

BOLD ♦ CLEAR ♦ CONSTRUCTIVE ♦ NEEDED ♦ FOR ALL

PLAN
— FOR —
SOFIA



SPASI SOFIA
2019

Dear fellow citizens, friends, adherents,

What you have before you is our Plan for Sofia – it contains all our ideas on how we – all that chose Sofia as our home, to make the city a better place to live. We can achieve everything we want! Our dream is Sofia to be a city in which we love, live, study, work and start a family. A city with walkable infrastructure, high quality infrastructure, no overdevelopment; a city in which our commute is fast, we can park comfortably and breathe freely. We envision Sofia as an ambitious city and business-friendly city, proudly displaying its history; with an administration that is hearing the voice of its citizens.

Motivated by the belief that there are no unattainable goals, we have been fighting with the Municipal administration for 10 years. In that time we were able to improve many projects, managed by the city. The quality of the street repairs and the development of the public transport are just two examples of the many topics we've put on the agenda for our community. Due to our signals, millions of Sofia taxpayer's levies have been returned to the Municipal treasury. We campaigned for and successfully introduced nocturnal public transport and a modern new standard for Sofia metro signage.

Our determination is to continue to be as committed and loyal to the city, not some party headquarters, as we have proven that we were up until now. We have always been driven by the public interest.

That is why we wrote Plan for Sofia – the most comprehensive political programme in the modern history of the capital and at its center, is the citizen of Sofia! We have outlined our vision for the near future of the city as well as where we want it to be in ten years' time.

Read it – in its 15 topics you will find concise suggestions and specific measures that we will take to solve the city's problems. We urge you to comment on them at www.planzasofia.bg

You know the current administration. You've seen how they work! They will make the same mistakes. Whether we will receive more of the same after the elections, is entirely up to us – the people of Sofia.

Protect the future of our city!

We have a Plan for Sofia – Join us!

Анна Иванова *се*



01 PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Modern cities are highly dependent on public transport, which needs to provide a quick and convenient alternative for travel. Unfortunately, ill thought out policies from past years have made the public transport in Sofia ever more infrequent, slow and expensive – passenger numbers are dropping and citizens are increasingly relying on their personal cars.

The implications of these unsuitable policies are felt by us all – dangerous levels of pollution, ever increasing traffic and wasted time.

Spasi Sofia has been actively working on improving Sofia's public transport for years. We have managed to convince the municipality that the M3 metro line needs to be underground and connected to the existing two lines. We organised a campaign and collected over 31 000 signatures which directly caused Sofia receiving a night public transport service. We opposed the destruction of Sofia's tram system and we fought against the 60% fare rise.

We convinced Sofia Municipality about the need for new bus lanes to speed up

bus and trolleybus services. Over the years we have also proposed dozens of ideas and solutions for new lines, aimed at improving public transport, which have remained unrealized by the passive municipality.

We have achieved all of this with minimal resources, without spending public funds and without a vote in the municipal council. We have proven that we are familiar with the city's transport problems and we know how to solve them. By implementing best practices, we will take action for frequent and fast public transport, because we value citizens' time.

We will invest in new carriages and decrease waiting times, starting with the busiest lines, and we will also focus on the effective modernisation and expansion of the tram network. By introducing dedicated bus and tram lanes, we will decrease travel times significantly.



NEW TRAM LINES AND A CLEAR PRIORITY FOR URBAN TRANSPORT

More BUS lanes and new tram corridors will reduce the commute time and provide a real alternative to the automobile. By building a high-speed ring tram on Todor Kableshev Blvd., we will provide additional connections to Sofia metro and ease congestion. The new tram lines will also help us fight pollution.



NEW EXPRESS AND FEEDER BUS LINES AND 5 MINUTE HEADWAY ON MAIN LINES

More buses on all lines will reduce waiting times. Main lines like 102, 111 and 204 will run with a 5-minute headway. We will also introduce express lines, connecting the big neighborhoods to the city centre and metro stations. Brand new midibuses will connect neighborhoods such as Vitosha and Manastirski Livadi to the metro.

E-TICKET AND NEW INTERMODAL TERMINALS

We will finalize the long-awaited e-ticket system and we will introduce a ticket, charging by travel time. By constructing new intermodal terminals throughout the city, we will improve connections and stimulate urban travel.



COMPREHENSIVE REFORM AFTER FULL AUDIT FOR THE URBAN MOBILITY CENTRE

We will transform the UMC into a real public transport operator that will manage our city's mobility transparently and expertly. By optimizing costs, we will turn the UMC into a company that facilitates, rather than aggravates traffic.

SAFE BIKE LANES AND BIKE RENTAL SYSTEM

Sofia is suitable for development of cycling as a cheap, fast and healthy alternative for the daily commute. We will invest in a safe and connected bicycle network and bike rental system.



4 MINUTES HEADWAY ON M2 METRO LINE AND COMMUTER RAIL WITH THREE LINES

We will reduce the headway on M2 metro line with the construction of the Moderno predgradie station, and after the planned reconstruction of the Sofia railway junction, we will create a three-line commuter rail system to Pernik, Bankya and gara Elin Pelin.

02 URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Unfortunately, Sofia still cannot boast about a visually pleasing urban environment and public spaces that we can all take pride in. Far smaller cities, not only abroad, have larger pedestrian zones and better squares and gardens.

Instead of spaces for recreation and socialization, the areas between apartment blocks are viewed as nothing more than prospective construction sites. The recommendations of Jan Gehl are being ignored. The city management has neither the necessary courage to change the urban spaces nor does it possess the capacity to organise the transformation without inducing public discontent.

Sofia needs a change in course – a consistent urban planning policy lead by a clear plan with concrete targets and measurable indicators. We believe that Sofia has the potential to catch up with other European capitals and indeed stand among the ranks of the most beautiful ones. With this conviction in mind, we pressed for the transformation of Makedonia Blvd. into a linear park and made many attempts to improve numerous major municipal projects, so that the limited public space can be distributed fairly.

We want to fundamentally change the way Sofia looks. We will initiate a complete overhaul of the major boulevards, as well as small central streets and gardens. One of our main aims will be to extend the central pedestrian zone, while providing alternative for cars and residents. In the non-central districts we will focus

our efforts on the comprehensive renovation of the spaces between apartment blocks and the construction of new sports fields, playgrounds, urban greenery and parking lots. We will govern with expertise and love, paying attention to every little detail in the daily life of our city. We will focus on other important yet underappreciated aspects of the urban environment – insufficient lighting, the lack of drinking and ornamental fountains, public toilets, the state of the small and large parks and gardens. We will work on the rejuvenation of “green wedges”, which will significantly improve the microclimate in the neighbourhoods, as well on the rehabilitation of existing cemeteries.

Our Plan for Sofia will focus on dynamic city planning. The new comprehensive Master plan will limit the amount of senseless and tasteless construction that currently occurs on every available square metre and, instead, incentivise sustainable urban development. We will also work for stricter rules on the maximum building height in some districts. Sofia should retain zones with lower building heights, limited to 3–4 floors. We will stop the destruction of Sofia’s old historical districts, such as the area around the Zhenski pazar Market, the northern part of the centre and the old part of Lozenets, where 8–9 storey buildings are currently appearing next to old 2–3 storey houses, despite the inability of the narrow streets to service such density. Together with residents, owners and investors we will conduct a spatial analysis, which will take account of investment intentions and the public interest.



MORE PEDESTRIAN ZONES

The pedestrian areas in the city centre should be extended and connected in a functional network. By creating a pleasant and comfortable environment, we will stimulate the development of small businesses focused on culture, gastronomy and tourism. The historical centre deserves to be a lively place that we could be proud of.

REVITALIZATION AND NEW LIFE FOR THE OLD NEIGHBORHOODS

Sofia deserves an area similar to Kapana in Plovdiv. We will stimulate the restoration of the old buildings and we will emphasize the retro look after a thorough renovation of the streets, thus improving pedestrian and cycling safety. The preservation of the authentic architecture and spirit will attract small businesses and tourists.



COMPLETE TRANSFORMATION OF THE AREAS BETWEEN APARTMENT BLOCKS

Our strategic goal is to transform the neglected areas between apartment blocks and turn them into tranquil areas for recreation, sports and socialization. In addition to new playgrounds, playgrounds and greenery, we will completely renovate the adjacent streets, sidewalks and lighting, and build new (assembly) parking lots and safe routes to schools.

MORE LOCAL PARKS, GARDENS AND SMALL GREEN OASES

Parking lots and neglected gardens give way to well-kept public spaces with lots of greenery and life. We will also renovate the insufficient lighting, build more fountains, drinking fountains and public toilets. We will turn the neighborhoods into beautiful and pleasant places to live.



A NEW APPROACH TO URBAN PLANNING

The overdevelopment on areas between apartment blocks and gardens cannot continue. We will restrict the overcrowding of neighborhoods and provide adequate transport and social infrastructure with dynamic urban planning. Sofia needs to stop creating new concrete ghettos!

03 NORTHERN SOFIA

There is a serious imbalance in the development of the different districts, as investments have been mostly concentrated in southern Sofia, which is being overbuilt. At the same time northern districts such as Levski, Orlandovtsi and Obelya lack investment, as the construction and renovation of critical infrastructure is continuously being postponed.

The designation of territories which are ready for construction is an urban planning method which is successfully being implemented in Europe and Bulgaria. We have identified a site fit for this purpose, with an area of over 700 000 m², located north of the Northern Ring Road next to Vrazhdebna district. The territory is ideal not only due to its vicinity to lakes, rivers and existing road connections, but also because the M3 metro line can be extended to there.

We would like to redirect new construction to that area, in order to provide an alternative for the owners of restituted properties in the outer

districts. This way we will not only halt the chaotic construction of buildings in green spaces between residential blocks but we will also create a suitable environment for mutually beneficial negotiations between the owners and the municipality. That way, we aim to acquire the necessary properties in overbuilt areas for the construction of streets, but also safeguard the urban greenery.

We will invest significantly in the road network and urban environment in areas such as Novi Iskar, Orlandovtsi, Benkovski, Botunets and other northern districts, which rarely receive public attention. We will draft an investment programme that will cover frequent and convenient public transport and the renovation of public spaces such as local gardens, parks and squares.. The effective integration of the villages with the city guarantees the balanced development of the capital.



NOVA SOFIA - A NEW EUROPEAN-STYLE NEIGHBORHOOD

A strategic project is the construction of a new neighborhood in northern Sofia with fully constructed infrastructure and with modern urban design. We will make Nova Sofia the most beautiful neighborhood with a high quality of life: with lots of new homes, a vast lakeside park, sports terrains and a metro station.

Located near a lake, north of the Severna Skorostna tangenta Rd and close to the metro, trams and trolleybuses, Nova Sofia has huge potential.



Nova Sofia

IMPROVING THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT IN THE NORTHERN QUARTERS AND VILLAGES



Repairs to major streets and roads will improve the connectivity of the northern neighborhoods. New express lines from Novi Iskar and Botunets with quick connection to the metro will improve commute times to the city.

We will transform the environment in the villages with strategic investments in public spaces.

COUNTERACTING OVERDEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTHERN NEIGHBORHOODS

Following Vienna's example, we will create new neighborhoods with infrastructure to attract investment to the north. This way, we will both protect the existing neighborhoods from indiscriminate overdevelopment and significantly improve infrastructure in the northern regions.



NEW LIFE FOR THE INDUSTRIAL ZONES



We want to develop and transform the northern industrial zones into multifunctional territories, with logistical bases and cultural centers. The existing railway network is a prerequisite for the introduction of fast public transport, connecting the area with other parts of the capital.

THE RAILWAYS - NOT BARRIERS, BUT AN OPPORTUNITY

We will work with NRIC to ensure that Sofia's railway tracks will no longer be an insurmountable barrier, dividing the city into a good (southern) and neglected (northern) half. We will also work on rethinking deserted rail yards.



TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

The streets in Sofia are littered with potholes and road signs whilst street lamps and markings are often missing. The pavements are in critical condition – uneven, with protruding tiles and poles, sunken or disintegrating manholes and tall curbs. This deteriorated infrastructure hampers the movement of all pedestrians, but it is especially dangerous and obstructive for the elderly, people with disabilities and parents with prams.

Our main priority will be putting consistent efforts into the visible improvement of pedestrian infrastructure. We will establish a municipal programme for the maintenance of pavements, with an annual increase in funding. After building new car parks in the city centre and the non-central districts, we will completely free up pavements of parked cars.

To significantly ease congestion, we will prioritise the construction of ring roads, which provide alternative routes for long trips. The new connections

will move the heavy traffic out of the historic city centre and will allow us to transform it into a beautiful pedestrian zone, with potential for boosting the development of tourism and small businesses. This is why we will accelerate the construction of the south and north city ring roads – Todor Kableshev Blvd. and the underground northern bypass under Slivnitsa Blvd., Stochna Gara Sq. and Sitnyankovo Blvd.

Safe streets for all are our main priority and a leading principle for both the renovation of existing roads and the construction of new ones. This way we will not only decrease the casualties of traffic accidents but also provide real alternatives for transportation in Sofia, with a focus on sustainable forms such as public transport, pedestrian and bike traffic. By reducing congestion and air pollution we will also improve the quality of life and reduce stress. Safer streets are key to improving the urban environment and transforming Sofia into a pleasant city.

Northern bypass of the city centre





LARGE-SCALE PROGRAMME FOR QUALITY REPAIRS OF SIDEWALKS

We will provide accessible and safe environment for all by initiating a large-scale Programme sidewalk repairs. We will start with the main neighborhood streets and sidewalks near schools, hospitals and markets. We are all pedestrians and deserve a normal living and moving environment.

CONSTRUCTION OF RING BOULEVARDS AND BREAKTHROUGHS

The construction of Todor Kableschkov Blvd., with two level intersections and a high-speed tram, will provide new alternatives and will dramatically improve traffic in Sofia. With this connection, almost all major boulevards and neighborhoods will be connected without having to commute through the center.



TUNNELS UNDER STOCHNA GARA SQ AND YUZHEN PARK

New tunnels will make it easier to travel by car between western and eastern Sofia. The heavy traffic will go underground, pollution and congestion will be reduced significantly, and the congested boulevards will be eased.

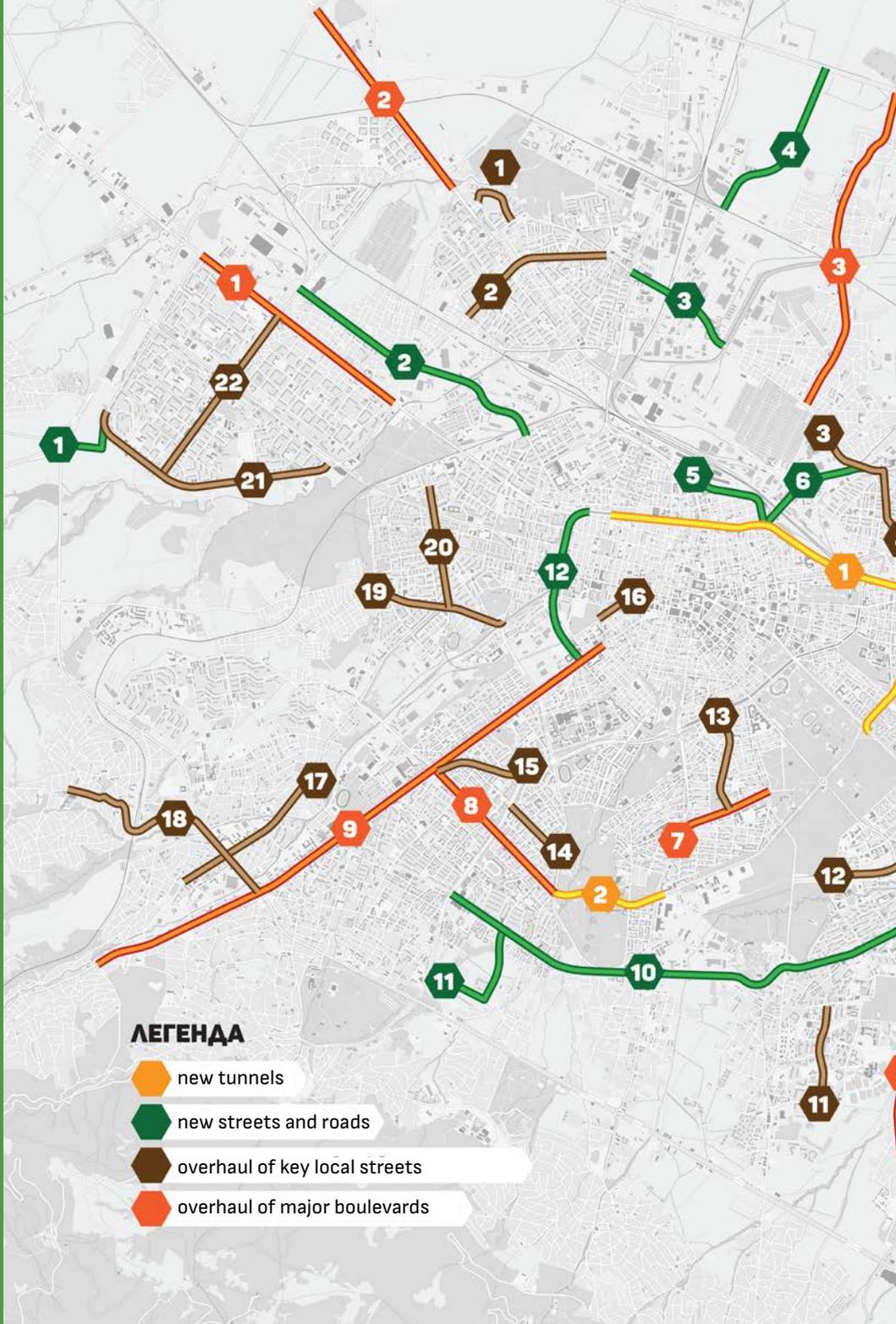
REPAIRS OF MAJOR ROADS

The inconvenient and noisy cobblestone pavement on major boulevards such as Tsar Boris III and Gotse Delchev will be replaced with asphalt. Main arteries such as Slivnitsa Blvd, Sveti Kl. Ohridski Blvd, Mara Buneva St, Dimitar Peshev St etc. will be overhauled with new sidewalks, lighting and asphalt.



QUALITY REPAIRS OF THE RESIDENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

We will allocate funds for the repairs and overhauling of major streets in the neighborhoods, thus improving the environment and creating safe routes to local schools. In addition to the repavement and improving street lighting, we will build walkable sidewalks, lush landscaping and comfortable stops.



ЛЕГЕНДА

-  new tunnels
-  new streets and roads
-  overhaul of key local streets
-  overhaul of major boulevards



TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE



New tunnels and bypasses

1. Northern bypass of the city centre
2. Tunnel under Yuzhen park

New streets and roads

1. Doktor Petar Dertliev Blvd connection
2. Vrah Mancho - Kukush St connection
3. Voenna rampa connection
4. SST - Ilievtzi Blvd connection
5. General D. Nikolaev Blvd
6. Vladayska reka connection
7. Iztochna tangenta
8. New road to Bumantsi
9. Copenhagen Blvd
10. Todor Kableshev Blvd
11. Kostenski vodopad St
12. inzhener Ivan Ivanov Blvd

Overhaul of major boulevards

1. Slivnitsa Blvd
2. Lomsko shose Blvd
3. Mara Buneva St and Lazar Mihaylov Blvd
4. Dimitar Peshev Blvd
5. Samokovsko shose Blvd
6. Sveti Kliment Ohridski Blvd
7. James Bourchier Blvd
8. Gotse Delchev Blvd
9. Tsar Boris III Blvd

Overhaul of key local streets

1. Zlatan klas St
2. Hristo Silyanov St
3. Rezbarska St
4. MacGahan St
5. Letostruy St
6. Boyan Magesnik St
7. Atanas Uzunov St
8. Iskarsko shose Blvd
9. Filip Avramov St
10. Sveti Kipriyan St
11. akademik Stefan Mladenov St
12. Samokov St
13. Milin kamak St
14. Nišava St
15. Kyustendil St
16. Dobrudzhanski kray St
17. Ljubljana St
18. Nikola Petkov Blvd
19. Vazkresenie Blvd
20. Vardar Blvd
21. Doktor Petar Dertliev Blvd
22. Pancho Vladigerov Blvd

ENDING THE „REPAIR OF THE REPAIRS“

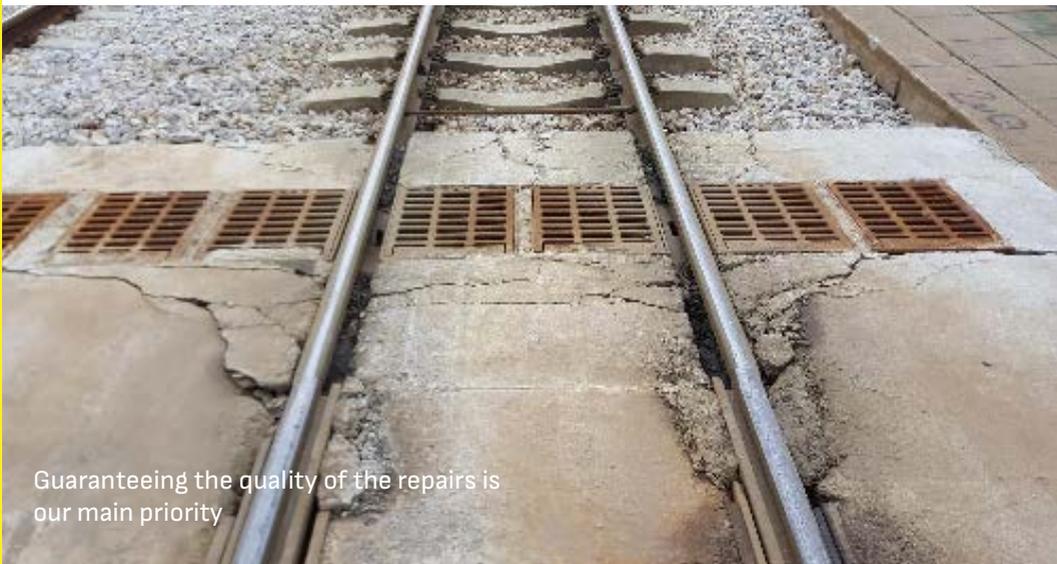
During the last three mandates, not one or two city construction projects in Sofia have been re-renovated. Almost all of them have gone through re-renovation several times. The phenomenon „renovation of the renovation“ is a result of short-sighted leadership, absent oversight and absorption of EU funds for the sake of it. We at Spasi Sofia are relentless towards low quality repair work and have not stopped filing reports and raising awareness about this problem ever since we were founded.

In order to solve this significant problem, we will initiate legislative changes in the Public Procurement Act and with the transposition of EU Directives, allowing for the creation of a blacklist of firms which consistently fail to meet quality criteria and deadlines. This will act as a disciplining mechanism, incentivising high quality construction work by private contractors.

The practice of hiring irresponsible firms for construction supervision, which are often connected to the builder, needs to be discontinued. For that reason, we will reform Sofinvest

into a municipal enterprise, specialized in construction supervision. We are determined to guarantee good quality work and impose maximum fines every time defects are detected.

We will also work diligently on the drafting and implementation of a Design Standard for Urban Infrastructure, which will aim to detail the rules regarding the types of pavement surfaces and their design. It will also define the types of street light, waste containers, manholes, anti-parking elements, advertisements, benches etc. This way we will eliminate the chaos which we observe around the city and the differing pavements, concepts and materials used. We will organise an international competition with clear objectives and criteria for the creation of a unified vision about how urban spaces in Sofia should look.



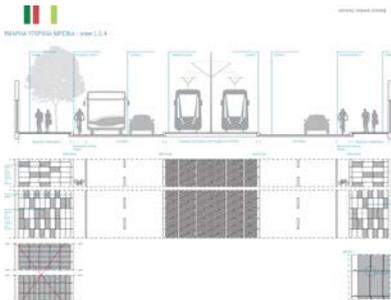


CREATING A BLACKLIST OF INCORRECT CONTRACTORS

By implementing European Directive 2014/24 / EU, we will immediately propose the creation of a blacklist for contractors that fail to meet the city's quality standards. These companies will be barred from bidding in all tenders, issued by Sofia Municipality and thus, we will stop the endless repairs of the repairs.

UNCOMPROMISING QUALITY CONTROL

We are determined to protect taxpayers' money and we will not hesitate to impose serious fines for any defect found. In order to tighten supervision and to guarantee maximum transparency, we will increase the expert potential of the municipal construction supervision company.



NEW STANDARD FOR URBAN PLANNING AND FURNITURE

We will establish clear rules outlined in a new Standard for urban planning and furniture. The goal is to create beautiful public spaces. The Standard will define the types of pavements, the permissible types of lighting fixtures, containers, anti-parking elements, etc., thus eliminating the existing chaos.

ANNUAL QUALITY AUDIT

The condition of both the streets and sidewalks will be subject to regular quality audit, based on objective criteria. The data collected will be used to develop the repair calendar. This model ensures the successful long-term planning of repairs.



MUNICIPAL COMPANY FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE

We will create a municipal road maintenance company, so we can improve efficiency and transparency in street maintenance. This guarantees both faster response in case of defects and a clear responsibility for the streets and sidewalks in Sofia.

06 PUBLIC PARKING

With more than 800 cars per 1000 citizens Sofia is among the most motorised cities in Europe. While we realise that a healthy and pleasant city includes fewer cars and more trips by public transport or bikes, it is unacceptable to continue to ignore the problem of parking.

Many places around the city have seen pavements, green spaces, sports grounds and even playgrounds turn into muddy and ugly carparks, which not only degrade the aesthetics of the environment and the quality of life but are also a significant source of PM pollution.

More than 10 years after the Blue and Green parking zones were introduced with the argument that collected fees will be invested into the construction of new underground carparks and garages, the administration and the mayor have completely abdicated from their own responsibilities and promises. Not a single new public carpark was built – either in the centre or in the peripheral districts. The problem does not lie in the lack of money, but in the lack of willingness to work on behalf of the team, which governs the city without a vision, hoping that these issues will solve themselves.

The parking chaos needs to be stopped if we want Sofia to become a city on par with other European capitals. We do not view parking as a source of money but as an instrument for the realisation of our vision of a city that is orderly and pleasant to live in. This is why with our Plan for Sofia we propose a comprehensive reform, a balanced policy and consistent investments. We foresee the construction of underground or multilevel garages in the centre, as well as the reconstruction of existing carparks or the creation of new ones in the non-central districts. We have identified suitable locations under large squares and within the boundaries of municipal or state property, which can provide new parking spaces at minimal costs. The paid parking zones will be reorganised so that the central streets are significantly more walkable. Our final aim is to ensure that citizens can leave their cars on regulated spaces, that pavements become more secure and walkable for pedestrians and that the urban greenery becomes a place for recreation.





NEW PARKING LOTS SOLVE THE PARKING PROBLEMS

We want the parking lots to go underground in the city centre, and the construction of multi-level lots in the neighborhoods. We have identified suitable locations under large squares and other terrains to provide new parking spaces at minimal cost. In the neighborhoods, we will double the capacity by constructing multi-level parking lots.

SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE FOR THE REMOVAL OF ABANDONED CARS

Parking spaces are valuable, so we will greatly simplify the cumbersome procedure for removing abandoned cars, eliminating unnecessary bureaucracy. We will replace the illegal garage cells with asphalt public parking lots, which are free to park in.



NEW RULES FOR THE ZONES FOR PAID PARKING

We want to turn the paid parking zones into a transparent source of investments for the construction of new parking lots and garages. Therefore, we will expand them and introduce additional preferences for the residents, we will reduce the number of spots given to institutions.

NEW PARK-AND-RIDE PARKING AND INTERMODAL TERMINALS

We will build a comprehensive network of park-and-ride parking lots in the suburbs of the city that will provide convenient interchange to public transport and the bicycle network. With this we aim to reduce the number of cars entering the city by stimulating commuters to



STRICT PARKING CONTROL FOR A MORE WALKABLE CITY

To make the daily commute faster for everyone, we will restrict parking on the main and busiest boulevards and will not tolerate parking at intersections, stops or in BUS lanes. We are certain that we will all benefit from the increased street capacity.

PUBLIC HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION AND SPORT

We are convinced that without healthy, educated and active people, our capital cannot adequately compete on a global level, develop and prosper. Despite this, these sectors have inherited long-standing problems, requiring huge investment and reform, which will be felt by the citizens in the long term.

A significant part of the reform of the municipal healthcare system will include the transformation of medical centres into community health centres. Instead of being just buildings with dated equipment, they will perform an important societal role within the local community, with a focus on outpatient care and preventative action. It is necessary to develop a municipal programme for investment in community health, which envisages both the modernisation of the buildings and the purchase of new medical equipment. We will establish a single centre for purchases, which will have the responsibility of procurement for all municipal healthcare establishments. Such a system will ensure the lowest possible prices by relying on economies of scale, without compromising on quality.

Wise societies value and invest in the education of their children and regard access to quality education as a universal right for all. We want to ensure high quality education, regardless of social status or neighbourhood. Our goal is to ensure the availability of educational and healthcare facilities, within walking distance to every

resident of Sofia. This is why we will put efforts into their renovation and the construction of new nurseries and schools throughout the city, prioritising districts where they are lacking.

We are convinced that the future of the city depends on the health and wellbeing of its citizens, especially the young, which is why we will devote ourselves to the renovation of neglected sports facilities. We are intent on transforming the spaces between residential buildings into places for sport, recreation and socialisation, by building sports facilities that are free for all. We also plan to renovate the playgrounds and school sport fields, which will be open to use for residents on weekends.

We will take the necessary steps to renovate and reopen existing large swimming pools, such as Cherveno Zname, as well as sports complexes such as Kolodruma.

We want to introduce the practice of students from different schools visiting municipal swimming pools at least twice a year. By seeking the support and sponsorship of businesses and sports federations, we will significantly boost the sports calendar of Sofia with new marathons, bike races, sports days etc.



REFORM IN THE MUNICIPAL HEALTH CENTRES

After optimization and repairs, the Municipal Polyclinics will become Community Health Centers with a focus on pre-hospital care and prevention. Health is the most invaluable resource, so we will repair the buildings and invest in new equipment.

MORE KINDERGARTENS AND SCHOOLS NEAR PEOPLE'S HOMES

We will accelerate the construction of new kindergartens and schools, giving priority to the neighborhoods in which they are lacking and thus easing the existing ones. Our goal is that after a few years, all the children will have a place in a municipal kindergarten, close to home.



HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

We will work for the same quality of education in all districts of Sofia to relieve parents of the burden to search for a better school that might not be conveniently close. We will also create a municipal program for full-time education for children and adults.

MORE FREE AND LOCAL AREAS FOR SPORTS AND FITNESS

We will turn neglected spaces and school yards into sports and leisure areas for everyone. We will be developing a variety of multifunctional playgrounds and venues, with a focus on mass sports that will attract children and active residents.



THE LARGE SPORT COMPLEXES REGAIN THEIR GLORY

We want to give Sofia residents more opportunities to enjoy sport. We plan to renovate the „Cherveno zname“ Swimming pool, the Kolodrum and the Pancharevo Lake into complexes for sports and recreation for amateurs and professionals alike.

SOCIAL AND HOUSING POLICY

The aim of social policies is to facilitate equal access to economic opportunities for all. Management of social risks, such as unemployment, social isolation, crime, poverty and homelessness, is also very important. We do not want for Sofia's housing policy to consist of endless subsidies for people that lack motivation to find employment but to instead constitute a just model, ensuring that the people who are temporarily incapable of working can rely on the safety of an adequate home until they can be financially independent.

This is why Sofia Municipality must start building municipal public housing more actively. These can then be leased or sold at preferential rates to young families, as well as those in need. We want many more children to be born and raised in Sofia and it is our responsibility to support young families by providing them with a stable start. We will work for the creation of many

new public housing developments to be sold via interest-free loans or leased at preferential terms to young families with up to three children.

We want to build on and further develop systems of social support and assistance close to local communities. Although Sofia is the richest city in the country, the ugly reality is that there are still people who are poor and homeless. In addition to the socially disadvantaged, victims of violence and those suffering from specific diseases also need attention and care.

That is why we will build a network of crisis and support centres, providing everyone with access to medical and social care.



A SMART HOUSING POLICY THAT PROMOTES FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE

We want to transform existing municipal housing into a working mechanism to support the needy. We will develop a rental model tailored to the applicants' employability, aiming for a smooth transition from low rent at the beginning to the average for Sofia, thus helping tenants to detach from the public housing system.

NEW PUBLIC HOUSING FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

We aim at construction of new municipal housing with modern urban environment that will attract young families and people with temporary financial troubles. For families with up to three children, we will provide interest-free loans and preferential rents to ensure a stable start for young people.



PERMANENT SOLUTION TO THE GHETTOS

Ghettos will be rethought with the community's involvement and with improved enforcement of the law. We will develop a plan for the restructuring of the problem territories, where properties with established ownership will be with priority. This will allow for the infrastructure construction to begin and will relieve the stress on near-by areas.

DECENT AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Our top priority is the safe environment and easy transportation in the city, especially for the most vulnerable. We will implement all elements of the urban environment so as to ensure free movement and independent living for all Sofia residents.



ADEQUATE CARE FOR THE ELDERLY

We want to ensure a quality and active social life for the elderly. In addition to social and health care, we will introduce free access programs for sports, cultural and balneological activities in sites owned by the Sofia Municipality. We will turn pensioners' clubs into social networks with everyday events.

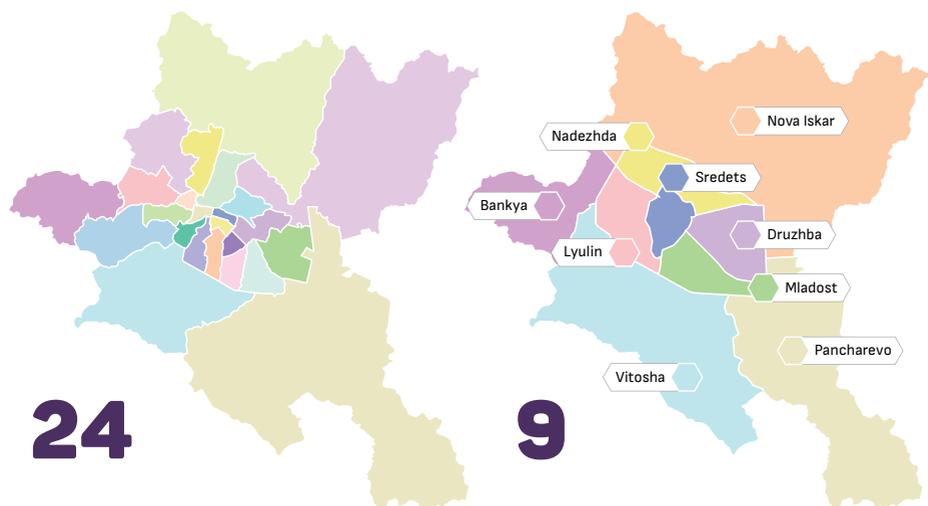
09 ADMINISTRATION

For most of the residents of Sofia the capital's government and the term „apathetic civil servant“ are synonymous - the administration reacts slowly to reports of municipal issues, if at all, and many of the public consultation processes are clumsy and with no influence on the decision-makers. A complete collapse in trust, between the citizens of Sofia and municipal officials, has occurred due to unaddressed concerns regarding corruption, the low quality of projects, the ignoring of problems and the unwillingness to learn from mistakes.

Since our founding, we at Spasi Sofia

have sought ways of motivating the citizens of Sofia to self-organise, to demand answers to questions and solutions to problems. We have provided support for numerous neighbourhood initiative committees and have developed a Guidebook for the Active Citizen, which informs you how to communicate with the local government regarding issues such as

missing lighting, road defects, pollution etc. We realise that the municipal government needs serious reform, such as optimising and merging the directorates and rapid digitisation. These reforms would create a transparent and responsible civil service.



REORGANIZATION OF CITY DISTRICTS FROM 24 TO 9

Our goal is to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and make governance effective and open to citizens. We believe that the current administration is lacking and lagging behind, so we will optimize it.



DIGITALIZATION FOR A MODERN AND TRANSPARENT MUNICIPALITY

We want to facilitate the connection between the administration and Sofia's residents and to simplify the processes as much as possible. Therefore, we will focus on digitizing services, short response rate and transparent decision-making for the benefit of citizens.

INTRODUCING A WORKING MUNICIPAL POLICE

We need order on the streets and in the neighborhoods. That is why we will reform the Municipal Police and employ 1000 municipal police officers who will actively monitor parking and traffic violations, will perform pollution monitoring and taking care of the security in the city.



REFORM OF THE MUNICIPAL INSPECTORATE

We will turn the decrepit structure of the Sofia Inspectorate from a slow and inefficient body into an institution for prevention and strict control. We will facilitate the work of inspectors by simplifying procedures and by working on a day-to-day basis, not just following signals from citizens.



TERMINATION OF THE CONTRACTS WITH ANONYMOUS REPAIR CONTRACTORS

In order to ensure high quality road maintenance and public space cleanliness, we will implement strict control on all utilities providers. We will seek maximum efficiency of the investments, and we will develop a municipal repairs company that will gradually take over road maintenance.

10 BUDGET AND FINANCE

Despite the fact that Sofia has a comparatively large budget at its disposal, its expenditure is not transparent. Many municipal directorates and firms do not operate effectively and closing our eyes to such problems leads to less investment into the development and improvement of the urban environment. The need for reform is most urgent in the municipal Urban Mobility Centre, which has become a symbol for heightened expenditures, corruption and nepotism.

The lack of management capacity and political willpower for serious reforms eats away at taxpayers' money, so the budget becomes insufficient for solving the problems with which we are faced. After restructuring, unifying and digitising municipal structures, we will optimise expenditures and demand greater effectiveness.

As a result of the longstanding governance of Mayor Fandakova, our city finds itself in a critical state.

The need for basic infrastructure, such as pavements, boulevards, sewers and tram tracks, is immense and the tragic state of the districts does not allow for postponing the necessary investment any further.

We love our city and want to quickly start solving the issues that have been accumulated over the years. For this reason we cannot afford to continue the populist policy with regard to local taxes. They have not been updated in over a decade, an example being the pavement use fee, which has remained

unchanged since 2006, when incomes in the capital were three times lower.

Similarly, fees for construction permits are several times lower than in other Balkan capitals, which is one of the reasons for the widespread overconstruction. This policy may serve to buy political safety but stopping it is obligatory if we want to avoid shock increases in municipal fees in the future, similar to how the price for public transport tickets increased drastically by 60%.

We will begin the long-postponed dialogue with all experts, organisations, stakeholders and businesses for the gradual update of part of the municipal fees. Citizens have been demanding a high-quality urban environment next to their property for years, including streets and pavements, quality lightning, access to rapid public transport and schools, as well as nice green areas, sports facilities and playgrounds.

The business community has already stated its readiness to contribute more funds to the municipal budget in exchange for a better urban and investment environment. We are supportive of their desire for a more active role in solving the city's problems via fees that are fair and up to date with the present economic reality.

As an active participant in discussions regarding the budget drafting process of Sofia, we understand well the issues that plague the procedure for distributing the taxes of Sofia's citizens.

We strictly oppose the way the budget is distributed behind the scenes

without any opportunity for citizen participation. We will strive for a new, transparent and inclusive way of defining priorities and distributing funds. In addition, similar to other European cities, we will initiate the creation of a Citizens' Budget, through

which everybody will be able to directly propose and choose the projects they find most necessary.



OPTIMIZATION OF MUNICIPAL COSTS

We will carry out the decades-long delayed administration optimization, reducing redundant units and structures. Inefficient costs will be further reduced after reform of the UMC, the City Inspectorate and municipal hospitals and markets. We want every lev of Sofia's residents to go to the right place!

INCREASING REVENUE FOR MORE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

We will update building permits fees and the transient merchant license so that businesses participate fairly and transparently in the city's renovation. Urban needs are only met by an effective and responsible fiscal policy.



FAIR PRICE FOR THE BUILDING PERMITS

Instead of relying on behind-the-scenes deals and money under the table, the construction business should become an active player in improving the urban environment. Building permits must be adequate to provide walkable sidewalks, parking spaces and sufficient space for public use - gardens, playgrounds and indergartens.

RESPONSIBLE AND TRANSPARENT INVESTMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS

We will strive for a new, transparent and inclusive way of prioritizing and allocating resources. Therefore, we will organize preliminary discussions on priorities and a rigorous accountability mechanism.



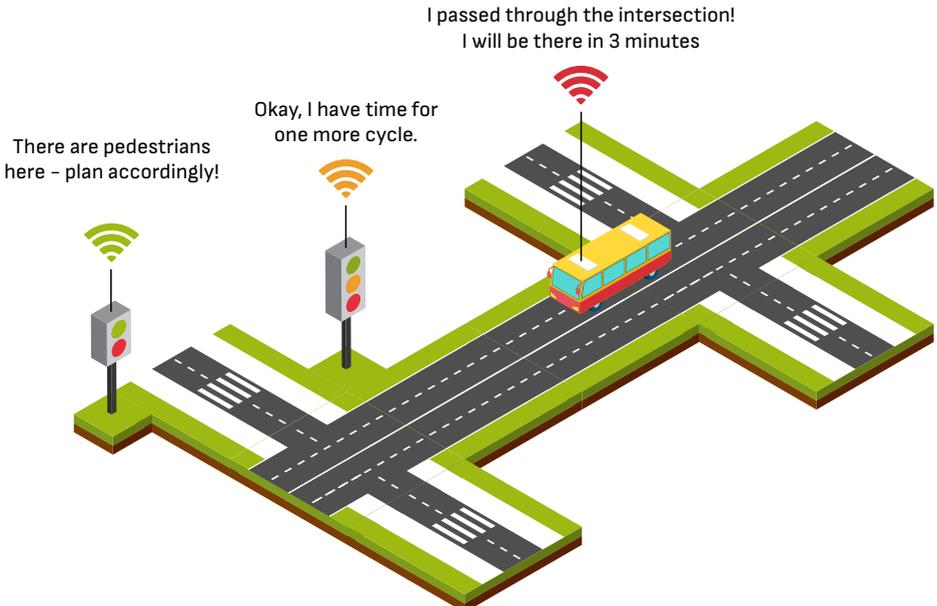
11 INNOVATIONS AND SMART CITY

Many cities are investing time and resources into information technology for facilitating city management, reducing resource consumption, improving living conditions etc. The crucial mark of a smart city is its ability to automate and effectively control processes, where decisions are based on data collected from a network of sensors. Data is the most important resource in the 21st century and Sofia needs to collect, analyse and publish information from a variety of sources.

So far Sofia Municipality has had the habit of labelling systems as „smart“ which in no way improve the quality of life in the city. A prime example is the clean air programme – a smart city would never rely on its mayor to issue an order for the implementation of a

given measure, but would instead do so automatically on the basis objective conditions. We are convinced that the establishment of a smart city management system for Sofia will have a positive impact on the quality of life and business as it facilitates and simplifies communication with the administration, as well as improves its accessibility.

We will work for the introduction of coordinated smart traffic lights that give priority to public transport vehicles, allowing for green waves on all the radial and ring boulevards of. We will also use the resulting data for the future system of electronic





ADAPTIVE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

We will replace the „smart traffic lights“ with a truly adaptive traffic management system that covers and coordinates all elements of urban mobility. This will ensure faster travel for everyone, no matter what we travel with.

REAL TIME DATA COLLECTION

We will build a dense network of sensors that collect and submit data on air quality, river and water levels, walkability of streets, etc in order to automate the governance processes .



SOFIA MUNICIPALITY MOBILE APP

All digital services for citizens will be integrated into a single city portal that will provide information, facilitate resource management and guarantee transparency and accessibility.

SOFIA TURNS DIGITAL

The digitization of the city will be led by a team of experts who will coordinate and implement a strategy involving administration, business and citizens.



FREE WI-FI IN THE WHOLE CITY

We will provide free Wi-Fi coverage throughout the city to make everyone's lives more comfortable and easier, especially for tourists from outside the EU,



12 BUSINESS AND TOURISM

Sofia's central geographic location and its unique human potential are a precondition for accelerated economic development of the city. We will put an end to the empty words and start implementing real measures for the establishment of a business environment which creates a climate of trust, legitimacy and prosperity for all citizens. Through active incentives for innovations and the introduction of new digital technologies in all sectors of Sofia's economy, we can raise incomes and increase productivity.

Through effective cooperation between the private and public sectors, we can provide the necessary conditions and skills for prosperity in the 21st century. We will support our world-class local companies by following the example of many other European cities. We will showcase such ventures at Sofia's very own stand at the most important global exhibitions in strategically important sectors. Companies which would

otherwise not be able to afford to do so will be able to exhibit there.

We will work not only to attract more tourists but also to provide adequate multilingual information, placed around the city. We will create a tourist application for Sofia and integrate all municipal tourism services into the visitsofia website. Our target will be for visitors to have the opportunity to find for themselves the best version of Sofia, which will exceed their expectations. To improve the attractiveness of both the tourism product of the country and Sofia and to extend the average stay of tourists, we intend to initiate the creation of a common tourism product with other Bulgarian cities. Our strategic objective in the area of tourism will be securing direct transcontinental flights to key markets such as the USA, China and Japan. This will significantly diversify our visitors, increase tourist numbers and position our capital as an attractive destination for the rapidly developing Asian markets.





NEW AGENCY AND BUSINESS-FRIENDLY ADMINISTRATION

Sofia will actively attract investors and talent with a young and ambitious team in a new Investment Agency. We will not position Sofia as cheap, but as a good place for business and a bridge between East and West. To that end, we will facilitate the procedures and assist investors in finding land and providing infrastructure.

ACTUAL SUPPORT FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

We want Sofia to have a brand new Exhibition Centre in the northern part of the city. We will support local manufacturing and services by providing them a place in Sofia's own booth at the world's largest exhibitions.



FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR AIRLINES CONNECTING SOFIA WITH NEW YORK, TOKYO AND BEIJING

We will improve Sofia's connections with the world's largest markets and thus attract new tourists and business opportunities. Therefore, we will develop and propose a subsidy scheme for airlines, interested in operating direct flights to America and Asia.

ACTIVE ADVERTISEMENT OF SOFIA IN THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES

We will initiate regular, but seasonal and holiday-oriented advertising campaigns in the neighboring capitals. Our goal is to attract more tourists all year round, discovering all that Sofia has to offer.



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AND A JOLLY FESTIVE SPIRIT

We will make sure our capital city is a bright, fun and attractive place to visit and welcome the holidays in. We will provide a city-wide scheme for Christmas decorations, new Christmas bazaars and a lavish New Year's performance.

CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Sofia is a city with millennia-old history and rich cultural and architectural heritage. However, over the last decades hundreds of valuable old buildings have been destroyed. The reasons lie in the ambiguous legislation, as well as the weak and respective institutions. In the ever more globalised and competitive world of the 21st century, it is precisely our history and culture, as represented by our architectural cultural heritage, which are an irreplaceable resource for sustainable development.

From our very beginning the team of Spasi Sofia has paid particular attention to old buildings and reported problems with their preservation on numerous occasions. We will continue working on three key objectives: the identification of cultural sites, their physical preservation and their usage for the requirements of modern life. We will draft architectural rules for the construction of new buildings in the historic city centre, so that new developments are in harmony with

the existing structures. We will work together with owners, investors and local communities to ensure a dialogue and to strike a balance between all interests. We believe that Sofia can not only preserve its old buildings, but also restore and adapt them to contemporary life.

Our desire is for Sofia to be a livelier and more dynamic city by organising more cultural events and festivals. We want every single one of us to have reasons to go out. Therefore public spaces ought to be focal points of cultural activities and the exchange of ideas between people. We will pay attention to the popularisation of uniquely Bulgarian traditions, such as Martenitsa and the Cyrillic alphabet, and we will work actively with music promoters, so that Sofia can boast its own emblematic music festival. Our world-famous cuisine will also be highlighted, with the organisation of street fests and events dedicated to food and the transformation of Sofia into a centre of gastronomy.

West Gate of the Serdica fortress





PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF THE ARCHITECTURE OF STARA SOFIA

The municipality will be an active participant in the conservation of old buildings, by working with the owners and assisting them to protect the architecture without sacrificing function. We will expand the list of protected buildings and we will increase the protection levels on others.

OLD AND NEW BUILDINGS CAN COEXIST IN HARMONY

we will bring back the splendor of pre-war Sofia with proper street design and preservation of the historical context. We will develop a mechanism to coordinate the architecture of new buildings without disturbing the vision of the historic center.



SOCIALIZATION AND EXPOSURE OF ROMAN AND ANCIENT HERITAGE

The Roman and Ancient heritage will become part of the tourism product with expert restoration and integration in the urban environment. We will show the archeology of Sveta Nedelya and we will start excavations in the garden in front of Rila Hotel.

NEW FESTIVALS AND ACTIVE CITY CULTURAL LIFE

We want to significantly enrich the cultural program and make Sofia an open art scene. We will attract and invite major music festivals and events and join the White Night initiative.



CREATION OF A TRANSPORT MUSEUM

Our transport history finds its place in the Klokotnitsa tram depot, where heritage trams, trolleybuses and buses will be on display. We will create a modern and interesting museum to tell Sofia residents and tourists about the rich history of transport in Sofia.

VITOSHA AND THE MINERAL SPRINGS

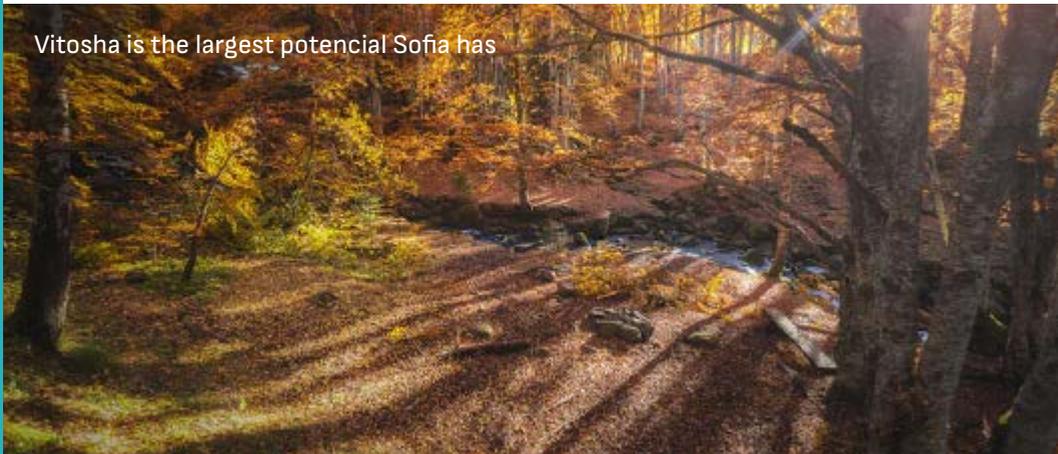
Sofia may not have the architectural glamour of Paris, Rome or Prague but possesses many natural assets – the wonderful Vitosha mountain and the rich mineral springs. These assets, combined with the archaeological heritage, make the capital an attractive tourist destination, bringing a source of income, higher quality of life and a better image. These unique possessions can turn Sofia into a leader in year-round tourism. The possibilities of Vitosha mountain for hiking during the summer and snow sports during the winter, have so far been completely unutilised. In order to improve the connection between Vitosha and Sofia, we will renovate the Knyazhevski lift and the roads leading to the mountain and we will launch new public transport lines.

The endless shifting of responsibility between the municipality and the state has deprived us of the opportunity to use the abundant mineral waters of Sofia. The public baths in Gorna Banya, Ovcha Kupel and Knyazhevo have long been abandoned. However, perhaps the

greatest loss is the closed Central Mineral Baths. We will not stand for this – we will fight for their preservation as thermal centres, as well as seeking a concessionaire, who will develop spa tourism there. For this, we will attract international spa and hotel chains and European pension funds.

Lake Pancharevo has been a favourite place for visits and recreation of Sofia's citizens for decades. The beautiful nature, variety of trails, water attractions and the proximity to Sofia are key factors that define this popularity. We are confident that the great potential of this tourist region of Sofia should justify significantly more attention being paid to attracting investment into this area. We will allocate funds for the prioritised construction of sewerage infrastructure, in order to stop the wastewater that is running off into the lake. We are convinced that the timespan of only a few years will be sufficient for the zone to be transformed, which will provide a significant tourist and economic boost and will allow citizens to spend quality time in a pleasant and clean natural environment.

Vitosha is the largest potential Sofia has





BETTER TRANSPORT TO VITOSHA

Renovated Knyazhevski cable lift, new tourist lines and a paid parking area will make Vitosha a more accessible and pleasant place for mountaineers. We want to end the concession for the facilities in the mountains and renovate the ski centre near the city.

NEW TOURIST CENTRE AT BOYANA CHURCH AND A RECONSTRUCTION OF KOPITOTO

We will repair the adjacent streets and sidewalks around the church with new lighting and an old look. Nearby we plan to build a parking lot for tourist and city buses, as well as a new visitor center for Boyana Church and Vitosha Nature Park.



PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF THE CENTRAL MINERAL BATH

We will restore the Central Mineral Bath and preserve its function. We will involve proven hydrogeologists and experts. We will find a working solution that will return the grace of the mineral water to the citizens of Sofia.

SOFIA - EUROPE'S SPA CAPITAL

We will work on the reconstruction of the baths in Ovcha kupel, Gorna banya and Knyazhevo. By creating an attractive balneological tourism route, we will promote Sofia as the SPA capital of Europe and we will attract new and more tourists.



PANCHAREVSKO LAKE - RECREATION AND SPORTS AREA NEAR THE WATER

Our priority is to provide funds for the construction of sewage systems to stop the discharge of waste water. We want to restore and develop the lake into a major recreational area for various sports, cycling and running paths accessible to all Sofia residents.

15 CLEAN AND GREEN CITY

Official EEA data show, that air pollution causes more than 15 000 premature deaths annually in Bulgaria alone whilst Sofia is still the most polluted capital in the EU. Despite the severity of the problem, Mrs Fandakova's team did not find the will and expertise to implement uncompromising measures to combat pollution. Postponing the solution is impacting our health, with children, the elderly and people with chronic conditions being especially vulnerable. This personal and social cost that our society pays must be reduced at all costs, as no convenience is more important than the human life.

We understand the serious effects that pollution has on us all. Spasi Sofia is among the initiators of a collective legal action against the passiveness of Sofia Municipality and the lack of measures for improving air quality, which was recently won. We are intent on introducing urgent, uncompromising and ambitious measures for tackling this issue.

The main priority for us will be the replacement of solid fuel heating with district heating systems and gas networks where such infrastructure is lacking. By coordinating with the government we will work for the gradual transition of heating modes and phasing out of solid fuels. We will boost the control of all unregulated fires, including in private properties, homes and ghettos, by creating joint task forces with the Sofia Inspectorate and the Municipal Police. We cannot continue to tolerate the heavily

polluting cars without catalysts, which are illegal. We firmly believe that, by providing adequate alternatives to private cars, we will permanently decrease car usage for daily commutes.

We also have the ambition of replacing the ineffective practices related to Sofia's cleanliness. We will increase the requirements and significantly strengthen the control on the activities of private cleaning companies - from how rubbish containers should look to the responsibilities for the cleaning of streets, public and green spaces. We will make it mandatory for municipal structures to strictly supervise the compliance with hygiene standards and we will not hesitate to impose heavy fines for all offenders. Our Plan for Sofia envisages for Sofia to become a green city in the fullest sense of the word - healthy, clean and orderly.



UNCOMPROMISING MEASURES FOR CLEAN AIR

Expansion of the central heating and gas transmission networks will provide a transition to clean heating. We will not tolerate both the indoor and outdoor burning of prohibited materials and will impose serious fines with disciplinary effect.

STRICT APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLE „THE MORE YOU POLLUTE, THE MORE YOU PAY“

Cars with large carbon budgets need to stop poisoning our air, and a fair tax policy is a tool to combat exactly that. Alongside this, we will significantly improve all alternatives to travel in all parts of Sofia.



ACTIVE FIGHT AGAINST THE MUDDING OF PUBLIC SPACES BY PARKED CARS

The muddy and messy landscape around overcrowded residential areas should be history. Alongside the repairs of the spaces around apartment blocks and boulevards, we will also focus on planting and maintaining more green areas and trees while solving the deficit of parking spaces.

MODERN CLEANING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

We will change the garbage collection model and significantly increase the percentage of waste that is collected separately. In order to make Sofia cleaner, we will discipline cleaning companies and introduce underground containers and separate collection points.



REDUCE NOISE POLLUTION FOR A QUIETER CITY

We want to dramatically reduce noise pollution. The construction of green belts and soundproofing barriers, as well as automated control against high speed, will keep Sofia citizens quiet.



JOIN PLAN ZA SOFIA NOW!

Our dream for Sofia is to be a city where we love, live, study, work and start a family. A city with walkable sidewalks, quality street maintenance and no overdevelopment, where our commute is fast and convenient, we park comfortably and breathe freely. An ambitious business, attractive for business, preserving its historical memory and hearing the voice of its citizens.

Check out our Plan za Sofia – it's bold, clear, constructive, needed, for everyone! In it you will find specific suggestions and measures for solving our common problems.

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