

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

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INFORMATION

Road and Railway Infrastructure along Corridors X and VIII

Road infrastructure – Corridor X:

Corridor X, which is passing through the territory of the Republic of Macedonia, is with total length of 172 km; it starts from the border crossing Tabanovce, border with Serbia and Montenegro and it ends at the border crossing Bogorodica, border with the Hellenic Republic.

The situation with the motorway E-75 Tabanovce-Gevgelija is as follows:

1. The section Tabanovce – Kumanovo is with length of 8,4 km; out of which only 1,1 km has been constructed in 1994, before the border crossing Tabanovce. 7,3 km are remaining to be constructed, for which a complete investment technical documentation has been prepared, and is considered as priority. The total investment cost is estimated at EUR 5,7 million.
 2. The sections Kumanovo – Miladinovci (21,8 km), Miladinovci – Petrovec (5,8 km), Petrovec – Katlanovo (7,0 km), Katlanovo – Veles (22,1 km), Veles bypass (5,3 km), have been completely constructed in the period from 1977. Rehabilitation is foreseen for these sections, for which there are projects, and the total investment cost is estimated at EUR 20 million.
 3. The section Negotino – Demir Kapija is in length of 15,4 km, and is being constructed as of 2000. The construction is in three phases. The construction works of Phase I and part of Phase II have been completed; technical handover is to be carried out for the remaining part of Phase II; Phase III – the construction works are ongoing and are expected to be completed in August 2005. Funds have been provided by the European Union, through the Programmes PHARE and CARDS in amount of EUR 24 million.
- The section Smokvica – Gevgelija is financed through EBRD credit. The credit was signed on 15.07.2003, and the construction works are ongoing (proceeding according to the plan of dynamics). According to the agreement, the works are to be completed by 16.11.2005.
 - Main designs have been prepared for the section Demir Kapija – Udovo – Smokvica, however, the financial institutions have expressed no interest due to the bad terrain (canyon). This is considered as priority by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, since there is a risk that this could remain to be a bottleneck.
 - We emphasize that the overall construction of the section Demir Kapija – Gevgelija is planned to be in PHASES; Phase I is foreseen for construction of a new lane (two lanes + stopping lane), and Phase II is foreseen for reconstruction and rehabilitation of the existing motorway.

4. The section from Gevgelija to the border with the Hellenic Republic, in length of 4,6 km, is completely constructed as a motorway in the period 1998 – 2000.

Road infrastructure – Corridor VIII

The length of Corridor VIII on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia is 317 km or 32% of its total length; it starts from the border crossing Deve Bair, border with the Republic of Bulgaria, and it ends with Kafasan, border with the Republic of Albania.

The construction situation is as follows:

Constructed sections at a motorway level are the sections from Kumanovo, through Skopje, Tetovo to Gostivar, in total length of 86 km. Currently, construction is ongoing at the Skopje Bypass, in total length of 25 km, and funds have been provided by EBRD and EIB.

At the Eastern side the sections from Deve Bair, border with the Republic of Bulgaria, Kriva Palanka to Kumanovo in length of 83 km are remaining to be constructed at a motorway level, and are considered as priority. At the Western side, the already existing national road is remaining to be constructed at a motorway level, starting from Gostivar, through Kicevo, Struga, Kafasan, border with the Republic of Albania, in total length of 120 km. There are main designs for these sections, and the total investment cost is estimated at EUR 850.000.000.

According to the European trend for liberalisation of air market access, fifth freedom shall be provided to the Bulgarian air carrier "Hemus Air" for the line Sofia – Skopje – Tirana – Skopje – Sofia, until the National Regular Air carrier MAT – Macedonian Air Transport begins with performing transport on the mentioned line.

Railway infrastructure:

Situation with the railway infrastructure along Corridor VIII

The railway line East-West Corridor VIII, through the territory of the Republic of Macedonia, is with length of 339 km. Currently, the links with the neighbouring countries Republic of Albania and Republic of Bulgaria are missing.

The construction of the railway towards the two neighbouring countries R. Albania and R. Bulgaria is first priority of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, and with that, of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia.

For that purpose, for the Western side, i.e. link between Kicevo – Lin, border with the R. Albania in length of 66,0 km., the Ministry of Transport and Communications is currently preparing an announcement for preparation of a pre-project and preliminary design for railway connection with the republic of Albania. The construction of the railway on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia is foreseen to commence from Lin, the border point with the Republic of Albania, and to proceed towards Struga, where a construction of a multi modal terminal is foreseen. According to the already prepared feasibility studies, the investment cost for construction of the railway link is US\$ 242.000.000.

At the Eastern side, towards the Republic of Bulgaria, the railway construction is being carried out continuously since 1994 with State Budget funds. Additional EUR 245.000.000 are needed for completion of the construction works along Corridor VIII, towards the Republic of Bulgaria. This will provide connection and transport of passengers and goods from the Black Sea region to the territory of the Republic of Macedonia; and taking into consideration that Corridors VIII and X overlap from Kumanovo to Skopje, fast access to Corridor X shall be provided (North – South).

Until now, US\$ 123.000.000 have been provided from the State Budget for rehabilitation and construction of the section Kumanovo – Beljakovce. Due to lack of funds there are no activities on the remaining part from Kriva Palanka to the border with the Republic of Bulgaria (22 km). This section is in length of 22 km out of which 13 km are tunnels and bridges, due to which it is considered as difficult for construction.

The second priority is the preparation of a Study for construction of a multi modal terminal in Struga in Phase I, and the construction of terminal in Phase II.

The third priority is defining the future steps for opening of a Free Economic Zone in Dures (R. Albania) for the needs of the economy of the Republic of Macedonia, having in mind that a study has already been prepared for this purpose.

The fourth priority is the electrification and modernisation of the railway from Skopje to Gostivar, for which main designs have been prepared and the total investment cost is estimated at US\$ 30 mill. It is necessary to prepare projects for electrification of the railway from Gostivar to Kicevo.

Situation with the railway infrastructure along Corridor X

The railway line North – South, Corridor X, is in length of 215 km on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia; it starts from the border crossing Tabanovce in the North, and ends at the border crossing Bogorodica, in the South. The railway line along Corridor X is with speed of 100 km/h, and at certain points there are extreme speed limitations. Along the Corridor, there are 29 stations, the railway line is with standard size, it is electrified 25 KV, 50 HZ, and is with modern signalisation system that provides a reliable communication system. Having in mind that 85% of the overall transport is carried out primarily along Corridor X, priority is given to increasing of speed at certain sections from 100km/h, and with that improvement of the infrastructure level, in order to achieve technical conditions for the Corridor.

SUMMARY

Priorities by Corridors

Corridor X – motorway

1. The construction of the section Demir Kapija – Udovo – Smokvica and Phase I, with total length of 33 km and estimated investment cost of EUR 58 million.
2. The construction of the section Tabanovce – Kumanovo, with total length of 7,3 km and estimated investment cost of EUR 5.7 million.

Corridor X – Railway

1. Speed increasing at certain sections from 100 km/h to 130-160 km/h, along Corridor X, in order to achieve technical conditions for the Corridor.

Corridor VIII – motorway

1. Construction of a motorway solution along the entire Corridor, for which main designs have been prepared, and the total investment cost is estimated at EUR 850.000.000.

We emphasize that there are main designs.

Corridor VIII- Railway

1. Construction of the railway towards R. Albania and R. Macedonia.
 - A pre-project and a preliminary design are being prepared for the link with the R. Albania. It is necessary to prepare investment – technical documentation at a main design level, and the construction itself. According to the available feasibility studies, the investment cost for construction of 66 km is estimated at US\$ 242.000.000.
 - Technical-investment documentation on a main design level is currently in preparation for the link with R. Bulgaria. Funds for construction are provided at an annual level. Additional EUR 245.000.000 are necessary for completion of the railway in length of 86 km.
2. Electrification and modernisation of the railway from Skopje to Gostivar. It is necessary to prepare projects for electrification of the railway from Gostivar to Kicevo.
3. Preparation of a study, investment-technical documentation, as well as the construction of the multi modal terminal in Struga.
4. Defining the future steps for opening of a Free Economic Zone in Dures (R. Albania) for the needs of the economy of the Republic of Macedonia