



This project is funded by the European Union



## NORTH MACEDONIA

### Partners:

- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Transport and Communications
- Secretariat for European Affairs – NIPAC Office
- Public Enterprise for State Roads
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

### Estimated total investment:

- €13.67 million

### EU contribution:

- €2.47 million

### EBRD loan:

- €10.00 million

### Beneficiary contribution:

- €1.00 million

### Other grants:

- €0.20 million

Transport

## CONNECTIVITY PROJECT

### Orient/East-Med Corridor: North Macedonia – Bulgaria Corridor VIII Road Interconnection, Kriva Palanka – Deve Bair Section

This investment project concerns the rehabilitation and expansion to three lanes of a 13.2 km-long single two-lane carriageway road section on the Orient/East-Med Core Network (Corridor VIII) in North Macedonia, from the town of Kriva Palanka to the Deve Bair border crossing point with Bulgaria.

Travel conditions on the existing road are poor, with a maximum speed of 50 km/h along most of its length, inappropriate drainage and rest areas, as well as several sharp curves.

The works involve both rehabilitation and reconstruction, expanding the road to add a third lane, including on three existing bridges. This will allow for more efficient and safer driving for the people living along the Kriva Palanka – Deve Bair route as well as for those transiting to and from Bulgaria.



Existing border crossing point in Deve Bair.

### Results:

- 13.2 km-long reconstructed road section, including a new third lane, rest area, road marking and signalling as well as drainage.
- Expansion of three bridges to include a third lane.



Existing road through Kriva Palanka, towards Deve Bair.



Map of Corridor VIII, with Kriva Palanka – Deve Bair section.

**Start date:**

- February 2020

**Estimated end date:**

- December 2021

Corridor VIII connects Tirana, Durrës, and Vlorë in Albania to Skopje in North Macedonia and then to Bulgaria, via the border crossing point in Deve Bair. Thus, the Kriva Palanka – Deve Bair segment is one of the key sections located on this route.

The section to be rehabilitated and expanded under this project is part of the Government’s plan to modernise fully the route, with works close to completion and/or already planned on a significant part of Corridor VIII (e.g. Kumanovo – Rankovce road rehabilitation, Rankovce – Kriva Palanka expressway, Kičevo – Ohrid motorway).

The project is at implementation stage, with detailed design, urban, environmental and construction permits already secured. An environmental and social impact assessment report has also been developed as well. Land ownership issues have been addressed and a stakeholder engagement plan and a resettlement action plan have been prepared, in accordance with EBRD requirements.

A Project Implementation Unit (PIU) has been established within the Public Enterprise for State Roads to oversee the implementation of this project.

**Benefits**

- Substantial decrease in travel time along the Kriva Palanka – Deve Bair route.
- Reduction in accident rate and vehicle operating costs for more than 2,000 people working and/or living along the route as well as for almost 3,000 people who daily cross the border.
- More than 144 jobs created during construction as well as operation and maintenance periods.
- Improved trade flows with countries in the region and thus a positive impact on the broader economy of North Macedonia.