The Moscow Times
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St. Petersburg Offers to Help Build Hanoi Metro as Projects at Home Lag

November 24, 2026



St. Petersburg Governor Alexander Beglov. **kremlin.ru**

St. Petersburg Governor Alexander Beglov began a visit to Vietnam on Tuesday, where officials are expected to sign a memorandum on developing Hanoi's metro even as his own city struggles to open new stations, the local news outlet Fontanka reported.

St. Petersburg officials plan to propose a pilot project to develop a section of the Vietnamese capital's metro. The governor's office said the project would give the city's engineers a role in a major international development and bolster St. Petersburg's standing as a center for transportation engineering.

In 2011, St. Petersburg officials set a goal of opening 45 new metro stations by 2025, but only opened 11 by that deadline.

Hanoi opened 20 stations from 2021 to 2025, compared with three in St. Petersburg.

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Just days before Beglov's trip, residents again raised the delays during a live call-in session.

Construction of the entrance to the Teatralnaya station has been pushed back to 2030.

Beglov said in late 2025 that the city would allocate 217 billion rubles ($2.65 billion) to build new metro stations over three years.

By the following summer, officials had begun revising those plans as the city cut spending.

In September, the city cut its planned metro construction budget for 2027 from 80 billion rubles ($976 million) to 45 billion rubles ($549 million), Fontanka reported.

Deputy Governor Alexei Korabelnikov said at the time that the cuts targeted spending outside the city's most pressing priorities.

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