

Press Release

M6/M60 Motorway as a new part of the Pan-European transport corridor: strengthening the Southern Transdanubian region

Date of ground breaking ceremony: 3 April, 2008 (Thursday), 11:00

Site of event: Bátaszék-Leperdpusztá

The new section of motorway M6-M60 will provide rapid access between the Hungarian capital and the significant towns lying near the motorway such as Szekszárd, Mohács or Pécs. ~~M6~~ **M6 Motorway** will be an important new part of the Pan-European transport road strengthening the Southern Transdanubian Region of Hungary.

The new section of M6 Motorway will be approx. 50 kilometres long with the M6-M9 junction, and will be constructed as a dual carriageway with 4 lanes (2 lanes travelling in each direction), as well as with asphalt-covered shoulders for emergency purposes. (Five new interchanges will be established: Szekszárd Eastern junction, Szekszárd Southern junction, Bátaszék-Alsónyék interchange, Véménd-Palotabozsok interchange, and the interchange for public road 57 (at Mohács).

Along **M6 Motorway**, on the section between Szekszárd and Bóly four tunnels (Bátaszék, Geresd, Baranya, and Véménd), 55 structures (bridges and viaducts), three rest areas and a operation and maintenance center will be established.

On the section between Bóly and Pécs of **M60 Motorway** two rest areas, 32 structures (bridges and viaducts), and a motorway operation and maintenance center will be established.

This section will be approx. 30 kilometres long, and will be constructed as a dual carriageway with 4 lanes (2 lanes travelling in each direction), as well as with asphalt-covered shoulders for emergency purposes. (Four new junctions will be established: M6-M60 turnout interchange, Bóly interchange, Pécs Eastern interchange, Pécs Southern interchange.)

The call for tenders announced by the Ministry of Economy and Transport of the Hungarian Republic was closed on 21st November, 2007; the tender submitted by Mecsek Autópálya Konzorcium Zrt. was accepted by the Parliament, and the company was appointed to design, construct, finance, and operate the motorway. The international consortium has four members (Strabag AG, Colas S.A., John Laing Infrastructure Limited, and Intertoll-Europe Zrt.) each of them being large multinational companies. The project volume amount approx.to 1 bn €.

The building permit and preliminary drawings, as well as the construction drawings of the motorway were prepared by Unitef'83 Műszaki Tervező és Fejlesztő Kft.

The participants of the construction will be Strabag AG, COLAS SA, Magyar Aszfalt Kft., Colas Hungária Kft. and Közgép Kft.; engineering tasks will be performed by ARUP-EUROOUT, whereas operation will be provided by Mecsek Autópálya-kezelő Zrt., a company founded by Intertoll, Colas, and Strabag.

After the ground breaking ceremony diocesan Mihály Mayer and President of the Hungary's Parliament Ms. Dr. Katalin Szili will unveil the statue of Saint Barbara. ¹

¹ Saint Barbara is the patron of tunnel drivers and miners, and is important for the contracting companies and contributors, who, before the start of the works, always ask for her help to protect the tunnel and those working in it, all over the world.

Further information and high resolution photos:

Gábor Soós, PR Agent: + 36 20 479 57 25

Szabolcs Kapás, Trade Business Consulting: +36 30 555 42