

DESIRE FOR THE BEST

Maxim S. Liksutov

The Moscow Government

Abstract

Over the past few years, the transport system of Moscow has undergone significant changes. The Government of Moscow is actively implementing unique and large-scale projects despite their complexity. The Moscow Transport has become one of the drivers of positive change in the capital of Russia. Its rapid development allows to improve the quality of life of Muscovites. It is based on the creation of affordable, comfortable and safe urban transport, without which no modern metropolis can develop. The Deputy Mayor of Moscow for Transport Maksim Liksutov spoke about the achievements in capital transport infrastructure and a little about his personal life.

Keywords

Moscow transport, megapolis, transport system of the capital, metro, large-scale projects, Moscow Central Dimeters, river transport, the Big Circle Line.

- **How does conventional higher education help to solve current problems of the metropolis?**

- I graduated from Plekhanov Russian University of Economics with a degree in financial management. I am very grateful to the university and professors for the deep theoretical base.

I always tell my children and students that they should acquire as much knowledge as possible, they shouldn't limit themselves to the curriculum. Moreover, higher education develops other useful skills - self-discipline, the ability to find common ground with different people, work with a large amount of information and, of course, develops language-learning abilities.

At the same time, I possess extensive expertise in business, which helps me to manage complex organizations and enterprises, I know how to improve their performance and competitiveness to benefit people.

All this helps me every day as the Deputy Mayor of Moscow. My team and I, led by the Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyenin, have managed to substantially improve the operation of the huge transport system of the capital. We are implementing gigantic projects, many of which are second to none even globally - the Big Circle Line, the Moscow Central Circle, the Moscow Central Diameters and many more. Of course, all these projects are being implemented by the Government of Moscow team and our partners — the Moscow Region, Russian Railways and many others.



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- **Did you personally manage to work and study at the same time?**

- Yes, I worked during my studies and later, when I received additional education. And now I am constantly learning, I try to learn something new every day, including in my business-related areas. This helps to keep the brain sharp and stay aware of the best practices.

Today, many people combine work and study, and we welcome it. The Student Group of the Moscow Transport Complex helps students get

internships and workplaces at Moscow Transport enterprises. Last year, for example, more than 500 students joined the Moscow Metro team. We always welcome young and ambitious graduates, so we are really looking forward to active students. The Moscow Transport is a reliable and one of the capital's largest employers. We offer workplaces with stable income and social guarantees from the Government of Moscow.

- **You have extensive expertise in business. Why did you make up your mind to join the public sector? What is more interesting?**

- For me it was a challenge. The tasks set by the Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyenin, are very ambitious in scale and complexity, but their implementation substantially improves the quality of life in Moscow, the city where I and my children live. Back in 2010 many believed it was impossible to cope with the backlog of challenges in the capital – such a poor transport system that an ordinary Muscovite dreamed of buying a car as soon as possible and was ready to spend many hours in kilometers long traffic jams just to avoid the overcrowded metro, old commuter trains, trams and buses. Therefore, the share of private cars was growing, aggravating the traffic situation even more.

Thus, the Moscow Mayor set the task of restarting the operation of public transport, to make it predictable, accessible, comfortable and safe, so that Muscovites would begin to trust it. At the end of the day, no metropolis in the world can develop without fast, reliable and convenient transport. We managed to turn it around. Today even those people who own a private car are actively using metro, surface public transport. The city started moving and urban transport ceased to cause negative emotions. The perception of the city has changed. A lot has already been done, we are still working on many tasks.

As for your question regarding more interesting sector. They are difficult to compare, but in the public sector personal responsibility for any decision made or action taken is a million times higher, since every measure impacts the daily life and comfort of millions of people. Personal responsibility is much higher. But I don't regret my decision for a minute, I really like my current activity. All the tasks set by the Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyenin are very interesting and our projects improve the lives of Muscovites and create a tangible foundation for the future development of the city. The climate in the Government of Moscow encourages achieving results, it is simply impossible to do otherwise.

- **What achievements are you proud of?**

- All of them are related to Moscow transport and our city. Under the leadership of the Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyenin we have created an integrated transport system, launched large transport projects and new



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modes of transport that have changed the capital and improved the experience for millions of people.

107 new metro and MCC stations have been opened since 2011. Moscow is the undisputed world leader in qualitative development of urban transport. We have implemented megaprojects — the Moscow Central Circle and the Moscow Central Diameters both integrated with the Moscow Metro and with each other.

The Big Circle Line of the Moscow Metro has been fully opened, becoming the longest metro circle line in the world.

We have put parking lots in order, arranged a comfortable parking space to the benefit of local residents. As a result, it has become more convenient both for car drivers, who now can park their cars, and pedestrians, who no longer need to squeeze through parked cars, even the streets now look much nicer.

In 2018 the capital first saw electric buses and today Moscow tops the list of European cities by their number. The facilities to manufacture and assemble electric buses are located in Russia and since 2021 - in Moscow on the site of the city enterprise SVARZ, a partner of KAMAZ PJSC.

Back in 2016 we were the first in Russia to sign government contracts with private transportation companies. Old and dangerous minibuses are a thing of the past, today passengers travel in comfortable modern buses that run on schedule with concessionary fares.

We have completely replaced old buses in the capital, have almost completed the replacement of old Moscow's trams and purchased more than 4,000 state-of-the-art cars for the metro.

The carmaker Moskvich has returned its factory to the city. They managed not only to keep a professional team of 2,000 employees with extensive experience in the automotive industry, but also to begin the revival of the legendary domestic brand. Today Moskvich cars can be seen both in carsharing and as taxis.

The Moscow metro has launched biometric fare payment system—projects of this scale are unprecedented for any city.

Today the Moscow ticketing system is one of the best in the world. We are among the leaders by the number of convenient ways to pay fare and the Troika-based ticketing system has repeatedly won international awards.

Moscow has regained its important symbols, the Northern and Southern River Terminals, and today they are one of the most popular sights and points of attraction of the capital. Motor ships from there depart for dozens of cities in Russia. At the beginning of summer, we also have launched year-round electric river transport, a unique project not only for Russia, but also for the whole world.



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- **Tell us more about the implemented large-scale project — the Big Circle Line.**

- Today the Big Circle Line, which was built under the personal control of the Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyenin, is used by more than a million passengers on a working day. This shows how important and vital such a project was for the city.

Thanks to the Big Circle Line residents of Moscow and the Moscow region have many routes to choose from, they can travel directly between districts and save time. Passengers interchange to the Big Circle Line from other lines thereby reducing traffic on the Circle Line and a number of radial lines.

At the same time, the Big Circle Line has enough carrying capacity to operate without a critical load for many decades to come, including due to the new comfortable Moscow-2022 trains running on the line.

The Big Circle Line is an impetus to the development of the city's economy. The locations with a new metro station are sure to attract businesses. We measure it in simple terms. For instance, the number of cash registers near metro stations has risen by almost 70% in 2 months.

This means that small and medium-sized businesses, cafes, small shops, service enterprises immediately began to operate in these locations. These are new jobs and taxes, this is economic growth and, of course, higher entrepreneurial activity in the city.

The Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyenin is personally engaged in this and other major projects in the transport system of Moscow.

- **What skills should a successful leader possess today?**

- Total dedication to your job and result orientation, but always soberly assess whether there are sufficient resources to achieve this result. This allows you to set feasible tasks for employees.

Learn new things, be flexible, be able to hear and analyze different views. Know how to take responsibility. Be able to shape a good team - I am proud of all our employees, we are all like-minded, and we have a common goal - to be useful, to help people, to improve the quality of life of all Muscovites with no exception.



We are living in a very interesting time. The most valuable thing now is the ability to work with information. The information flow boils every day and it is incredibly easy to drown in it.

- **What is the most complex project in your pipeline right now?**

- We are intensively preparing for the launch of next diameter lines MCD-3 and MCD-4. These are long railway lines that need to be integrated into the existing transport system as efficiently as possible. With their launch the city will become closer and more accessible to millions of Muscovites and residents of the Moscow region.

For instance, residents of the Kaluga direction, primarily New Moscow, will gain access to the metro. They will have a choice to interchange to the Moscow Metro, MCC, BCL and will be able to quickly get to the city center. This integration and choice are the most important things that passengers will gain.

On the Moscow Railway in Kaluga direction of the future MCD-4 15 new city and suburban stations have already been renovated and opened. We are creating large transport hubs at existing and future diameter lines: Belorusskaya, Rizhskaya, Petrovsko-Razumovskaya, Serp i Molot, Kutuzovskaya, Testovskaya.

This year we plan to open 14 more new and renovated suburban stations along routes of all 4 diameter lines and complete the construction of feeder lines at the MCD-3 and MCD-4.

We are also updating the fleet of trains on diameter lines. More than 20 modern 2D commuter trains are already running on the Kazan direction railway line. Recently trains of the new Ivolga 3.0 series with passengers have started their operation. So far they run on the second diameter line, but will soon start operation at the MCD-3.

In Tver an even newer model of commuter train Ivolga 4.0 is being assembled now; for the first time, it will become a three-door train, passengers will be able to get on and off faster. The renewal of the fleet at MCD-3 and MCD-4 will continue after the launch, in the future these lines will have only new trains.

And, of course, we must provide the passengers of the MCD-3 and MCD-4 with all the services that Muscovites are accustomed to - ticketing system, a high level of comfort and safety.

MCD-3 and MCD-4 passengers will save about 50% of the fare. Now they have to pay both for commuter train and metro. After the launch the interchange from the MCD-3 and MCD-4 to the Moscow Metro and the Moscow Central Circle will become free of charge. I am positive that new diameter lines will be in demand, and they will take some load not only off urban transport but roads as well.



Learn to understand and choose what is important particularly for you. But always listen to the opposite view, without doing so you will not learn to understand other people.

- **What would you advise students?**
- First of all, I would like to advise them to learn to hear and listen to

yourself, to believe themselves and their intuition as much as possible, to read more, it is imperative to learn languages, they give you broader access to information. As far as I know, the President of Russia Vladimir Putin speaks several languages.

We are living in a very interesting time. The most valuable thing now is the ability to work with information. The information flow boils every day and it is incredibly easy to drown in it.

Thus, learn to understand and choose what is important particularly for you. But always listen to the opposite view, without doing so you will not learn to understand other people. Try to respect all views and then you can shape your own view.

After school I went into business, then I went to Moscow, got an education. Then I moved from business to civil service, and for more than 10 years I have been in charge of all transport in Moscow. They asked me why? And I answered that it was my decision, it was of interest to me. And I don't regret it for a second.

If I did not trust myself, did not listen to my inner voice, I would probably be an unhappy man who fell a victim to circumstances and the expectations of others.

So, learn to be confident, always believe in yourself and then you will be truly happy!

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