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PRIORITY DIRECTIONS FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

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Abstract: This article examines the theoretical and practical aspects of transport infrastructure modernization, its role in regional economic development, and the priority directions for improving modern transport systems. The study analyzes the economic efficiency of transport infrastructure development, its impact on regional integration, investment attractiveness, and logistics system performance. Particular attention is devoted to the modernization of road and railway transport, the development of logistics centers, the digitalization of transport systems, the implementation of environmentally sustainable transport technologies, and integration into international transport corridors. The findings indicate that transport infrastructure modernization is a key factor in enhancing regional competitiveness and ensuring sustainable economic development.

Keywords: transport infrastructure, modernization, logistics system, transport corridors, digital transport, multimodal transport, economic development, regional integration, investment attractiveness, green transport, transport and logistics centers, sustainable development.

Transport infrastructure is one of the most important determinants of national and regional economic development. The acceleration of globalization processes, the expansion of international trade, and the increasing complexity of logistics systems have intensified the need to modernize transport infrastructure in accordance with contemporary requirements. A modern transport system plays a critical role in stimulating economic growth, strengthening regional integration, attracting investment, and expanding mobility opportunities for the population. Therefore, the modernization of transport infrastructure has become one of the priority directions of economic policy in many countries.

The first priority area of transport infrastructure modernization is the development and reconstruction of road networks. Modern highways improve the efficiency of freight and passenger transportation, reduce transportation costs, and strengthen economic connections among regions. In particular, the reconstruction of internationally significant highways and the construction of new transport routes contribute to increasing a country's transit potential. Improving the quality and capacity of interregional roads positively influences regional economic activity and facilitates the movement of goods and people.

The second priority direction involves the modernization of railway transport. Railways provide a cost-effective, safe, and environmentally sustainable means of transporting large volumes of cargo over long distances. The electrification of railway networks, expansion of high-speed rail services, and digitalization of freight transportation processes contribute significantly to improving transport efficiency. Furthermore, the construction of new railway routes can accelerate the economic development of remote regions by improving connectivity and market access.

Another important area of modernization is the development of air transport infrastructure. The construction of modern airports and logistics terminals facilitates the expansion of international economic relations and enhances tourism potential. Air transport development accelerates export-

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import operations and strengthens a country's position within the global transport system. The modernization of international airports and the introduction of new aviation routes are particularly important for increasing regional investment attractiveness and supporting economic diversification.

The development of logistics centers and multimodal transport systems also represents a crucial priority in transport infrastructure modernization. Modern logistics centers optimize the processes of cargo storage, processing, and distribution, thereby increasing supply chain efficiency. Multimodal transport systems integrate different modes of transportation into a unified logistics network, improving transportation performance while reducing costs and delivery times. Such systems are increasingly recognized as essential components of modern transport infrastructure.

The adoption of digital technologies in the transport sector constitutes another major modernization priority. Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), electronic logistics platforms, GPS-based monitoring systems, and artificial intelligence applications enable more efficient management of transport flows. Digitalization contributes to improving service quality, enhancing safety, reducing operational inefficiencies, and maximizing the utilization of transport infrastructure assets. As global transport systems become increasingly data-driven, digital transformation has become indispensable for maintaining competitiveness.

In recent years, environmental sustainability has gained increasing importance in transport infrastructure development. Consequently, the implementation of green transport technologies has emerged as a strategic priority. The use of electric vehicles, environmentally friendly fuels, and energy-efficient technologies can significantly reduce the environmental impact of the transport sector. These measures contribute to achieving sustainable development goals and support the transition toward low-carbon economic systems.

Public-private partnership (PPP) mechanisms also play a vital role in transport infrastructure modernization. Since transport projects are generally capital-intensive and require substantial financial resources, attracting private investment has become increasingly important. Cooperation between public authorities and private sector entities facilitates access to additional funding sources while promoting innovation and technological advancement in infrastructure projects. PPP arrangements have proven effective in improving infrastructure quality and accelerating project implementation in many countries.

In the context of Uzbekistan, transport infrastructure modernization is closely linked to strengthening integration into international transport corridors. The country's strategic geographical location provides significant opportunities to become a major transport and logistics hub in Central Asia. Therefore, the development of international transport routes, enhancement of transit potential, and improvement of logistics service quality remain among the key priorities of national transport policy. Strengthening connectivity with neighboring countries and international markets is expected to increase trade flows, attract investment, and support regional economic growth.

In addition, transport infrastructure modernization contributes to regional competitiveness by improving accessibility, reducing transaction costs, and facilitating the efficient movement of goods, services, labor, and capital. Regions with advanced transport infrastructure are generally more successful in attracting businesses and investment projects, leading to higher levels of economic activity and employment. Consequently, transport modernization is not only an infrastructure policy objective but also an important instrument of regional development policy.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the modernization of transport infrastructure is a fundamental prerequisite for promoting economic growth, strengthening regional integration, and enhancing regional competitiveness. The development of road and railway networks, expansion of logistics centers,

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digital transformation of transport systems, implementation of environmentally sustainable technologies, and deeper integration into international transport corridors represent the principal priorities of contemporary transport policy. The consistent implementation of these modernization initiatives will contribute significantly to the sustainable economic development of both regions and the national economy as a whole.

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