A farewell to rails - history & context

“Vitosha” is a central boulevard in the capital city of Bulgaria, Sofia. The boulevard is connecting the city center (Sveta Nedelya square) with the mountain of Vitosha (a national park with its highest peak at 2295 m), therefore the name of the boulevard. In 1901 the first tram lines were installed on it as part of the brand new public transportation system of the city. Until the year 2010 trams were running from the central railway station through this boulevard up to the South park of Sofia.

In 2010 started the construction of the metro line underneath the boulevard. Sofia has a population of 1.3 million people, with more than 700,000 registered cars. In the years after the changes of 1989 more and more tram lines and rails went into history, more than 25 km of lines were deconstructed and less than 3 km of new routes were built. The new metro line was the Municipal argument for rerouting the lines to the next parallel boulevard, but what's left behind is a semi privatized new pedestrian area, crossed by 4 streets, slow and ineffective rerouted tram lines and a missed chance to reuse those tracks in the future.