



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: WORKS ON CORRIDOR Vc PROGRESS DESPITE COVID-19 DISRUPTIONS

Corridor Vc is the most ambitious investment programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina, requiring significant financial and human resources. So far, the European Union has allocated more than €200 million in grants under the Connectivity Agenda for the construction of 11 motorway subsections on Corridor Vc in the country. The grants are channelled through the Western Balkans Investment Framework and, together with loans from the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, help finance investments of more than €1.1 billion.

Despite the disruptions brought by the COVID-19 outbreak, all the construction sites are active, safety measures have been introduced, and the works are ongoing. The most advanced connectivity projects are Buna – Počitelj subsection, which is planned to be finished in June, and Svilaj – Odžak, where the motorway section has already been completed and the cross-border bridge is at final stage. The construction sites for Rudanka – Johovac, Počitelj – Zvirovići, Ponirak – Vraca/Zenica Tunnel and Zenica Tunnel - Donja Gračanica opened in 2019, while the digging of Ivan Tunnel commenced in March.

TOTAL ESTIMATED
INVESTMENT
€1.1bn

EU GRANTS
€202.7m

INTERNATIONAL
FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS



BENEFICIARY



SAFETY MEASURES ON CORRIDOR Vc CONSTRUCTION SITES

The authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the contractors have jointly designed and put in place a health and safety protocol, allowing the works to continue on all the subsections open. Workers are provided with protective equipment and follow safety and healthcare restrictions, their health condition is monitored with non-contact thermometers, and the sites are regularly disinfected and function as temporary isolated zones.

Mr Semir Muslić
Site Supervisor at Ivan Tunnel

'We try to reorganise our work as much as we can and keep going as we would in normal circumstances. Construction sites are isolated zones, we work a couple of days in a row and rarely go home, to reduce the risk of exposure. All workers here are like a family; most important for us is to stay healthy and keep our jobs.'



CORRIDOR Vc FIGURES
(EU CO-FINANCED SECTIONS)

Total investment (est.):
€1.1bn

EU Grants*:
€202.7m

EIB and EBRD loans:
€837m

Beneficiary contribution:
€88.5m

11 subsections
supported by WBIF



68.3 km of motorway,
including 1 cross-border bridge,
supported by EU grants



18 bridges, 7 tunnels,
9 interchanges, 4 viaducts



5,000 - 7,500 jobs created



* Excluding fees.

WORKS UNDER CONSTRUCTION / CASE STUDIES



1 SVILAJ – ODŽAK / SVILAJ BRIDGE SECTION

The 660 m cross-border bridge between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia is close to completion; horizontal signalling, testing and necessary inspections are to be finalised in May. The 10.7 km motorway section between Svilaj and Odžak was completed in December 2017, and the works on border facilities in BiH are due to begin in May.

660 m cross-border bridge and border facilities in BiH;
10.7 km motorway, 2 interchanges, rest area and toll station
Total investment (est.): €109.9m
EU grant: €24.9m
EIB and EBRD loans: €67m
Beneficiary contribution: €18m
Timeline: 2014 - 2020



2 JOHOVAC – RUDANKA SECTION

Works are also progressing well on the connectivity project between Tovira and Kostajnica, with the construction of a 6 km motorway on the Svilaj to Doboj section of Corridor Vc, including two interchanges at Johovac and Rudanka.

6 km motorway, including 2 interchanges and 1 bridge
Total investment (est.): €90.9m
EU grant: €14.9m
EBRD loan: €70m
Beneficiary contribution: €6m
Timeline: 2019 - 2021



3 TARČIN – IVAN SUBSECTION II / IVAN TUNNEL

The drilling works for the double-tube tunnel at Ivan started in March 2020. The tunnel is part of the Tarčin – Ivan motorway subsection, which connects the (already built) Vlakovo – Tarčin and Ivan – Ovčari subsections.

1.7 km long double-tube tunnel
Total investment (est.): €63m
EU grant: €11.5m
EBRD loan: €50m
Beneficiary contribution: €1.5m
Timeline: 2019 - 2022

WORKS UNDER CONSTRUCTION



1 PONIRAK – VRACA / ZENICA TUNNEL SUBSECTION

2.8 km motorway, including 2.4 km twin tunnel
Total investment (est.): €69.6m
EU grant: €19m
EIB Loans: €50m
Beneficiary Contribution: €0.6m
Timeline: 2019 - 2022



2 ZENICA TUNNEL – DONJA GRAČANICA SUBSECTION

4.1 km motorway, including 1 tunnel, 2 viaducts, 1 interchange and a toll station
Total investment (est.): €76.1m
EU grant: €12.1m
EBRD loan: €56.7m
Beneficiary contribution: €7.3m
Timeline: 2019 - 2021



3 BUNA – POČITELJ SUBSECTION

7.2 km motorway
Total investment (est.): €35.1m
EU grant: €8.8m
EBRD loan: €23.3m
Beneficiary contribution: €3m
Timeline: 2018 - 2020



4 POČITELJ – ZVIROVIĆI SUBSECTION

11.1 km motorway, 4 bridges (including 945 m Počitelj bridge), 1 tunnel and 1 interchange
Total investment (est.): €111.2m
EU grant: €5m
EIB loan: €100m
Beneficiary contribution: €6.2m
Timeline: 2019 - 2021

1 RUDANKA - PUTNIKOVO BRDO SUBSECTION

5.2 km motorway, including 2 twin tunnels, 1 bridge and 1 viaduct
Total investment (est.): €190.9m
EU grant: €37.9m
EBRD loan: €150m
Beneficiary contribution: €3m
Timeline: 2020 - 2023

2 PUTNIKOVO BRDO - MEDAKOVO SUBSECTION

8.5 km motorway, including 7 bridges, 2 interchanges with a toll station and Traffic Control and Management Center
Total investment (est.): €86.3m
EU grant: €15.6m
EBRD loan: €60m
Beneficiary contribution: €10.7m
Timeline: 2021 - 2022

3 POPRIKUŠE - NEMILA SUBSECTION

1.85 km motorway and 3.65 km twin tunnel, 2 bridges, 1 interchange, 1 viaduct and a toll station
Total investment (est.): €215.2m
EU grant: €41.2m
EIB and EBRD loans: €160m
Beneficiary contribution: €14m
Timeline: 2021 - 2025

4 TARČIN - IVAN SUBSECTION I

4.9 km motorway, including 2 bridges
Total investment (est.): €80m
EU grant: €11.8m
EIB loan: €50m
Beneficiary contribution: €18.2m
Timeline: 2020 - 2022

WORKS TO START IN 2020 / 2021



MITIGATION MEASURES

Whilst works continue under the current challenging conditions, several potential challenges would need to be addressed if the COVID-19 related restrictions continue:

- Continued protection and engagement of construction workers;
- Procurement and supply of construction material;
- Supply of protective equipment for workers;
- Supply of spare parts for construction machinery.

The EU continues to support its Western Balkan partners through various initiatives, such as the EU Solidarity Fund and the Green Corridor, enabling easier supply and transport of goods both in the region and with the EU.



Ambassador Johann Sattler

Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina

'The EU has allocated more than €200 million of grants under the Connectivity Agenda to help BiH accelerate the construction of the Corridor Vc in BiH. The construction works did not stop even during the coronavirus pandemic. The protective measures put in place in all active construction sites are a very positive sign as they mean retaining jobs in these difficult times. Large public investment programmes most importantly generate new jobs and acceleration of construction is more than ever necessary to also mitigate the adverse impact of the pandemic. In addition to Corridor Vc, the EU co-finances other important infrastructure projects in BiH, such as the construction of Gradiška bridge over Sava river on the Core network Route 2a and the rehabilitation of the Brčko Port.'

CORRIDOR Vc BENEFITS

Improved accessibility for more than 1.5 million people living along the Corridor Vc



Increased travel speeds from 60 km/h to 130 km/h on the motorway



Lower road accident rates and vehicle operating costs



Improved trade flows within the wider region



A JOINT PARTNERSHIP OF:

IN COOPERATION WITH:

BILATERAL DONORS

BENEFICIARIES

www.wbif.eu



Minister Vojin Mitrović
Ministry of Communications and
Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina

'Although most of the activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina have stopped because of the pandemic, we have managed to keep these large infrastructure projects progressing. All the contractors engaged on Corridor Vc have taken the necessary precautionary measures to minimise the risk of coronavirus spread while enabling the progress of works on the construction sites.'



Minister Denis Lasić
Federal Ministry of Transport and
Communications FBiH

'The construction works on all sections of Corridor Vc continue at full scale without significant difficulties, with due regard to the safety measures put in place to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. We work closely with all the contractors on implementing the actions that must be followed at construction sites to reduce the risk of jeopardizing the progress of the works.'



Minister Đorđe Popović
Ministry of Transport and
Communications
of the Republika Srpska

'The Government of Republika Srpska, despite the current crisis caused by the coronavirus, which will have significant consequences on the economy and budget, does not give up its strategic projects, the planned dynamics and timeline of their implementation. We hope that for all these projects, as before, we will have the support of the European Union, and the planned grant funds for transport projects will not be reduced.'



**Students of the Polytechnic Faculty
University of Zenica**

'To be able to visit the construction site of the Zenica tunnel is an ideal opportunity for us to connect theory to practice. Projects like this one confirm that we made the right decision in choosing our future profession.'