



Technical Assistance to Connectivity in the Western Balkans - 2 NEAR/2022/EA-RP/0081

ALBANIA

Tirana Bypass: South Section (Vaqarr - Farkë)

Partners:

- Albanian Road Authority (ARA)
- Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Budget of Technical Assistance:

- Euro 255,870

EU contribution¹:

- As above (100%)

Technical Assistance provided by:

- CONNECTA 2 (Technical Assistance to Connectivity in the Western Balkans - 2)

Transport

The Tirana Bypass: South Section (Vaqarr - Farkë) is a strategic infrastructure project that forms part of the wider Tirana bypass corridor. The initiative supports Albania's national transport development goals and strengthens regional connectivity through the TEN-T Core Network. As the capital's southern gateway, this section of the bypass is essential to reducing congestion, improving logistics and facilitating safer, faster transit for domestic and international traffic.

Being part of the Adriatic-Ionian Highway, also referred to as the Blue Highway, the Tirana bypass complements the investments which will create a seamless route from Trieste in Italy to Greece, while branching out to Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro and Albania. With a total length of approximately 315 kilometers, the Albanian section of the Blue Highway will play a vital role in boosting regional trade, export activity and tourism.

Located in the central, most populated part of Albania (with 1/3 of the country's population living in it) and the area considered the backbone of the country's road network, the bypass will also facilitate connection between the Tirana - Durrës and Tirana - Elbasan motorways.

The Tirana bypass stretches for a length of 21 kilometers, from Kashar at the north, through Vaqarr in the south, up to Farkë to the east. Following the decision of the Albanian authorities to develop the Kashar - Vaqarr section as a standalone project, the existing documentation for the Tirana bypass needed to be adjusted to align with the scope of the Vaqarr - Farkë section in order to secure investment and facilitate procurement for the construction of the said southern part.



In response to the revised project definition, the CONNECTA 2 technical assistance assignment focused on tailoring the available documentation to meet IFI financing requirements. The ultimate objective was procurement-ready documents for the Tirana Bypass: South Section (Vaqarr - Farkë) project, which is to be financed by the EBRD.

Results achieved by the TA:

- Revised detailed design package for the IFI-financed segment;
- Updated bill of quantities;
- General technical report for the southern section including a cut-off point with the adjacent road section;
- Clarified cost estimates in line with revised Albanian pricing systems;
- Climate resilience study to comply with EBRD rules;
- Revised tender documentation;
- Assistance with preparation of an application for a WBIF investment grant.

¹EU contribution concerns only Technical Assistance services for project development

Start date: April, 2025

End date: February, 2026

Key recommendations – further actions:

- Monitoring of the several phases of construction of the whole bypass



Benefits expected due to Technical Assistance:

- **Streamlined Procurement:**
 - Delivery of procurement-ready documentation for the targeted segment;
 - Clarified design boundaries aligned with IFI financing.
- **Improved Cost Accuracy:**
 - Updated cost estimates reflecting both regional benchmarks and national regulations;
 - Efficient BoQ structure for focused procurement.
- **Design Efficiency and Consistency:**
 - Integration of previous CONNECTA 1 experience and methodologies;
 - Integration of climate resilience, road safety, and environmental mitigation measures during construction and operation phases;
 - Better coordination among technical volumes and design elements.
- **Regulatory Alignment:**
 - Compliance with Albanian DCM No. 629 (2015) and DCM No. 216 (2023);
 - Avoidance of design duplication and cost fragmentation.

Impacts anticipated:

- **Enhanced Infrastructure Readiness:**
 - Accelerated tendering and procurement for the southern section;
 - Increased investor confidence through scoped, approved design.
- **Reduced Project Delays:**
 - Efficient segregation of sections for phased implementation;
 - Early resolution of technical and administrative gaps.
- **Economic and Operational Clarity:**
 - Focused investment planning;
 - Better alignment with long-term transport objectives;
 - Promote the bypass as a catalyst for economic growth, logistics efficiency, and urban decongestion in the Tirana metropolitan area;
 - Ensure smooth integration of the bypass with the Adriatic-Ionian Corridor.
- **Regulatory and Financial Alignment:**
 - Improved consistency with Albanian cost estimation regulations and IFI expectations;
 - Enhanced transparency in procurement documentation and budgeting;
 - Stronger foundation for future WBIF and EU investment applications.