Bringing high speed rail travel to the French Rhine-Rhône region

2007-FR-24070-P
Part of Priority Project 24

**Project description**
The project is a key part of [Priority Project 24](#) and consists of the eastern branch of the French Rhine-Rhône high speed rail line between Dijon and Mulhouse.

It will connect the Paris region to eastern France and to Switzerland as well as Germany. It will also eventually link eastern France to the high speed line between Paris, southern France, Italy, and Spain (Priority Project 24).

The project concerns the construction of phase 1 of the branch, which involves building 140km of new high speed railway line between Villers-Les-Pots (near Dijon) and Petit-Croix (near Belfort). The works involved in the project include:

- 13 viaducts – one of which will span 1,340 m
- 160 bridges
- a 2 km tunnel
- Two brand new railway stations – Besançon Franche Comté TGV and Belfort-Montbéliard TGV.

**Benefits of the project**
The line will allow a faster connection for passengers between Dijon and major eastern French cities such as Strasbourg and Mulhouse, as well as providing a faster rail connection into Switzerland.

The new high speed line will result in significant time savings for passengers:

- Dijon-Strasbourg: +/- 2 hours (compared with 3h40min today)
- Dijon-Mulhouse: 1h05min (a saving of 1h35min)
Dijon-Zurich: 2h25min (compared with over 4 hours today)

Further time savings are expected once phase 2 of the project is completed.

The Rhine-Rhône high speed line is the seventh high speed TGV line in the French network. Its opening to commercial traffic in mid-December 2011 will have a significant impact on a large number of other train routes in France, directly benefitting 12 out of the 21 French regions. By shortening the distances between economic and urban centres along the Rhine and Rhône, such as Rotterdam, Frankfurt and Lyon, the line will also boost mobility in the regions it serves and will therefore help to develop economic activity and tourism. Around 12 million passengers per year are expected to use the line once it is up and running.

Member States involved:

France

Implementation schedule:

Start date: January 2007
End date: December 2011

Beneficiaries & Implementing bodies:

Ministry of Sustainable Development
Réseau Ferré de France
Additional information:

- LGV Rhine-Rhône project website
- Rhine-Rhône project brochure: pdf (12.2 MB)

Visit the info page about this project

Picture Gallery: