



# Road bypass for the city of Vlorë in Albania

**€56.16m**  
Total project cost

**€18m**  
EIB loan



**€20.16m**  
EU grant • IPA 2011

**€18m**  
EBRD loan



The bypass for the city of Vlorë in Albania is a vital connection in south-western Albania aiming at improvement of road transport conditions in Vlorë town and surrounding areas, including the Albania south coastal road. Bypass around Vlorë, the third biggest city in Albania, is part of the Adriatic-Ionian Corridor ('Blue Highway'), a coastal route from Italy to Greece. The project is one of the Albanian Government's priorities rolling out sustainable transport systems.

## Project background

The overall objective of the project is to improve road transport conditions in Vlorë and its surrounding areas, including the south coastal road from Vlorë to Orikum. Currently traffic from Fier and heading towards Orikum and points south must traverse Vlorë City, through streets of varying widths and structural conditions and onto the south coastal road. The south coastal road follows the coastline and the continuous seaside resorts between Vlorë and Orikum. In the summer there is significant traffic congestion. Over the past years various projects have been implemented in the area such as the construction of the "Vlorë Waterfront", improving of the roads within the city of Vlorë, parallel roads, etc. Thus there is a tourist upgrade in the area, making the implementation of the Vlorë Bypass of great significance and immediate priority.

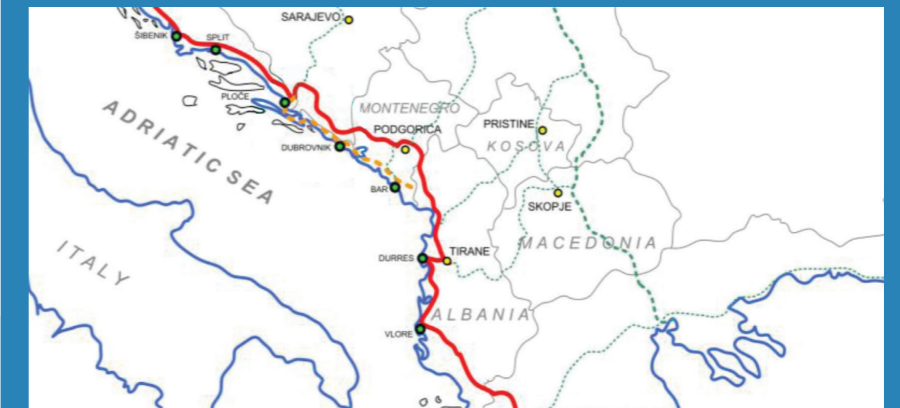
## About the Adriatic-Ionian Highway

The Adriatic-Ionian Highway is an indicative extension of the TEN-T Core Network to the Western Balkans. Its completion will connect Central Europe and Northern Italy with Ionian peninsula via Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania and Greece. The Adriatic-Ionian Highway stretches along the coast of the Adriatic and Ionian Seas, from Trieste in Italy to Kalamata in Greece. The estimated length of the Highway is about 1,550 km.

Under the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans 2021-2027, specifically under the investment priority Sustainable transport, Flagship 3 - Connecting the Coastal Regions, the EU is financing the Adriatic - Ionian Highway with a Technical Assistance grant for the feasibility study and associated designs.



**Flagship 3**  
Connecting the Coastal Regions



**85%** completed →

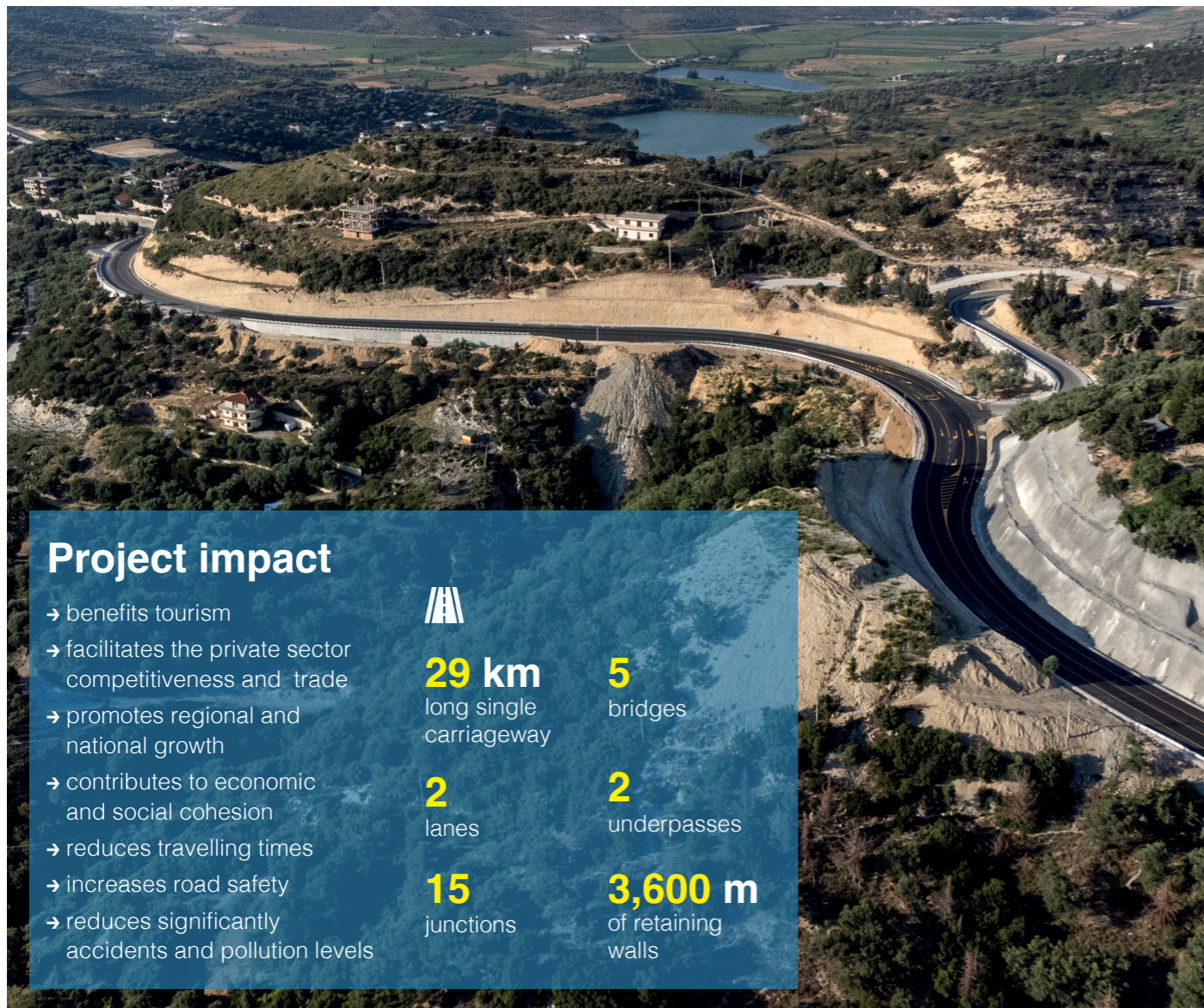
## Project status

As of 30 June 2022, the main works of the 29-km of the Vlorë Bypass have been completed, however with some limitations. Full asphalt layering has been placed on the first 10 km, one of the three planned layers for the second 10 km, and two of three layers for the last 9 km. All the structures have been completed, as well as the majority of connections (roundabouts, junctions), safety measures, markings and signs.

The road was opened for traffic on 7 July 2022 in order to address increased summer traffic and the congestion in Vlorë town, where the traffic was directed to the south coast of Albania. The majority of the remaining works will be executed following the summer season of 2022 and by means of careful scheduling and traffic transportation plans with the approval of the law enforcement authorities.

## About Sustainable transport

The EU will prioritise projects and programmes on the indicative extension of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) core network which are of strategic interest to the region and to the EU. The EU will improve core transport corridors in the Western Balkan region, to make them faster and comply with EU standards. Better transport will facilitate trade and drive sustainable economic growth. Connectivity reforms and simplified border crossing procedures are key.



## Project impact

- benefits tourism
- facilitates the private sector competitiveness and trade
- promotes regional and national growth
- contributes to economic and social cohesion
- reduces travelling times
- increases road safety
- reduces significantly accidents and pollution levels



**29 km**  
long single  
carriageway

**5**  
bridges

**2**  
lanes

**2**  
underpasses

**15**  
junctions

**3,600 m**  
of retaining  
walls