

After 1 January 2012 there will be 1 098 specified road sections left

Bratislava, 14 December 2011 – **SkyToll and the National Motorway Company agreed on adjustments to the specified sections of motorways, expressways and 1st class roads, with regards to the electronic toll collection. The total number of the specified road sections will be decreased by 509. On the opposite the average length of the sections will grow, namely from 1.485 km to 2.160 km. The last condition for the prepared adjustment to come into effect will be an amendment to the decree, which is being prepared by the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic, as of 1 January 2012 and its publishing in the Collection of Laws.**

Currently in Slovakia there is the total of 1 607 specified road sections in the total length of 2 386 km. Since 1 January their number will be reduced to 1 098 and their total length to 2 371 km. The prepared adjustment to the specification will most significantly impact the 1st class roads. Their total number will be reduced from 1 489 to 979. In case of the motorways the number of the specified sections will remain the same; they will remain 59 even after 1 January 2012. The average length of the 1st class road sections will also grow, namely from 1.184 km to 1.787 km. The motorway sections will shorten from the average of 6.711 km to 6.688 km and the expressway sections from 3.849 km to 3.793 km.

The changes, which are going to come into force as of the New Year, will be most significantly manifested by a reduction in the number of the specified road sections, but the extent of the adjustments is much greater. It will be necessary to delete sections (799), to create new sections (290), possibly to modify the specified road sections (501); therefore, only 307 of the current specified road sections will remain without any adjustments after 1 January 2012.

The network of the specified road sections will change in two stages. SkyToll will complete the first stage as at 1 January 2012 so that from this date vehicle operators can pay for the use of the specified road sections in accordance with the prepared amendment to the decree. This stage of the project includes works on the level of the central information system. The second stage will take longer. SkyToll will complete it in the second quarter of 2012 and it also includes adjustments to the geo model in the OBUs. The OBU updating will be automatic. Until the end of the second stage, the OBUs may emit sound signals also where after the legislative adjustment there are no longer borders of the specified road sections. Nevertheless SkyToll guarantees that the toll will be paid exactly in accordance with the new list of the specified road sections.

The reason for the prepared adjustment is an effort by the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development to decrease the number of toll transactions over the limit of the contract between SkyToll and the National Motorway Company. The higher number of the toll transactions and the higher expenses of the state were caused by the hauliers' requirements implemented in the toll system in the beginning of the year 2010. At that time the original number of the specified road sections almost doubled to the current number of over 1 600 sections. By reducing the number of the sections, the state wants to achieve lower expenses on the electronic toll system operation.

Since 1 January 2010, SkyToll, a.s. operates one of the most state-of-art electronic toll systems, which puts Slovakia among the leaders in the area of electronic toll collection worldwide. The system covers

almost 2,400 kilometres of specified sections of motorways, expressways and selected first class roads. The satellite GPS-GSM technology used provides for maximum flexibility of the system while coping with a future increase of the volume of freight traffic and expansion of the road network in the Slovak Republic.

The satellite toll system used in the Slovak Republic is already today technologically prepared for interoperability with the surrounding countries, fully in accordance with the requirements of the future European electronic toll service. Thanks to the technology applied, it can quickly and flexibly implement also future changes and new rules of the European Union in the area of pan-European traffic policy.

More information: <http://www.skytoll.sk>

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