



16th Road Technical Committee meeting

19 – 20 June 2024, Portoroz, Slovenia

Agreed Conclusions

1. The 16th Road Technical Committee took place back-to-back with the TRANSPORT ENGINEERING DAYS 2024, organised on 18 – 19 June 2024, by DIPS in cooperation with Transport Community and NK PIARC Slovenia, with the professional contributions from all transport modes, while regarding the road sector, the focus was on road infrastructure development and road traffic flows and performance of the Western Balkans network, climate change and weather-based decision-making.
2. The RTC members noted the absence of Ms Zana Josa from Albania, Mr Goran Buhac from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ms Barbara Pilastro, from Montenegro and Mr Marjan Kopevski from North Macedonia. The meeting was attended by the representatives of Georgia and Republic of Moldova while was noted the absence of Ukraine.
3. The Agenda of the meeting was adopted without comments.
4. RTC members welcomed the presentations and actively engaged in discussions with Mr Franjo Bošnjak - JP Autoceste (Bosnia and Hercegovina) and Josip Lazarevski - Public Enterprises for State Roads – PESR (North Macedonia), about Tolling Interoperability in Western Balkans. The common conclusion is that the region has made efforts to establish interoperability, but that additional efforts are needed.
5. The TCT Secretariat presented the current state of EIP (Economic and Investment Plan) Road projects, mentioning that soon Transport Observatory Database/Information System (TODIS) will need to be updated with actual data and that the Single Project Pipeline (SPP) should be updated, as well. During the discussion, it was highlighted the problematic issues requiring updates and/or specific actions:
 - a. **Albania**
 - ❖ *Flagship 3, Project 1 (the "Blue Highway")*
 - Tirana bypass is considerably delayed, with the significant increase in the budget.
 - Till the end of June 2024 the first section of the AIH corridor, awarded through concession, should be opened to the public under tolling regime.

Note: Information on the cancellation of the concession for the following sections: Muriqan – Fier and Millot – Fier to be provided to the Transport Community Secretariat by 10 July 2024.

b. Bosnia and Herzegovina

❖ *Flagship 2, Project 1 (Corridor Vc Motorway)*

- Vukosavlje - Johovac section is still on hold. Loan negotiations are ongoing (they still need to be approved by the EIB Board of Directors). The grant signature is on hold. EIB loan negotiation is also on hold.
- Vranduk – Ponirak section considerably delayed.

Note: Information on the progress of the tenders for the following sections: Putnikovo Brdo – Medakovo, Medakovo – Ozimice, Ozimice – Poprikuse, Nemila – Vranduk, Ivan – Ovčari, Ovčari – Prenj, Mostar South – Kvanj Tunnel, Kvanj Tunnel – Buna to be provided to the Transport Community Secretariat by 10 July 2024.

❖ *Flagship 2, Project 3 (Sarajevo – Podgorica connection)*

- Common agreement with Montenegro for joint tender that will apparently include the section Foca - Hum and the cross-border bridge between two countries. The bridge will be financed 50:50 by both countries based on the concluded interstate Agreement.
- There is a reached high level agreement on mutual effort for further implementation of the road route Pljevlja – Gorazde, as well.

c. Kosovo*

❖ *Flagship 1, Project 1 (The “Peace Highway” – Nis-Pristina)*

- Section: Pristina – Merdare
Regarding the Peace Highway project from Pristina to Nis, specifically the Pristina - Merdare section, there have been no further developments. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Infrastructure has continued with the widening of the existing road on the Pristina - Podujevo segment, where half of this segment has already been completed. The other half is expected to be completed by the end of this year. Therefore, we will have a widened road from Pristina to Podujevo with 2+2 lanes over a length of 23 km.

d. Montenegro

❖ *Flagship 2, Project 2 (Bar-Boljare highway)*

- The revision of the Feasibility Study (2022) is ongoing (the revision shall not look into the chosen technical solutions), expecting its soon finalisation.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ opinion on Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

- Matesevo-Andrijevisa section is at the very beginning stage – the request for the prequalification for the selection of the contractor, based on Yellow FIDIC book and EBRD procurement rules, has been launched. The implementation will be financed through the blending model (EBRD loan, grant, national budget).
- Preparation of new conceptual design for the section bypassing the Skadar lake and with the definition of new contact point between the Bar-Boljare highway and Adriatic-Ioannian highway (continental variant) started in May. This conceptual design is being financed by the national budget.
- The tender for the preparation of the preliminary design for the Andrijevisa-Berane-Boljare section has been launched.

❖ *Flagship 2, Project 3 (Sarajevo - Podgorica connection)*

- Grant for project preparation shall be cancelled, as the outcomes are not of satisfactory quality, and the project furthermore shall be funded by state budget.
- The joint tender with Bosnia will include the cross-border bridge and access road on Bosnian side, and this tender is under preparation.

❖ *Flagship 3, Project 1 (the "Blue Highway")*

- The corridor alignment in Boka Bay area has not been yet established, the final decision will impact greatly the overall layout.
- The tender for the preparation of the conceptual design of crossing the Boka Bay has been launched.

e. Serbia

❖ *Flagship 1, Project 1 (The "Peace Highway")*

- Section 1 of Nis - Plocnik Section was opened for traffic on July 2023. Expected deadline for tender announcement is: section 4 - October 2024, section 2 - March 2025, section 3 - May 2025.
- For Section Plocnik - Merdare the preliminary designs of a full profile were prepared, for which the audit committee issued reports on the performed expert control, where the documentation is conditionally accepted with the obligation of the Employer to resubmit the design for building permit with the feasibility study for expert control, before submitting the application for the building permit.

❖ *Flagship 2, Project 2 (Belgrade – Boljare highway)*

- For section Preljina – Pozega the approval of the spatial document is expected in 2024.

6. Updated Single Project Pipelines and any other information related to project updates to be submitted in writing to the Transport Community Secretariat by 10 July 2024.

7. During the meeting, the TCT Secretariat presented in brief the Guidelines, the Grant Application Form and deadlines related to the Safe and Sustainable Transport Programme where the World Bank is a leading IFI.
8. Regional Partners briefly presented the status and progress made with the implementation of the Road Action Plan. Overall the progress remains slow across all measures, except the preparation and approval of the ITS Strategies. TCT Secretariat encouraged the RTC members to proceed faster with the approval of the legislation and strategies. Special attention needs to be provided to the incorporation of the findings of the TCT Study on Climate resilience within the activities of the public road authorities/enterprises.
9. Following up on the discussions during the NAPCORE presentation in the 15th meeting of the Road Technical Committee, the RTC members welcomed the proposal for a study visit to Norway, to share best practices related to the transposition and implementation of the ITS Directive and Delegated Regulations. TCT Secretariat will draft the areas and interests and share them with the members for their input.
10. The Transport Community Secretariat will send the request for the latest progress of the measures of the Road Action Plan and revised Annex I.3. RTC member's contributions are to be sent in writing to the Transport Community Secretariat by 10 July 2024.
11. Ms. Nerejda Hoxha, Road Coordinator, presented a new generation of the Road Action Plan covering the period 2025-2027. As the deadline for comments from the regional partners relating to a new generation of the Road Action Plan was set for 30 May 2024, and during the meeting deadlines for concrete measures within the Road Action Plan were discussed, a new generation of the Action Plan has been adopted, on the technical level, by the Road Technical Committee.
12. RTC members were urged to send the information on the survey on road maintenance budget allocation and disbursement at the latest by 31 July 2024.
13. Mr. Nedim Begovic, Green/Multimodal/Innovative Transport Solutions Desk Officer, presented the main deliverables of Green Mobility Summit, Sarajevo, 6-7 June 2024. Also, the regional partners gave a short overview of the measures defined within the Smart and Sustainable Mobility Strategy, and all contributions will be sent in writing to TCT Secretariat by each Regional Partner. During the discussion, it has been emphasized that better coordination between the ministries in charge of environmental issues and transport is necessary.
14. Mr. Darko Miceski, Road and Road Safety Desk Officer within the PIU of the TC, held separate meetings with the representatives from Moldova and Gorgia on the next generation Action Plans and possible TA for the Observing Participants. The deadline for the Observing Participants



comments on the next generation of Action Plan to be submitted to the Head of PIU and PIU Road and Road Safety Desk Officer by 27 June 2024.

15. The next RTC meeting will take place in Turin, in November 2024.