

City Hall Eyes Toll Road in Moscow

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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Traffic on Kutuzovskiy Prospekt might be relieved due to a toll road project.

Private investors are likely to figure in the construction of a toll road to relieve traffic on Kutuzovskiy Prospekt, Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said Thursday in an interview with the *Rossia-24* television channel, as cited by Interfax.

"There are no such projects [toll roads] in the city now except for a road north of Kutuzovskiy Prospekt intended to relieve traffic," Sobyanin said. "Private investors are likely to be involved there, and it's going to be a toll road." The idea of building the road was discussed in 2011 but was called a "distant prospect" then.

Sobyanin said the road would cross the Moscow Ring Road at the Molodogvardeyskaya interchange, reach the Moskva-City business district and join a toll road bypassing the city of Odintsovo, *Rossiiskaya Gazeta* reported.

The 10.3 kilometer road north of Kutuzovskiy Prospekt will cost about 60 billion rubles (\$1.96 billion), down from the 110 billion rubles planned previously, *Vedomosti* reported.

"There's something wrong with City Hall's budget, and [authorities] want to find money for it," Andrei Osipov, a transportation expert, said in an interview with Kommersant. "That's why toll roads will be constantly introduced. By the way, that's why City Hall wants to strip traffic police of some functions — at least those related to fines for driving on the high-occupancy-vehicle lane."

He also said investors' interest in the project mentioned by Sobyenin would depend on terms offered by city authorities.

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