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Title of the presentation

Condition and development trends in transport infrastructure in the Polish cities – case study: Krakow (working title)

Abstract (400-500 words)

In modern economic conditions, the role of urbanized areas is increasing, as they are the centres that contribute to the social and economic development of the country and its regions to the greatest extent. Economic growth is concentrated in the cities and new jobs are created there, which are the centres of numerous specialized services related to knowledge transfer, which generates even faster growth in this respect.

Shaping transport infrastructure in urbanized areas is a fundamental element of the development of the cities' spatial structure. Urban sprawl requires transport, whereas the expansion of the transport systems changes the attractiveness of particular locations. Such interrelation is a mechanism of growth and transformation of urban structures.

Urban transport infrastructure adjusted to the needs of people and business entities located in the city, including a road network for all branches of transport, transport points (e.g. airports, harbours, railway stations, parking lots, planes for car reloading and stopover) as well as supplementary devices used for direct management of roads and transport points are a condition for effective transport of people and goods within the city. The development of transport in the cities must be considered in the context of requirements following from land use, spatial distribution of various economic and social activity as well as the limitations following from the need to protect the environment. Important changes in the way that space is used and in the organization of the urban transport system are related to the development of suburban areas and the phenomenon of urban sprawl. Spatial expansion of the cities and separation of the places where people live, work and procure services accounts for the greater mobility of the inhabitants, which in turn increases transport problems.

The analysis of current development processes in urbanized areas shows that the fundamental issue is to direct evolution towards creating an efficient, economical city, which is at the same time functional and friendly. An important condition for the improvement of the quality of living and for ensuring appropriate competitiveness of the city is commencing activities in order to implement balanced transport, integrated with urban spatial planning.

In this paper, the author analyses and evaluates transport system in the cities on the example of Krakow. In passenger and freight transport, what is most important is road infrastructure; that's why issues related to the management of this area within urban transport infrastructure have been subject to closer research. The article presents also the changes of land management (transportation areas) in the city of Krakow between 2005 and 2012, after Poland's joining the European Union structures. The spatial analysis of the change process was carried out in the scale of the whole city. The author also presents the functioning of the trends visible in the transport policy of the city.