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: Economics

## **When will decisions be made on the construction of high-speed railways**

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**The government should make a decision on the Moscow-Nizhny Novgorod high-speed highway (HSR) construction project next year, said Deputy Prime Minister Marat Khusnullin.**

The decision will depend on the possibilities of financing construction, for example, from the National Welfare Fund (NWF).

"My personal opinion: if the budget or SWF allows, then, of course, it is necessary to build HSR for both St. Petersburg and Nizhny Novgorod with subsequent extension to Kazan and Yekaterinburg. The decision will be made in 2022, depending on the state of the SWF," RIA Novosti quotes the Deputy Prime Minister.

HSR involves the movement of trains at speeds up to 400 km per hour. This is many times faster than existing railways. Acceleration makes it possible to increase cargo

turnover and mobility of people. Due to the construction and operation of HSR, new jobs are created in the economy. But to achieve such speeds, it is necessary not just to modernize existing routes, but to build new infrastructure. As a result, such projects require funding of several trillion rubles. HSRs are distributed abroad, primarily in Europe and China.

The possibility of building HSR Moscow - Nizhny Novgorod has been considered for several years. In January 2019, the construction of the first section from the Moscow to the Vladimir region was approved. The project also involved extending the highway through Kazan to Yekaterinburg. But in 2020, the project was suspended due to doubts about its profitability. In August 2021, Governor of the Nizhny Novgorod region Gleb Nikitin at a meeting with the President of Russia proposed to return to the idea of building HSR. According to Nikitin, this project will provide an additional resource for the development of the region.

Other areas of HSR construction are also considered. For example, from Moscow to the southern regions. Now the design of the Moscow-St. Petersburg HSR through Veliky Novgorod is underway. Presumably, traffic on the new highway may be launched after 2026. The distance of 680 kilometers of trains will pass in just over two hours. According to current estimates, the construction of HSR from Moscow to St. Petersburg will cost about 2 trillion rubles.

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