Western Balkans Investment Framework WBIF 10 YEARS

BUILDING THE EUROPEAN FUTURE TOGETHER

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Partners:

- Ministry of Finance and Treasury of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Ministry of Communications and Transport BiH
- Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia
- Ministry of Finance of Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Ministry of Transport and Communications of Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Public Company Republika Srpska Motorways (JP Autoputevi Republike Srpske)

Estimated total investment:

- €38.47 million

EU contribution:

- €6.8 million

EIB loan:

- €10.67 million

Beneficiary contribution:

- €21 million

Transport

2015 CONNECTIVITY PROJECT

Extension of TEN-T Core Network: Bosnia and Herzegovina – Croatia R2a Road Interconnection

This investment project concerns the construction of a border crossing, a cross-border bridge over the River Sava, as well as motorway connections on the Banja Luka – Gradiška road section. The new developments lie along Route 2a (R2a) which spans 239 km, from Lašva and Banja Luka in Bosnia and Herzegovina to Okučani in Croatia. It thus connects Bosnia and Herzegovina to the main transport routes in Croatia leading to the Adriatic ports.

Currently, R2a runs through the urban area of Gradiška for approximately 2 km and crosses a 260m two-way bridge over the Sava. On the Croatian side, the bridge carries traffic to a much larger parking and clearance area located to the east of the much smaller town of Stara Gradiška.

The new bridge and cross-border facilities in Gradiška will be built about 3 km to the west of existing facilities and outside the urban area of Gradiška.

View of Banja Luka – Gradiška motorway (Mahovljani Interchange), operational since 2011. © JP Autoputevi Republike Srpske

Results:

- Completion of the Banja Luka – Gradiška motorway section in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- 460m of access road to the bridge from both sides Modern and efficient border crossing facilities on R2a.
- A 430m-long cross-border bridge over the Sava.

Proposed design for the cross-border bridge over the River Sava at Gradiška. © Ministry of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Map of Bosnia and Herzegovina – Croatia Section of Route 2a, with Gradiška Bridge.

Transport

The new bridge at Gradiška is part of the construction of a functional road section between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Okučani (Croatia), which includes a full profile motorway in Republika Srpska (BiH), a four-lane expressway in Croatia, two separate border crossings and access roads.

The investment is designed to facilitate trade, regional integration and sustainable growth and thus have a positive impact on the broader economy of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Specifically, for the people living in the area, the new border crossing facilities will ease social and environmental pressures on Gradiška, by diverting traffic outside the town.

The new bridge will also adequately accommodate the traffic generated by the commissioning of the Banja Luka - Gradiška motorway as well as the future operation of the Banja Luka – Doboj motorway.

The funding granted to Bosnia and Herzegovina will be complemented and coordinated with financing for the Croatian side. This will ensure the construction of any missing links towards Okučani in Croatia, and thus completing the route towards Zagreb.

The design for the proposed developments is now in place. The construction contract was signed in July 2019 and the works are planned to be completed in 30 months.

Benefits

• Safe and efficient road transport for more than 500,000 people using the R2a motorway.
• Passenger and freight carrying capacity significantly improved, estimated at an average of 10,000 users / day.
• Reduced border crossing times between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, estimated at 5 to 2 minutes for cars and at 30 to 12 minutes for trucks.
• 300 new jobs created during construction and another 20 during the operation and maintenance of the newly built facilities.