

Tajikistan: Dushanbe-Uzbekistan Border Road Improvement Project (Cofinanced with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development)

The project will increase the connectivity and mobility along the Tajikistan section of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Corridor 3 by rehabilitating the 5 km section of the road connecting Dushanbe to the border with Uzbekistan from the Avicenna Monument to the West Gate in Dushanbe.

The total project cost is estimated at US\$105.9 million. Tajikistan has applied for joint financing from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) for the project. EBRD will be the lead co-financer and will administer the project on behalf of AIIB.

The Ministry of Transport of Tajikistan (MOT) will be the executing agency.

AIIB has decided to use EBRD's Environmental and Social Policy (2008) (EBRD ESP) since (i) it is consistent with AIIB's Articles of Agreement and materially consistent with the provisions of AIIB's Environmental and Social Policy and relevant Environmental and Social Standards; and (ii) the monitoring procedures that EBRD has in place to ascertain compliance with the EBRD ESP are appropriate for the Project. Under the EBRD ESP, the Project has been assigned Category B, as the potential impacts are expected to be site specific, readily identified and addressed through mitigation measures that were defined in an Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP). Due to design changes, the Project has been subject to a series of environmental and social studies, including a most recently updated ESAP issued in March 2016.

The Project will require temporarily displacing 9 business units and potentially two informal businesses/market stalls due to the need to acquire land for construction at a trolley-bus turning bay. The existing Livelihood Restoration Framework of the ESAP will address the need to provide relocation assistance, and potentially economic assistance for the displaced businesses, together with arrangements for monitoring the implementation of the agreed requirements.

The West Gate and Avicenna Monument and adjacent structures are to be demolished. Although these are not protected monuments, this change has been discussed with the Ministry of Culture and arrangements will be agreed for the re-siting of the Avicenna Monument at a new location. The ESAP includes a requirement for the relocation of the monument in line with national requirements.

The Project design also includes provisions primarily to improve road safety, including the introduction of additional pedestrian underpasses. Due to the location of this road section, EBRD will seek opportunities to provide technical support and road safety awareness to the local community.

The updated ESAP includes mitigation and monitoring measures that will address the identified potential environmental and social impacts, and its implementation will be monitored by supervision consultants. The updated ESAP was disclosed by MOT and EBRD on May 6, 2016, and on AIIB's website on May 9, 2016. Detailed information on the updated ESAP can be founded at the following link

http://www.mintrans.tj/sites/default/files/2016/esap_ebrd.pdf