

## Szeged Transport Company – our every day travelpartner

Szeged is with 169.000 inhabitants the fourth largest city in Hungary, located in the south, close to the border to Serbia and Romania. The city is a major administrative centre of the south-east region, as well as Csongrád county. It is situated on the Great Hungarian Plane, alongside the river Tisza. The city reached its today shape after the devastating flooding of 1879, after which Szeged was reconstructed with new radial and circle boulevard system. Szeged is a national centre of food industry; it is famous for its red pepper and salami production. It is a major educational centre of the region, with important universities and medical facilities.

After World War I., Szeged lost its role as a major railway hub. The road to Romania and Serbia (Budapest – Bucharest and Budapest – Beograd) goes through Szeged. Since Szeged has only two bridges, transit traffic causes major congestions. A new bridge is due to be finished in 2010, thus both transit directions will be diverted out of the city on highways.

### *Trolleybus in Szeged*

Szeged Transport Company (SZKT) leads back its predecessors to 1884, to the opening of the first horse-tramway service in the city, which was followed by the electric tram in 1908. The local bus service was formed in 1955, however in 1963 on Ministerial order it was handed over to the state owned regional bus company Tisza Volán, all electric transport remained by Szeged Transport Company. Ever since there are two transport companies in Szeged, with round 50-50 % share in passenger numbers.

The first trolleybus was introduced in 1979, and the route structure reached its today shape in 1985, serving mostly the new housing estate areas in the north-east part of the city.

In the last decade the car traffic increased significantly, together with the passenger loss of the worn down public transport. SZKT started reorganization in 2003, with concentrating its resources on the renewal of its old trolleybus and tram fleet, partly





from self-labour in its existing garages. A 100 million Euro worth of investment started in 2008, including the extension of the trolleybus network and fleet, as well as reconstruction of the depots and the power supply. The new, more attractive public transport with higher modal share of the electric transport will hopefully change the trend of the passenger loss, which most significantly occurs on the bus routes.

## Main activities in Trolley

### Increasing Efficiency

Szeged plans to move its interurban bus hub from the city centre to a new location. In

order to give a better public transport connection, it is planned to extend an existing trolleybus route to this point, producing the implementation plan for this future investment.

Furthermore, a speed restriction area in the city centre at Széchenyi tér will be eliminated, which is a major junction of three trolleybus routes together with tram routes. The implementation plans for the reconstruction of the overhead wires with high-speed elements will be produced, and the reconstruction of this junction executed. One trolleybus stop in this area will also be reconstructed to demonstrate – as a pilot action – the barrier-free access for trolleybuses.



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