



Mediterranean Corridor (R2a): Bosnia and Herzegovina – Croatia Interconnection¹

Partners:

- Ministry of Transport and Communications of Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Motorways Company of the Republic of Srpska (JP Autoputevi Republike Srpske)

EU contribution:

- €6.8 million (20% of investment cost)
- €0.6 million (project preparation and institutional support)

Estimated total investment:

- €34.4 million

Estimated EIB loan:

- €10.8 million (out of an existing €65 million loan)

Beneficiary contribution and other grants:

- €16.8 million

Transport

The extension of the Mediterranean Corridor into the Western Balkans along Route 2a (R2a) spans 239 km, from Okučani in Croatia to Banja Luka and Lašva in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It connects Bosnia and Herzegovina (the Republic of Srpska) to the main transport routes in Croatia leading to the Adriatic ports.

The Mediterranean Corridor (R2a) integrates the Western Balkans into the transport flows which link the Iberian Peninsula to the Hungarian – Ukrainian border. Consequently, it accounts for most of the freight and passenger traffic in the Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The present investment project² 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 section.



View of Banja Luka – Gradiška motorway, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Results:

- Completion of the Banja Luka – Gradiška motorway section, including the cross-border areas.
- Modern and efficient border crossing facilities on the Banja Luka – Gradiška section of the Mediterranean Corridor (R2a).
- Cross-border bridge in Gradiška.



Upgraded interchange in Mahovljanska, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

¹ This investment project in Bosnia and Herzegovina is subject to a full assessment by the national investment committee in the beginning of September 2015.

² Subject to a final decision by the budgetary authorities.

Estimated Start Date:

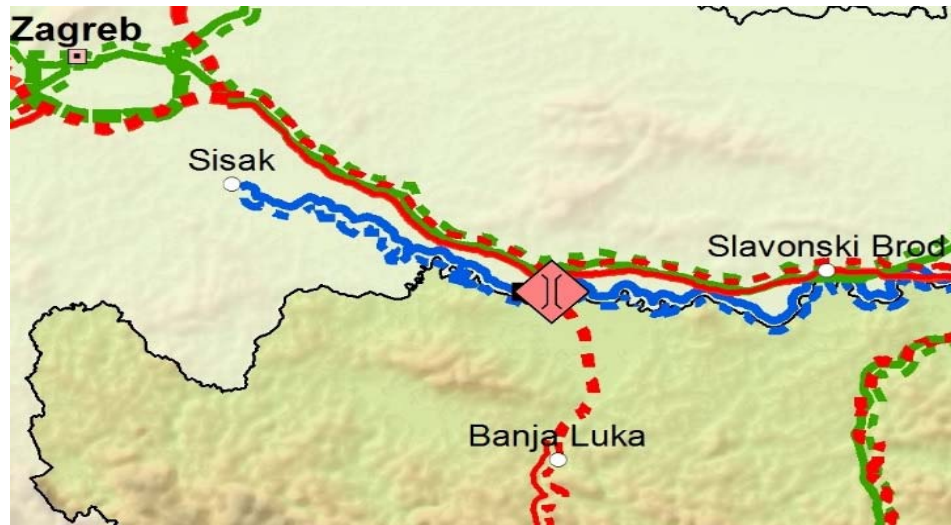
- First quarter of 2017

Estimated End Date:

- End of 2018

Estimated Loan Repayment Period:

- 17 years



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

Mediterranean Corridor (R2a) currently runs through the urban area of Gradiška for approximately 2km, with the existing 260m two-way bridge over the Sava leading to a small car park in the centre of the town. 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 will be built about 3 km to the west of the existing bridge and outside the urban area of Gradiška. It has been designed to accommodate a significant increase in overall traffic, projected to rise from 12,000 vehicles per day today to about 28,450 in 2024.

The new border crossing facilities will ease social and environmental pressures on Gradiška, by diverting traffic outside the city centre. It will also trigger reductions in journey times and vehicle operating costs.

Building the new bridge is expected to reduce border crossing times from 5 to 2 minutes for cars and from 30 to 12 minutes for trucks. It will adequately accommodate the traffic generated by the commissioning of a new motorway on this route in November 2011.

The overall costs of this project includes half of the shorter version of the bridge (€10 million), border crossing facilities (€16 million), as well motorway connections (€8.4 million).

Financing arrangements include €10.8 million from an overall €65 million EIB loan already in place for this motorway.

Estimates suggest economic benefits to the economies of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia could reach €79 million by 2024.

The funding granted to Bosnia and Herzegovina will be complemented and coordinated with EU financing allocated to the Croatian part of the project under Regional Funds.

Benefits

- Safe and efficient road transport for more than 2,400 vehicles/day.
- Passenger and freight carrying capacity significantly improved, along with reduced travel time.
- Faster border crossing for cars and trucks between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.
- Lower operational and maintenance costs for motorway users and operators.
- 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.