



THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Partners:

- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Transport and Communications
- Secretariat for European Affairs – NIPAC Office
- Public Enterprise for State Roads

Estimated total investment:

- €105.2 million

EU contribution:

- €20.3 million

EBRD loan:

- €79.2 million

Beneficiary contribution:

- €6 million

2018 CONNECTIVITY PROJECT

Orient/East-Med Corridor: The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – Albania CVIII Road Interconnection, Bukojčani – Kičevo Subsection

This investment project¹ will build a 12.9 km-long motorway on a section of the Orient/East-Med Core Network (Corridor VIII) in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, between the village of Bukojčani and the town of Kičevo. This subsection is part of a larger, 42 km motorway planned between Gostivar and Kičevo. The two towns are now connected by a road which was built almost 40 years ago and which has undergone little rehabilitation in recent years. It consists of a single carriageway with two two-way lanes, and goes through both flat and mountainous terrain of up to 1,200 meters. The travel speed is limited to 40-70 km/h on most of the route and the road cannot safely meet existing and future traffic demand.

The new motorway will be built on a new alignment, which would allow for travel speeds of 100-120 km/h, as well as limit the traffic impact on the rural settlements and on the environment along the current route.



View of Kičevo (a town with more than 27,000 inhabitants) and main thoroughfare.

Results:

- 12.9 km-long motorway section, built according to modern safety standards.



Existing A2 motorway section, close to Skopje.

¹ Subject to a final decision by the European Commission and the relevant budgetary authorities.

Estimated Start Date:

- Mid-2019

Estimated End Date:

- End of 2022

Estimated Loan Repayment Period:

- 25 years



Map of Corridor VIII, with Bukojčani – Kičevo subsection.

Corridor VIII connects Tirana, Durrës, and Vlorë in Albania to Skopje in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and then both countries to Bulgaria, via the border crossing point in Deve Bair. The Gostivar – Kičevo segment is one of the key sections, located on the route to Albania. Construction is planned to take place in three phases: Bukojčani – Kičevo; Gostivar – Gorna Gjonovica; and Gorna Gjonovica – Bukojčani.

This investment project covers the first phase, which is now at detailed design stage. The environmental and social impact assessment is ongoing, based on a strategic environmental assessment carried out in 2015. Land ownership issues are to be addressed in the coming period and a stakeholder engagement plan and a resettlement action plan will be prepared, in accordance with EBRD requirements.

The designs for the remaining two segments, Gostivar – Gorna Gjonovica; and Gorna Gjonovica – Bukojčani, are about to commence, with funding from the Western Balkans Investment Framework.

Once completed, the new road from Gostivar to Kičevo will connect to the existing motorway to Skopje (55 km) as well as to the highway that is being built to Ohrid (58 km).

Benefits

- Substantial decrease in travel time between Kičevo and Gostivar, with a direct reduction of travel times to and from Tirana.
- Reduction in accident rate and vehicle operating costs for more than 520,000 people working and/or living along the Gostivar to Kičevo route.
- More than 280 jobs created during construction as well as operation and maintenance periods.
- Improved trade flows with countries in the region and thus a positive impact on the broader economy of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.