

Better transport links in the Western Balkans

Upgrading a vital motorway

Transport infrastructure throughout the Western Balkans is generally poor in both quality and capacity. It has suffered from war and a lack of maintenance and investment. This has left the Western Balkans behind in their transport development when compared to other nearby European countries.

ECONOMY AND INTEGRATION

The provision of good and effective transport links is important for the efficient movement of people, goods and services. They are essential for a country's economy and growth and equally essential for the region's economy and integration.

As part of the necessary improvements, the EU is funding work to extend Bosnia and Herzegovina's key north-south motorway.

The route is part of the Pan-European network of inland corridor roads. It runs from the Port of Ploce, the main sea gateway for the Bosnian economy, via the capital Sarajevo, and onto Osijek, in the Republic of Croatia. This is the junction with the Pan European Corridor which runs from Austria to Greece and on to Hungary.

BETTER ROAD LINKS

Bosnia and Herzegovina's authorities have identified the motorway as the top strategic development project of the country. National road communications are upgraded, which also helps build important links with neighbouring countries and the EU, thereby increasing the efficiency of major transport links for people and goods.

A 37 km section has already been completed, with more under construction and designs for further sections in place.



Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)

Western Balkans

IPA – AN INVESTMENT IN EUROPE. AN INVESTMENT IN SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY.

EU GRANTS OF EUR 2.5 MILLION

An initial grant of EUR 0.5 million from DG Enlargement was for feasibility studies, tendering and procurement. A subsequent grant of EUR 2 million, managed by the European Investment Bank, was approved under the Western Balkans Investment Framework.

BENEFITS

The motorway, running through Bosnia and Herzegovina and into Croatia, is also useful for the Member States. It helps to complete the Trans-European transport networks and it facilitates more efficient, safer and more environmentally friendly transport. Travelling time is shorter, there are fewer accidents, and drivers do not use as much fuel as they did before.

PROJECT DETAILS –

Bosnia and Herzegovina motorway corridor Vc (corridor five, part c)

Partners:

JP Autoceste FBiH & JP Autoputeri RS

EU contribution in €:

2 grants totalling EUR 2.5 million

Estimated total investment:

EUR 497 million

Estimated loan via European Investment Bank:

EUR 241 million

Start date:

April 2009

End date:

March 2014

Results:

37 km of motorway completed, with more under construction and design for further sections

Techniques:

Feasibility studies, economic and environmental assessments; support in tendering

Project website:

http://www.wbif-ipf.eu/index.php?page_id=377&id=30

