

PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR “NEW NAVOI”

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Abstract: this article will analyze the problems and prospects for the development of Territorial Infrastructure within the framework of the New Navoi project. This region, formed on the basis of the idea of “New Uzbekistan”, is planned to become an important center of economic and social development in the future. Modernization of Transport, Energy, Information and communication and social networks is recognized as a priority in the process. The article provides an in-depth analysis of the disproportionate location of infrastructure facilities, weak investment and cases of technological wear and tear. The scientific proposals put forward justify the need to expand public-private cooperation.

Keywords: *New Navoi, infrastructure, economic zone, transport network, engineering communications, energy infrastructure, digital infrastructure, investment, public-private partnership, industrial clusters, logistics centers.*

“YANGI NAVOIY” UCHUN MINTAQAVIY INFRATUZILMANI RIVOJLANTIRISH MUAMMOLARI VA ISTIQBOLLARI

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Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada “Yangi Navoiy” loyihasi doirasida hududiy infratuzilmani rivojlantirish muammolari va istiqbollari tahlil etiladi. “Yangi O‘zbekiston” g‘oyasi asosida shakllanayotgan ushbu mintaqa kelajakda iqtisodiy va ijtimoiy rivojlanishning muhim markaziga aylanishi ko‘zda tutilmoqda. Transport, energetika, axborot-kommunikatsiya va ijtimoiy tarmoqlarni modernizatsiya qilish jarayonda ustuvor yo‘nalish sifatida e‘tirof etiladi. Maqolada infratuzilma ob‘ektlarining nomutanosib joylashuvi, investitsiyalarning sustligi va texnologik

eskirish holatlari chuqur tahlil qilinadi. Ilgari surilgan ilmiy takliflar davlat-xususiy hamkorlikni kengaytirish zarurligini asoslaydi.

Kalit soʻzlar: *Yangi Navoiy, infratuzilma, iqtisodiy zona, transport tarmogʻi, muhandislik kommunikatsiyalari, energetika infratuzilmasi, raqamli infratuzilma, investitsiya, davlat-xususiy sheriklik, sanoat klasterlari, logistika markazlari.*

ПРОБЛЕМЫ И ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ РАЗВИТИЯ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЙ ИНФРАСТРУКТУРЫ ДЛЯ “НОВОГО НАВОИ”

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Аннотация: В данной статье будут проанализированы проблемы и перспективы развития территориальной инфраструктуры в рамках проекта “Новый Навои”. Предполагается, что этот регион, формирующийся на основе идеи “Нового Узбекистана”, в будущем станет важным центром экономического и социального развития. Приоритетными направлениями в процессе признаются модернизация транспорта, энергетики, информационно-коммуникационных и социальных сетей. В статье будет проведен углубленный анализ ситуации непропорционального размещения объектов инфраструктуры, медленных инвестиций и технологического устаревания. Выдвинутые научные предложения обосновывают необходимость расширения государственно-частного сотрудничества.

Ключевые слова: *Новый Навои, инфраструктура, экономическая зона, транспортная сеть, инженерные коммуникации, энергетическая инфраструктура, цифровая инфраструктура, инвестиции, государственно-частное партнерство, промышленные кластеры, логистические центры.*

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the policy of territorial development in the Republic of Uzbekistan has reached a new level, development programs are being developed based on separate approaches for each region, district and city of the country. In particular, on the basis of the idea of “New Uzbekistan”, which was put forward at the initiative of our President, systematic reforms are being carried out to radically improve the economic, social and infrastructural indicators of the country. Within the framework of this approach, promising development strategies are being formed, taking into account the specific capabilities, resources, geographical location and demographic

characteristics of each territory. As one of such large initiatives, the concept of “New Navoi” is visible. This project envisages the formation of a new infrastructural, industrial and social center of strategic importance not only on the regional, but on the entire national scale.

Navoi region is one of the regions with natural resources, industrial potential, favorable transport and logistics routes and climatic conditions, which occupies a special place in the economy of the Republic. It is in this area that the large enterprises of Mines, metallurgy, chemical, energy and construction industries in the country are located. At the moment, the population of the region is also increasing, which further increases the need for regional infrastructure. Therefore, the initiative “New Navoi” envisages the creation of a modern, sustainable and functional infrastructure system in the region. Through this system, not only industrial enterprises and logistics centers will be able to work efficiently, but also the quality of living of the population, opportunities for social services will reach a high level.

The development of regional infrastructure is the formation of a whole complex system, and not just the construction of roads or electrical networks. This system includes transport and communication facilities, engineering and utilities, social infrastructure, digital technology, environmental protection system and many other industries. In Navoi region at the same time, these infrastructure networks are developing, but there are problems such as insufficient use of the existing potential, cases of technological obsolescence in some industries, uneven territorial distribution of infrastructure, insufficient centralized services. These problems should be eliminated in the necessary situation in the implementation of the concept of “New Navoi”.

In this regard, the development of regional infrastructure is considered not only at the local level, but also as a factor that serves to ensure the stability of the national economy. Under the new Navoi initiative, the planned infrastructure projects, such as the establishment of international logistics centers, the formation of industrial clusters, the construction of modern housing estates, the modernization of social services, the introduction of innovative technologies, require a comprehensive and long-term strategic approach. At the same time, issues such as ensuring environmental sustainability in infrastructure development, rational use of Natural Resources, Management of land and water resources are also relevant.

In addition, the infrastructural reforms carried out within the framework of the new Navoi initiative also cover many social tasks such as ensuring the employment of the population, strengthening social equality, creating new opportunities for young people, increasing the economic activity of women. Infrastructure is not just a set of objects, but a connecting link between society and the economy, a means of rational distribution of resources from one area to another, and most importantly – the basis of

development. Therefore, the role of regional infrastructure in the transformation of Navoi region today is more important than ever.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The issue of the development of regional infrastructure has been studied in depth by a number of scientists as one of the main factors of economic development, territorial competitiveness and well-being of the population. In Particular, V.A. Meshkova analyzes the necessary conditions for achieving sustainable territorial development in the issue of regional infrastructure development. In his opinion, “it is much easier and more efficient to develop both individual networks and the region as a whole at a higher level if the regions have developed infrastructure” [1]. This opinion indicates that infrastructure is the main factor in territorial economic development. It places special emphasis on the level of development of the social and real sector infrastructure.

D.F. Vasiliha justifies the need to manage the development of regional infrastructure, in particular, on the basis of a strategic approach in the field of Tourism. In his opinion, “regional infrastructure tourism is a complex of objects with material and intangible characteristics, the effective use of which allows to maximize the needs of tourists” [2]. According to Vasiliha, regional infrastructure is an integral part of the tourism economy, the development of which directly affects not only the flow of tourists, but also the overall economic stability of the territory. It shows that the imbalance in the Territorial Infrastructure, the lack of rational use of resources, as well as the incompleteness of the infrastructure system are the main factors that prevent sustainable development.

I.A. Zaitseva and Y.E. Ostryakova evaluates regional infrastructure as an integrated factor in territorial economic development. In their opinion, “the level, stability and effective functioning of infrastructure have a direct impact on the social stability of the region, above all through the level of satisfaction of the physiological, social and spiritual needs of the population” [3]. The authors consider regional infrastructure as a single socio-economic system, through which they substantiate the direct link between the quality of life in the territory, the level of provision of services and economic stability.

I.V. Vaseline V.A. Sushko analyzed the issue of regional infrastructure development from the point of view of the impact of industrial infrastructure on the ecological state and the quality of life of the population. In their opinion, “industrial infrastructure is not only a totality of economic resources, but also a strategic factor affecting territorial environmental security and social welfare” [4]. The authors, covering the mechanisms of direct and indirect impact of industrial infrastructure, note that insufficient development of environmental monitoring systems, obsolescence of

environmentally damaging production capacities, and disregard for environmental risks associated with territorial infrastructure negatively affect quality of life and health.

O.N. Dyachkova justifies the strategic importance of the concept of “green” infrastructure in the development of regional infrastructure. In his view, “green infrastructure is an integral element of sustainable urban development, providing a balance between ecological, social and economic systems” [5]. Dyachkova noted that in the development of urban infrastructure, only technological or engineering approaches are not enough; it is necessary to reduce the environmental burden of regional and urban areas, increase the environmental efficiency of infrastructure by forming a network of green zones and integrating them into the management system.

From our local scientists, G.Z. Ubaydullayev emphasizes the importance of human capital in the development of regional infrastructure on an innovative basis. In his view, “human capital is human resources with knowledge, skills, skills and creativeness that ensure the efficient functioning and competitiveness of regional infrastructure” [6]. The author noted that it is possible to create a competitive economic environment in the territory by training highly qualified personnel in the formation of innovative infrastructure, improving their permanent qualifications, cooperating with research institutes and stimulating the activities of startups.

I.O. Yakubov, A.A. Islamov and M.N. Sunnatov considers regional infrastructure as one of the main factors of territorial economic development. In their opinion, “regional infrastructure is a complex of technical, social and institutional systems necessary for the production, service and population of the area” [7]. The authors evaluate infrastructure not only as a supporting factor for economic activity, but also as a strategic direction that shapes the inter-territorial resource distribution, migration processes and the standard of living of the population.

METHODOLOGY

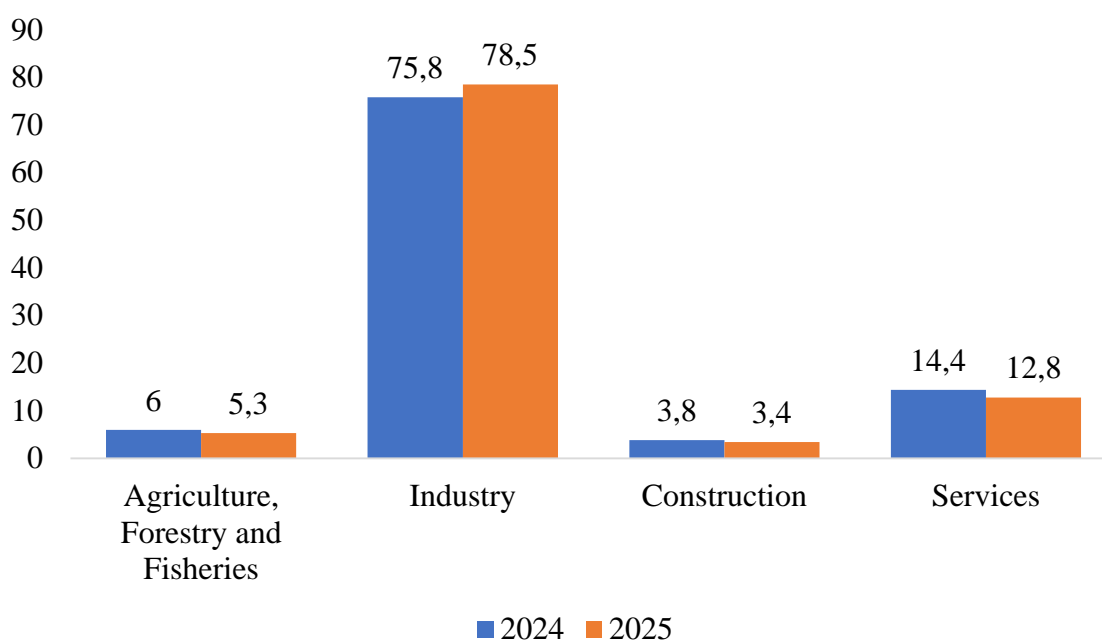
In this study, a systematic analysis approach was used in order to identify the existing problems and prospects for the development of regional infrastructure within the framework of the “New Navoi” project. During the study, the current state of the Territorial Infrastructure, the economic and social factors associated with it were studied in depth and analyzed on the basis of current statistics and government decisions. At the same time, the effectiveness of major infrastructure projects being implemented in the area and their impact on regional development were also studied. In addition to theoretical knowledge, the methodological approach used analytical methods based on practical case analysis on the premises, expert opinion and existing regulatory legal documents. These approaches have served to assess the region’s infrastructure capabilities and identify priority areas in perspective. Based on the

results of the study, proposals were developed for the comprehensive development of regional infrastructure for the “New Navoi” project.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

Navoi region is one of the important regions that make up the main part of the national economy of Uzbekistan. Over the past seven years, more than 6,500 new projects worth US \$ 8 billion have been implemented in Navoi region, resulting in an economic value added of 27 trillion. The number of business entities has tripled. During this period, the region rose from ninth to third among the regions of the Republic in terms of gross economic indicators, bringing the total economic volume to 82 trillion soums. In the current year, 577 new projects worth \$ 2.2 billion are planned to be brought to life, creating about 10,000 high-income jobs.

In the figure below, the composition of YAHM (gross regional product) in terms of the types of economic activity of Navoi region in January-March 2024 and 2025 is expressed in percent (Picture 1).



Picture 1. The composition of YAHM by types of economic activity in January-March (in % relative to the total) [8]

Based on this picture, it can be said that in the first quarter of 2025, the industrial sector in the Navoi region increased significantly. The 75.8 percent share in 2024 was 78.5 percent in 2025. This is the result of policies aimed at industrialization in the province. In contrast, the services sector has fallen from 14.4 percent to 12.8 percent, indicating a slowdown in growth rates in the sector. A decrease in the share of Agriculture from 6.0% to 5.3% indicates that the agrarian sector is falling into a secondary position compared to industry. The construction sector also declined slightly-from 3.8 percent to 3.4 percent. And the decrease in net taxes on products

means that the volume of direct production in the economy is increasing. A general analysis shows that the main economic weight in the province is concentrated on the industrial sector, and this, in turn, serves to ensure a higher share of gross value added (GDP). Such trends represent the need to further expand and service industrial infrastructure and support agricultural sectors in the long run.

Navoi region, located in the central part of Uzbekistan, is characterized by natural resources, developed infrastructure and qualified human resources. The region is home to a fifth of the total Republican-wide underground wealth of over \$ 5 trillion. This, in turn, provides a potential that can fully meet the needs of any investor.

The Navoi region produces more than 100 trillion soums of industrial products every year, and the per capita income level ranks second in the country. These indicators provide a solid basis for the expansion of entrepreneurship in the region, the development of trade, services, catering and tourism. The province is currently generating 11 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity per year, with an additional planned commissioning of 5.2 gigawatts of solar and wind farms. This will serve the sustainable operation of new industries and service facilities. During 2025, it is envisaged to attract US \$ 3.7 billion in foreign investment to the regional economy, as a result of which more than 600 new production entities will be opened and 15,000 high-paying jobs will be created. The most notable aspect is that these major initiatives move not only the Navoi region, but also the industrial potential of the regions close to it.

In order to develop regional infrastructure for the “New Navoi”, various regulatory legal acts are adopted in our country and used in reforms. For example, the decision of the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 10, 2023 “on additional measures for the comprehensive socio-economic development of the Navoi region in 2023-2024 and further improvement of the standard of living of the population” RP-52 “also played an important role in the development of regional infrastructure for the “New Navoi”. In this decision, a number of important infrastructural measures are established for the comprehensive development of Navoi region, in particular the territory of “New Navoi” [9]. According to this decision, special attention is paid to solving problems related to infrastructure in order to increase economic activity in the region, expand modern production and service networks. In particular, it was envisaged to supply engineering and communication networks (electricity, water, road and internet) to industrial zones, increase the quality and comfort of services to the population, strengthen investment attractiveness. It is also planned that large-scale projects with the participation of foreign and domestic investors will be carried out in order to turn the territory of “New Navoi” into a point of economic growth. The resolution also set specific goals for effective use of labor resources, creation of new jobs, and poverty reduction. This, in turn, has been an important factor in ensuring the economic stability of the region.

Also important is the decision of the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan RP-430 dated December 12, 2024 “on additional measures for the socio-economic development of Navoi region” [10]. This decision defines the complex development of regional infrastructure in the form of a roadmap. First of all, administrative, energy, transport and social infrastructure projects will be carried out on the basis of complex development plans of cities and districts developed for 2025-2026. It aims to increase inter-zone economic capacity as well as ensure integration in various infrastructural sectors. According to the decision points, the neighborhoods have specific responsibilities for employment, poverty reduction and labor migration control and monitoring, which provides for the full involvement of infrastructure. At the same time, the infrastructure facilities grown in communications, drinking water, road and power supply will be updated and adapted based on the needs of the population. For all stages, from rural areas to urban planning, tugri planning is carried out systematically. These create the necessary conditions for the transformation of the “New Navoi” into a modern, socially stable and competitive Center. The measures envisaged in the resolution will significantly strengthen the economic growth of the area, social well-being and investment attractiveness while addressing infrastructural challenges.

Currently, in the “New Navoi” region there are existing problems regarding industry, energy, transport, communications, water supply, ecology, rural infrastructure, social sphere and employment. In particular, the obsolescence of road and communication infrastructure in some districts, interruptions in drinking water supply, stable supply of electricity and insufficient development of the services sector have a direct impact on the standard of living of the population.

Also, the failure to make full use of the province’s economic capabilities, and the inadequate processing of underground and surface resources in the industrial and services sectors are limiting the potential for economic growth. This, in turn, affects the employment and income levels of the population.

However, despite the existing problems, the territory of the “New Navoi” has great prospects in terms of regional development. On the basis of decisions made by the government, it is planned to build new energy capacities – solar and wind farms, establish modern industrial enterprises, develop logistics and transport centers at the international level, introduce information and communication technologies.

Also, by attracting domestic and foreign investments, supporting small business and entrepreneurship, expanding the service sector, “New Navoi” can become a modern regional center. The creation of new jobs for the population, social protection and improved living standards make the area competitive not only economically but also socially.

In the table below we can see that it is in this region that the existing problems and opportunities in perspective are summarized in the cross section of directions (Table 1).

Table 1

Problems and prospects in the development of regional infrastructure for the territory of “New Navoi”¹

Direction	Current issues	Development prospects
Transport infrastructure	Poor condition of internal roads, absence of logistics centers	Creation of new automobile and railway lines, logistics zones
Energy	Power supply outages	Construction of 5.2 gigawatt solar and wind farms
Water supply	Drinking water deficit, network obsolescence	Modernization of water infrastructure, construction of new reservoirs
Information technology	Low coverage and quality of the Internet network	Construction of a new ICT infrastructure, introduction of digital services
Social services	Lack of health, education and cultural facilities	Construction of a new school, Polyclinic and cultural centers
Ecology	Improper disposal of industrial waste	Implementation of environmental infrastructure based on green technologies
Industrial infrastructure	The old age of enterprises, the lack of modern technologies	Creation of new industrial zones, technoparks and technological nodes
Employment	High unemployment rate	Creation of more than 15 thousand jobs, opening vocational training centers
Investment environment	Infrastructure vulnerability for external investors	Creating favorable conditions for investors with tax and duty benefits
Entrepreneurship	Underdevelopment of infrastructure for small businesses	Introduction of industrial buildings, credit and subsidy programs for entrepreneurs

As shown in this table, the territory of “New Navoi” today faces certain problems in various sectors of infrastructure. In the field of Transport infrastructure, the inadequacy of domestic roads, the absence of logistics centers are limiting the turnover. Energy supply disruptions, on the other hand, prevent industrial enterprises from operating sustainably. At the same time, the obsolescence of water networks, insufficient drinking water also negatively affect the standard of living of the population.

And the shortage of information and Communication Technologies is leading not only to the slow development of modern services, but also to the low quality of

¹ Prepared by the author

education, medicine and public services. The social services sector also needs development. The construction of new educational, health and cultural institutions is important in strengthening the social status of the population.

And environmental problems require special attention. The destruction of industrial waste without harm to the environment, the introduction of green infrastructure elements ensures environmental sustainability. The lack of modernisation of industrial infrastructure, and the absence of technological parks, is leading to a slowdown in innovative development.

But nevertheless, to eliminate the problems listed above, specific measures are established in presidential decisions. The construction of solar and wind farms, new highways, ICT infrastructure, water networks, logistics centers and industrial zones are planned to improve the energy supply. All this serves to transform the “New Navoi” into a modern, stable and competitive region.

Employment issues are also expected to be positively addressed by creating more than 15,000 high-income jobs, and opening vocational training centers for youth and the unemployed. By stimulating entrepreneurship, providing tax incentives for external investors, the economic potential of the territory rises to a new level.

In general, the New Navoi region is boldly moving towards sustainable development with clear strategic approaches, despite infrastructural problems. The data presented in the table clearly describe the directions of this movement.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, The Project “New Navoi” is one of the initiatives that occupies an important place in the strategy of territorial development of Uzbekistan. This project aims to transform Navoi region into a modern industrial and infrastructure center not only on a Republican scale, but also in the Central Asian region. However, in achieving this huge goal, it is necessary to deeply analyze the current state of regional infrastructure, identify existing problems and develop effective solutions for them. The results of the study show that currently in Navoi region, some sectors of the infrastructure system are outdated, and in some, investment activity is slow, inter-territorial differences are large. In particular, the uneven distribution of transport and communication tools, the slowness of engineering and utilities in certain regions, problems in the field of digital infrastructure and social services prevent the stable and consistent development of the region.

Therefore, within the framework of the article, the following practical proposals were developed. First of all, a comprehensive regional development program should be developed for the development of regional infrastructure within the framework of the “New Navoi”. This program should provide for mechanisms that ensure cross – sectoral Harmony, including all the main infrastructure sectors-transport, Energy,

Information and communication, environmental services, social infrastructure. It is important that priority areas, specific stages and sources of financing are established in each sector.

As a second proposal, it is necessary to expand infrastructure projects based on public-private partnerships. By attracting the private sector, it is possible not only to increase the volume of financial resources, but also to attract innovative technologies. One of the important factors in this is the further improvement of the legislative base, the expansion of the system of guarantees and benefits for private investors. Also, the practice of financing infrastructure projects in cooperation with international financial institutions and donor organizations should be expanded.

The third proposal is the need to follow the principles of environmental sustainability in infrastructure development. In the construction and modernization processes carried out within the framework of the “New Navoi” concept, the introduction of energy-efficient technologies, the development of waste processing infrastructure and the transition to green energy sources are of strategic importance. This not only contributes to maintaining the ecological balance of the area, but also contributes to sustainability goals on a global scale.

The fourth proposal deals with the creation of an intellectual base for infrastructure development. It is necessary to train local engineers, urban planners, economists and IT specialists, improve their knowledge and skills, strengthen the ties between higher education and practice. Through this, it is possible not only to build, but also to effectively manage the Territorial Infrastructure.

By strengthening the infrastructure base of the New Navoi project based on the above proposals, the region can be transformed not only into an industrial and Technology Center, but also into a habitable, stable and competitive area. This has a huge positive effect not only on the population of the Navoi region, but also on the economy of the whole Republic. Therefore, the idea of a “New Navoi” is not just a construction, but a strategy for building the future.

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10. Decree of the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated December 12, 2024 “on additional measures for the socio-economic development of Navoi region” RP-430.