospital opened in 1975, from then on it saw a redecoration.

The mayor unveiled the improvements to the emergency care unit and the thermal upgrade of all hospital buildings. Last year saw a major upgrade of the front desk area.

“For years those premises has been suffering from lack of maintenance. The clinic did not look like one of the Kyiv’s hospitals despite being the only children’s healthcare facility on the left bank. Over the past two years, the city has allocated over ₾170 million for major renovations and replacement of the medical equipment. You can see how the clinic has changed - inside and outside. Next year the third phase of renovations is expected to be complete,” stressed Klitschko.

The latest additions to the medical equipment include new video gastroscopes, colonoscopes, automatic biochemistry analyzers, diagnostic ultrasound machines and anaesthetic machines as well as portable MAC mobile X-ray units to take x-rays throughout the hospital.

“According to doctors, this equipment ensures the highest operational efficiency and brings medical care to the highest level. Modern laboratory equipment can produce results in a matter of seconds,” remarked the mayor.

Klitschko: Kyiv becomes the first Ukraine's city to join Zero TB Initiative

Kyiv is the first Ukrainian city that joined the international programme to eliminate tuberculosis. At the EECA City Health Leadership Forum some other cities except Kyiv have signed the Zero TB Initiative - Osh, Chişinău, Bishkek and Svetlagorsk (Belarus). Also at the event the city of Belts (Moldova) joined the Paris Declaration. The Forum brought together representatives of over 50 municipalities from 25 countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

“I am excited that mayors from around the world step in to fight the epidemic and join the global campaign to strengthen their local HIV and TB efforts by signing the Paris Declaration and Zero TB Declaration. And we welcome new signees!” said Klitschko.



He emphasized the importance of addressing those challenges specifically at the level of urban areas. More than half of the world's population now lives in cities. This figure may reach 70% over the next 30 years. The majority of people with new HIV and TB diagnoses live in cities. At the same time the necessary infrastructure and resources to treat and prevent the diseases are available also mostly in cities.

“It is my firm belief that cities are the ones that best achieve the goal to end the AIDS and tuberculosis epidemic. People's health must be a common policy priority. We, mayors and the municipal healthcare departments must partner with healthcare ministries and international organizations to accelerate urban HIV and TB prevention strategies and redouble our efforts against the AIDS and TB epidemic!” he remarked.

The mayor reminded that Kyiv signed the Paris Declaration in 2016. The Declaration reflects the communities' determination to end the AIDS epidemic through a set of commitments.

Those commitments include achieving the 90–90–90 targets: 90% of people living with HIV know their status, 90% of those receive effective antiretroviral therapy and 90% of those have undetectable viral loads. Thanks to a combination of the city and NGOs Kyiv is making reasonable progress: currently the percentage is 72-80-90. Over the nine months of this year budget allocations for HIV programmes amounted to \$4,5 million: the local government spent \$0,5 million, the national government transferred about \$1,5 million, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, the PEPFAR programme and other donors jointly invested about \$2,5 million.

“Partnering with NGOs, the city has adopted the programme on HIV/AIDS under which provides important funding. First of all we are reaching those at the highest risk of infection and I am pleased to say, we managed to reduce new infections. And an opportunity to learn about good practices from our peers around the world and our international partners remains very valuable for us because in this way we can benefit from breakthroughs in diagnosis and treatment methods,” said Vitali Klitschko, addressing the Forum.



Kyiv and Bern sign cooperation declaration

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko and mayor of Bern Alec von Graffenried has signed a declaration on cooperation between the cities.

“I hope our meeting will help build up future mutually beneficial cooperation between our cities. Ukraine’s partnership with Bern which ranks one of the most liveable cities and is also a political centre of Switzerland and hub for economic development, signals our own progress towards European integration,” emphasized Vitali Klitschko.

He told that over the past five years Ukraine has made a lot of progress on a path to becoming a member of the European family. “We are putting a lot of effort to break down the old inefficient system, in particular in local governance. It is no easy task. But we are transforming Ukraine’s capital, implementing new technology and making local government process transparent and innovative,” explained Klitschko.

According to him, Kyiv is the first smart city in Ukraine. The country is only about to launch smart solutions that Kyiv has been using for four years already. And Kyiv is ready to share its ideas and best practices. Smart City tools enabled the city to implement dozens of e-services for its citizens.



Kyiv repairs roads and builds bridges, schools and kindergartens, renovates hospitals and parks, buys modern medical machines and

public transport fleet using the municipal budget funds. “This is a huge amount of work and we are aware that much more has to be done. My personal challenge is to complete the construction of Podilsko-Voskresenskiy bridge by the end of 2020. The bridge will reduce traffic congestion between the right and left banks of the Dnieper and dramatically relieve pressure on major transport arteries. The bridge will also enable us to extend the subway to Troeschyna area,” he added.

Klitschko noted that the progress made by both Kyiv and Ukraine would not have been possible without contribution and support of European partners and friends. “It is important for the country and its capital city to boost the partnership with Switzerland and Bern. Our joint declaration on future cooperation is a significant step forward in this direction,” stressed Kyiv mayor.

The declaration states that Bern and Kyiv face similar urban problems and intend to share the best practices, learn from each other and borrow the best.

Both mayors participated in the EECA City Health Leadership Forum that took place in Kyiv.