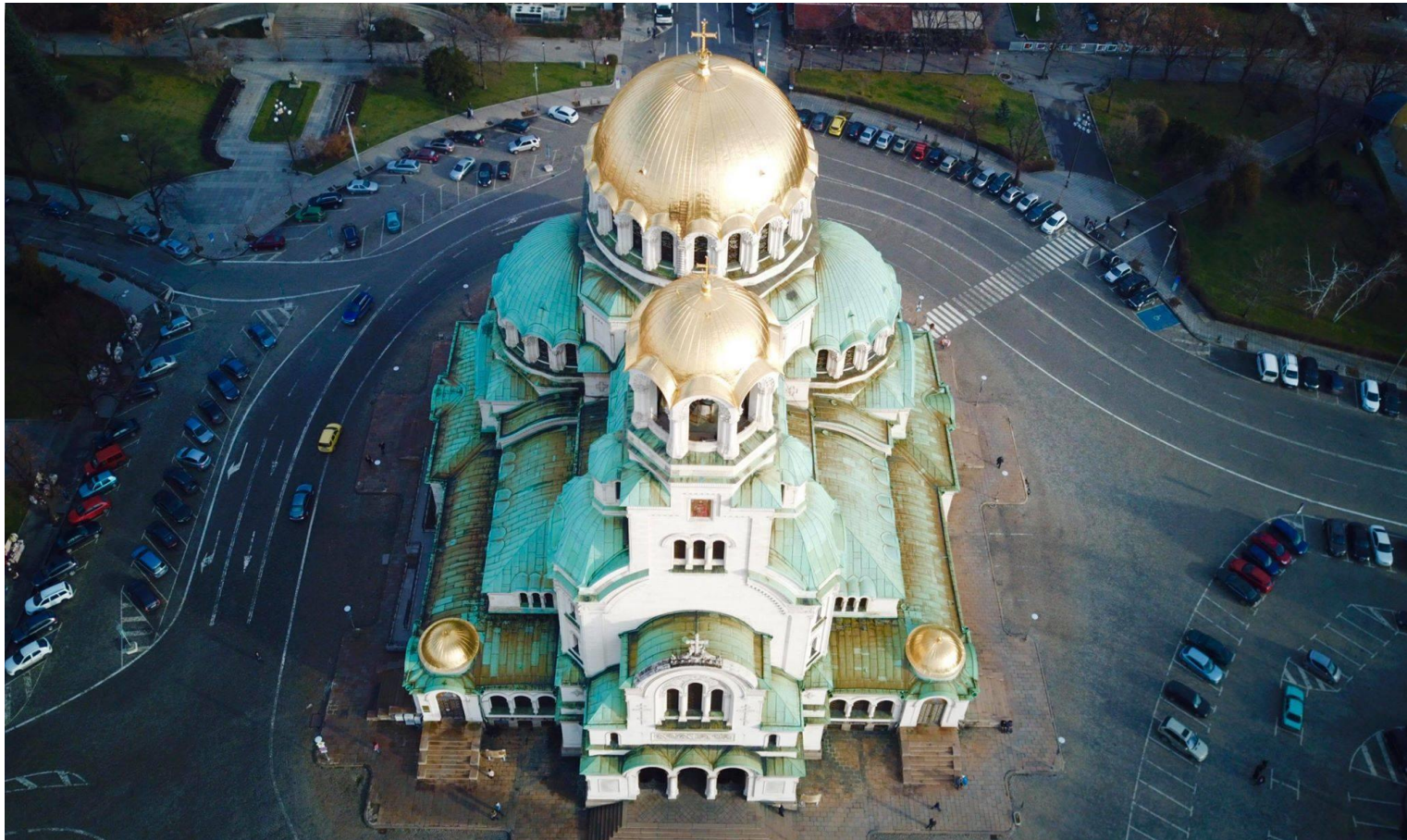


PARKING POLICIES AND PRACTICE IN SOFIA



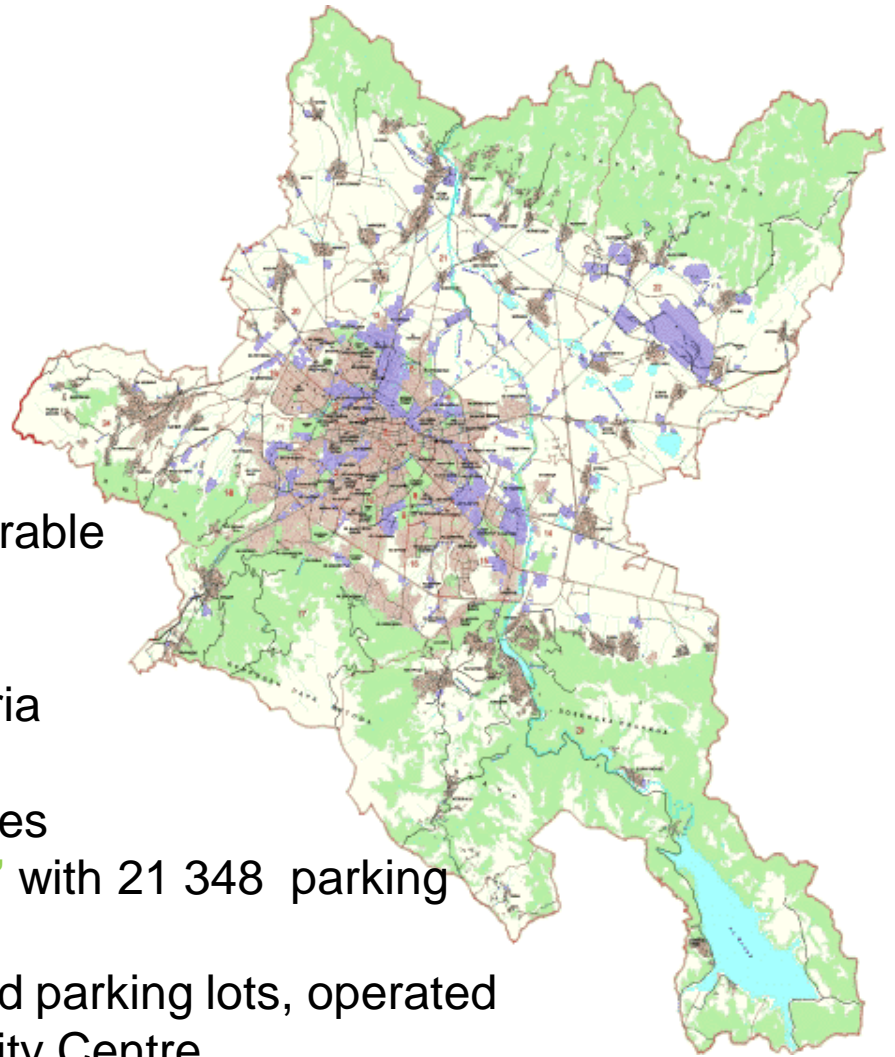


SOFIA

- Area – 1 311 sq.km.
- Population – 1 321 721 inhabitants
- 14th largest city in Europe – comparable by size with Brussel and Prague
- Generates 1/3 of the GDP of Bulgaria

Two types short-term paid parking zones

- “BLUE ZONE” and “GREEN ZONE” with 21 348 parking places in total
- 2 606 parking places in underground parking lots, operated and managed by Sofia Urban Mobility Centre
- 6 194 parking places in paid parking lots



HISTORY

- Controlled parking in Sofia was introduced first in **1990** (about 200 parking spaces in short-term paid parking zone in the city centre) – by the newly established municipal company "**Parking and garages**"
- In **1995** the municipal company was transformed into a limited liability company and the scope of the activity was expanded with the maintenance and operation of the parking lots owned by the municipality.
- In **2009** the **Sofia Urban Mobility Centre** was created with the merging of “Parking and Garages” and “Sofia Public Transport Company” setting a new concept for urban mobility management.



SOFIA URBAN MOBILITY CENTRE

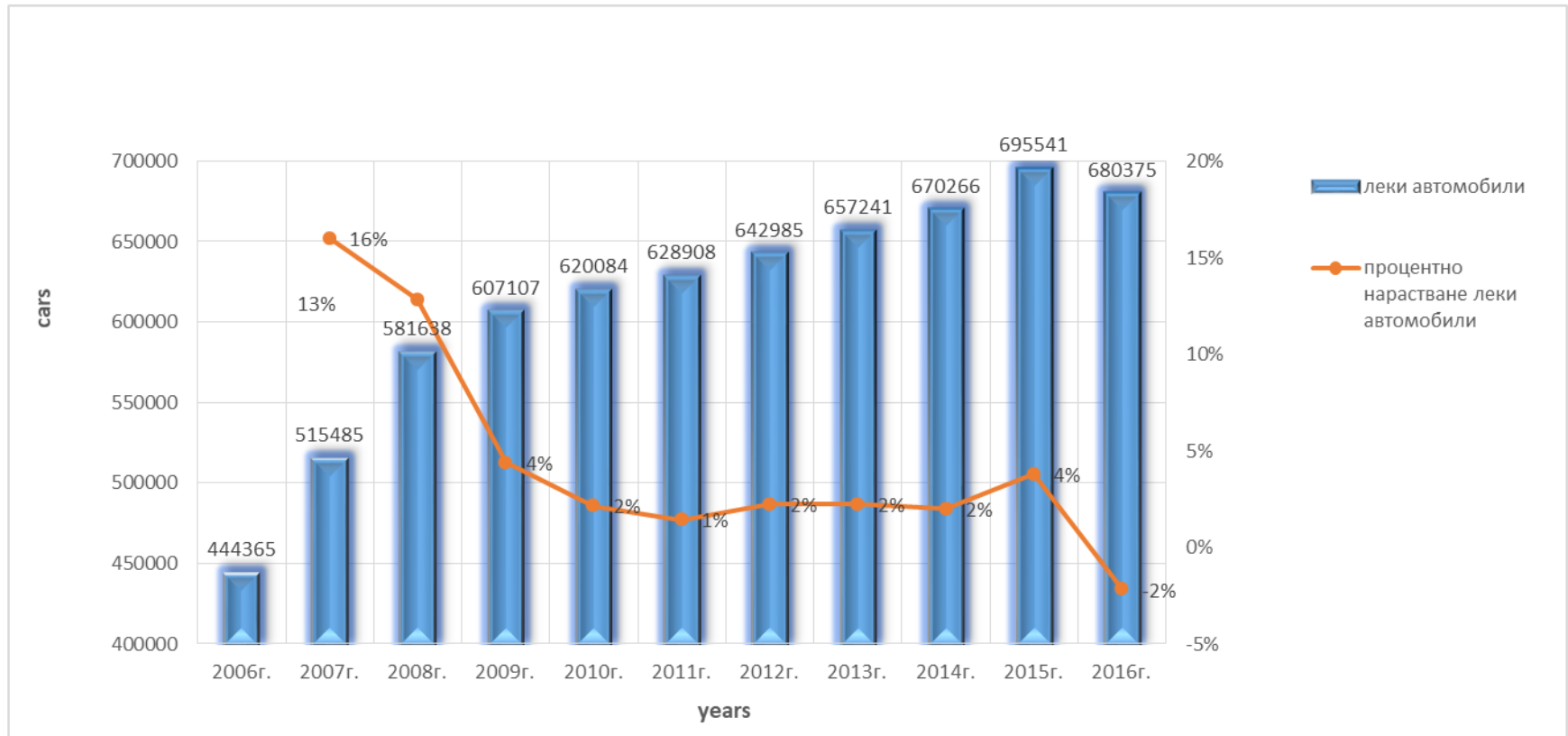
Sofia Urban Mobility Centre EAD (“SUMC”) is a municipal company (wholly owned by Sofia Municipality) that has more than 100-year old history as the public transport managing authority of Sofia.

Main responsibilities:

- Monitoring of the proper implementation of the Public Service Contracts between Sofia Municipality and the transport operators;
- Operation of information management system for monitoring and supervision of the traffic, based on GPS identification;
- Issuing of transportation documents and collection of the transport revenues;
- Development of plans and analyses for urban mobility management.
- Construction, operation and maintenance of parking lots, garages and open space parking spaces in Sofia – owned by Sofia Municipality;
- Lending of parking spaces.

MOTORIZATION RATE

- Total number of registered motor vehicles (2016) – 814 078
- Motorization rate – 680 vehicles per 1000 inhabitants
- Over a five year period from 2008 to 2012, the highest growth in EU in the number of registered passenger cars was recorded in Bulgaria



KEY ISSUES

- Continuous growth in the use of private cars instead of public transport;
- Shortage of vacant parking places, both in the central and peripheral parts of the city;
- Poor condition of the pedestrian section/ sidewalks, due to improperly parked cars
- Incorrectly parked cars and unauthorized parking, etc.



LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- National level: The control and management of parking is regulated in the Road Traffic Law (RTL)
- Regional level: Ordinance for the organization of the traffic on the territory of Sofia Municipality, adopted by the Sofia Municipal Council in 2008 and last changed on July 26, 2018
- Sofia Municipal Council has adopted a plan for the organization and management of parking in Sofia, on the basis of which two zones for short term paid parking - "Blue Zone" and "Green Zone" - with price and time limitation of the parking.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK – SOCIAL ASPECTS

- Negative reaction of the people and the business located in the newly established short-term paid parking zones
- New groups were established in the social media opposing the new parking regulations (incl. anti-campaigns and protests)
- 2 NGO's tried to controvert in the Court against the new clauses of the Ordinance regulating the parking but unsuccessfully

LEGAL FRAMEWORK – REGULATORY ASPECTS

- The contradiction between the specific parking regulations and the general legal framework is already corrected with the latest amendment of the Ordinance.
- The existence of a legal regulatory framework for controlling illegal parking without its effective implementation is not sufficient condition for limiting the breaches.
- There is a strong need to apply penalty with fiche according to Art. 186 of the Road Traffic Law (RTL) to the drivers of the incorrectly parked vehicles in order to provide the possibility to penalize all offenders for a short period of time in a certain area.

Master Plan for Traffic Organization (2012)

In order to make the parking management more efficient and to limit the use of personal cars and reduce the car traffic, specific measures were defined in a 5-year plan:

- Use of financial instruments such as increasing the parking price (Blue Zone);
- Implementation of alternative ways of paying for parking / tickets, parking meters, SMS-paid parking/;
- Limiting and regulating the access by using anti-parking elements;
- Reducing the parking time in the central city area and carry out strict time control;
- Construction and operation of Park&Ride facilities

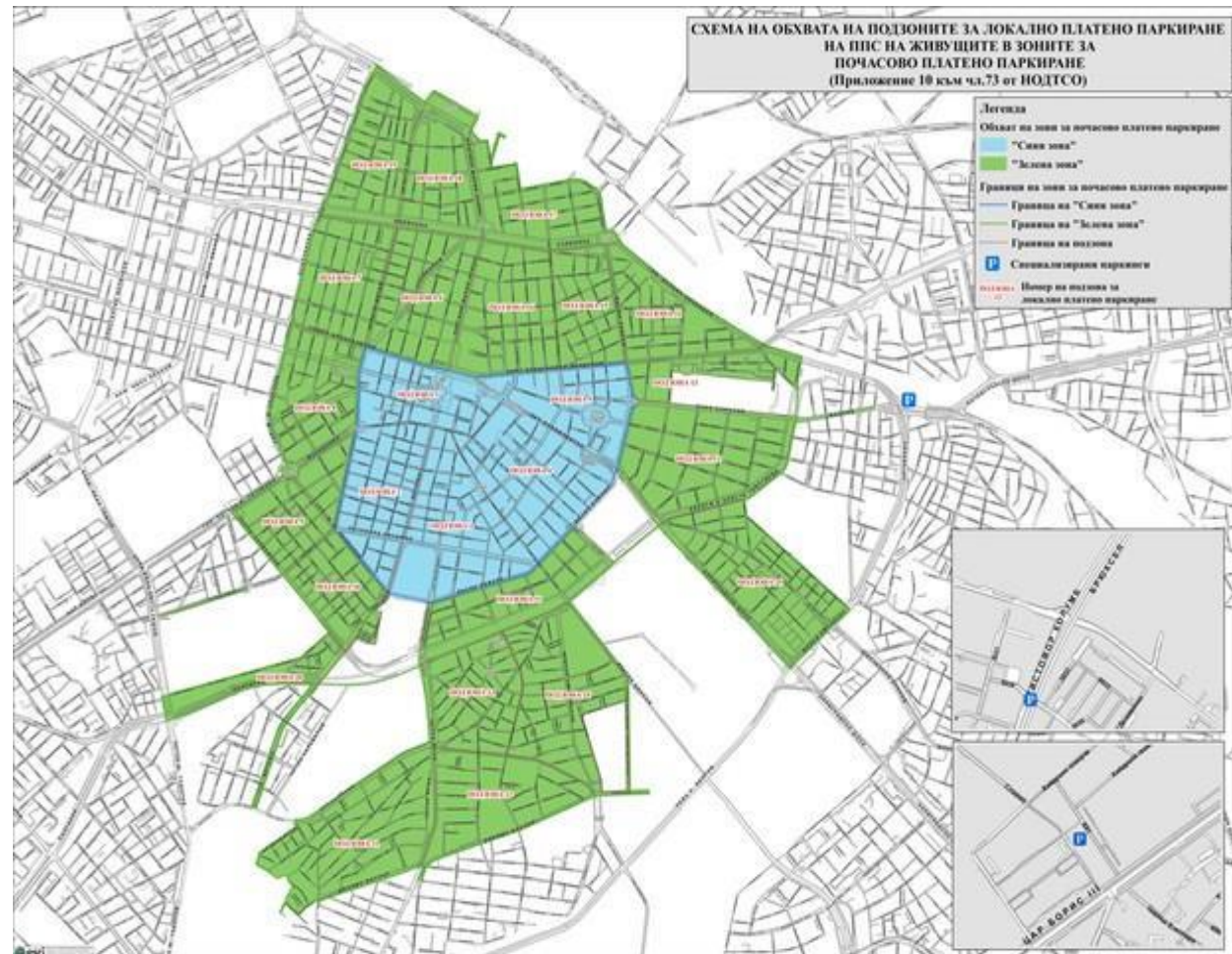
Short-term paid parking zones

Goals:

- Reducing the traffic
- Improvement of the parking organisation

“**BLUE ZONE**“ -
4 780 parking
spaces

“**GREEN ZONE**“ -
16 568 parking
spaces



Short-term paid parking zones

	BLUE ZONE	GREEN ZONE
“Business Subscription” Paid Parking Zones BLUE ZONE – 650 BGN /month GREEN ZONE – 450 BGN /month	459	346
Preferential parking places for people with permanent disabilities	297	745
Parking places for free 24-hour parking of vehicles serving people with permanent disabilities	22	56
Parking spaces occupied by garbage containers	≈ 1300	

Short-term paid parking zones

“BLUE ZONE“

- Maximum duration of time for parking – up to 2 hours.
- Price - **2 BGN** per hour
- Mon-Fr: 08.30 - 19.30 h.
- Sat: 08.30 - 18.00 h.

“GREEN ZONE“

- Maximum duration of time for parking – up to 4 hours.
- Price - **1 BGN** per hour
- Mon-Fr: 08.30 - 19.30 h.

Payment for the short-term paid parking zones

- With ticket purchased:
 - by ticket inspector;
 - in ticket offices and kiosks;
 - in stores.
- SMS to number 1302 for **Blue Zone**;
- SMS to number 1303 for **Green Zone**;
- Mobile app;
- Parking pay stations;
- With vignette sticker – for residents within the paid parking zones;
- With preferential pass – for people with disabilities.



Fully electric vehicles parks in short-term parking zones for free!

Mobile app



Urbo - Sofia City Parking

UPASS Maps & Navigation

★★★★★ 55

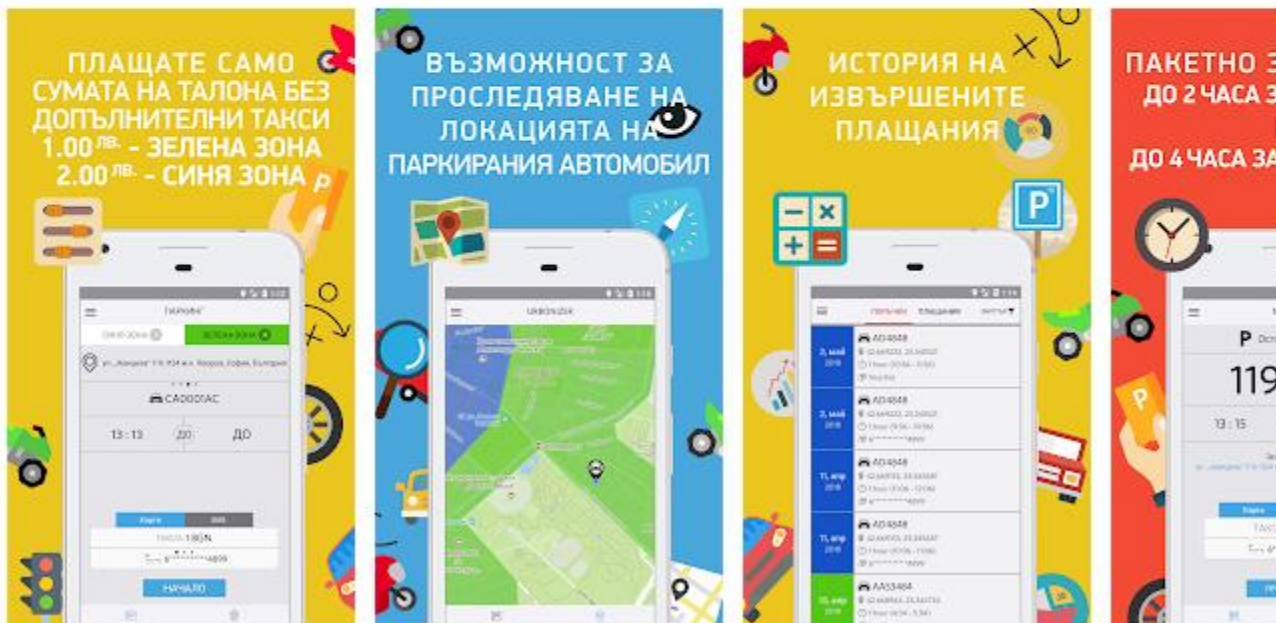
PEGI 3

This app is compatible with some of your devices.

Add to wishlist

Install

The app provides an easy way to use the paid parking zones (Green and Blue) in Sofia.



Credit/debit cards payment.

Electronic Information Boards – real time information for available parking places for short-term parking



Park&Ride at metrostations



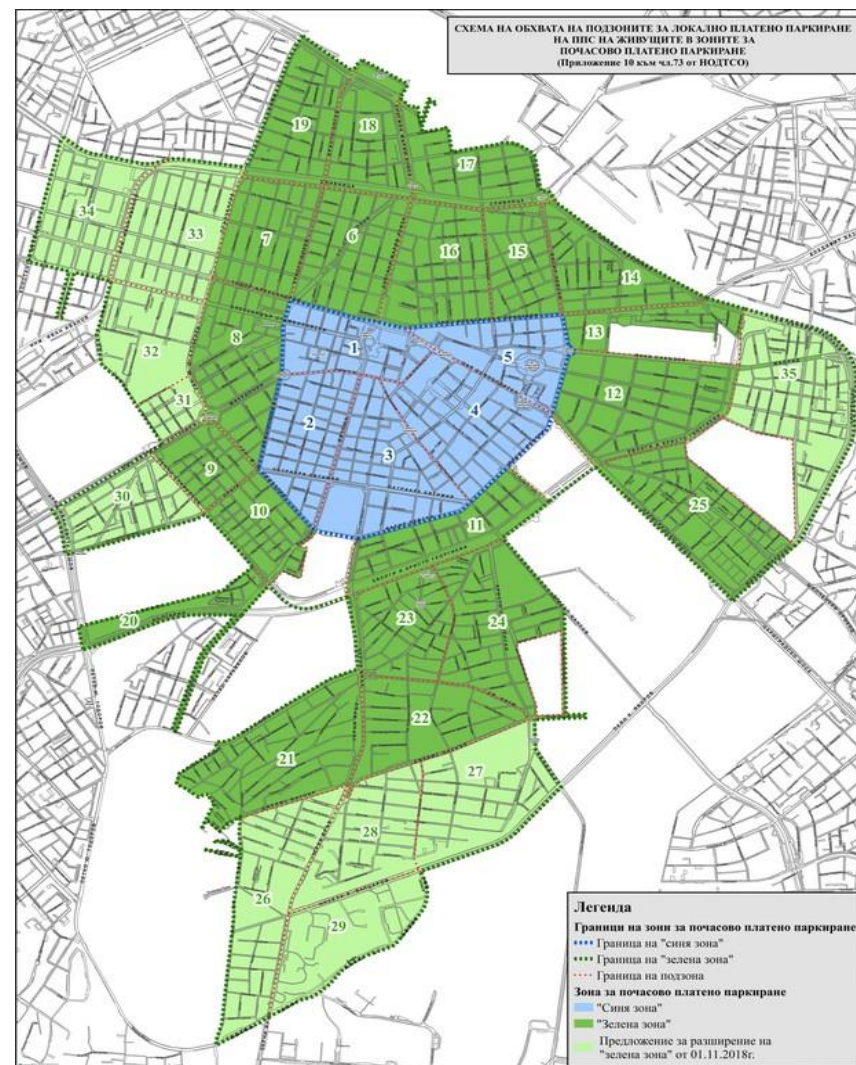
Since the beginning of 2018 Sofia Urban Mobility Centre operates 3 Park&Ride Facilities with more than 3000 parking spaces

Incentives in favour of public transport:

- Free parking with monthly public transport pass**
- Discounts with metro single ticket and daily pass**

Upcoming expansion of the “GREEN ZONE”

- Will be effective from 1st Nov 2018
- Scope: 5 500 new parking places
- Districts: Krasno selo, Lozenets, Oborishte, Vazrazhdane





**Thank you for the
attention!**

TSVETAN TSOLOV

e-mail: tsolov@sofiatraffic.bg

SOFIA URBAN MOBILITY CENTRE

www.sofiatraffic.bg

