



6th Road Technical Committee meeting

8 October 2021, Hybrid, 10.00 – 16.30

Agreed Conclusions

1. Members of the Road Technical Committee (RTC) welcomed the opening remarks by Mr. Matej Zakonjšek, TCT Secretariat Director, who provided a general overview on the progress of the implementation of the Road Action Plan, and the support to be provided by TCT Secretariat and EU CONNECTA. Furthermore, he emphasised the recognition of the importance of Action Plans in the Leaders Declaration on 6th of October 2021, Brdo Pri Kranju, specifically *'In the context of sustainable connectivity, we welcome the recently endorsed Transport Community Action Plans for rail, road, road safety, transport facilitation, and waterborne transport'*.
2. RTC members agreed with the Yearly Progress Report of the implementation of the Road Action Plan. The progress per each group of measures can be summarized as:
 - Road maintenance. There is moderate progress reported, where almost all Regional Partners have set a three-year maintenance framework in place. Road Asset Management Systems is already established in North Macedonia and progress is reported in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.
 - ITS Deployment. The preparation of a strategic framework for the deployment of Intelligent Transport System (ITS) and the respective legal transposition acts should have progressed better as one of the areas of major interest from the region. Albania has already adopted the Strategy for the deployment of ITS on the road network, Montenegro in the framework of EU IPA project is expected to complete the ITS strategy for roads by end of 2021. Delays to kick start the projects are experienced in North Macedonia and Serbia. World Bank PIU expert, Mirjana Jovanovic, informed the Technical Committee that the tender on the preparation of the strategy is expected to be completed by end of October 2021 and the deadline will be 18 months. Similar deadlines were reported for North Macedonia, aiming to complete the strategy by end of 2022. In such context, RTC members agreed that the deadline for the adoption of ITS Strategies to be postponed to Q1 2023 as already stipulated in the Action Plans (*deadlines will be subject to change in accordance with the progress of World Bank projects*).
 - Climate resilience. Improving transport resilience and deployment of alternative fuels appeared to remain a challenge for the region, with limited progress achieved during this year. Serbia is the frontrunner with 8 e-charging stations already installed on Corridor X

and 10 more planned and have issued the green bonds. It is evident that the region will need bigger support from all the stakeholders, Transport Community Permanent Secretariat, European Commission (EC), and international financial institutions (IFIs) to leapfrog in the race towards more sustainable and resilient road transport development.

3. RTC members supported the recommendation of the World Bank, Senior Transport Specialist, Svetlana Vukanovic, to organise training dedicated to the Service Level Agreement. TCT Secretariat will explore the possibilities to organise it back to back with one of the Road Technical Committee and World Bank will support to invite the appropriate experts.
4. Draft Memorandum of Understanding between Road Authorities/Public Enterprises was prepared and distributed for comments in May 2021. It is expected to be signed during Road Summit to take place in 2022. RTC members requested the support of the TCT Secretariat to send the Memorandum of Understanding officially in order to start the internal consultation and approval procedures. By the 15th of October, RTC members will send to TCT Secretariat the contact details to whom the request should be addressed.
5. RTC members welcomed the scope of work of the Technical Assistance to support the implementation of the Road Action Plan and Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy for the Western Balkans. The Technical Assistance are the following:
 - Preparation of Strategy/Policy documents concerning ITS for all transport modes for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo* and for Rail and Maritime in Albania. TCT Secretariat forwarded to CONNECTA the request received by Montenegro to included preparation of ITS strategy for railway. Approval from DGNEAR is awaited. Expected start of assignment by end of 2021
 - Technical assistance for the deployment of smart and sustainable mobility in Western Balkans. Expected start of assignment by end of 2021
 - Baseline assessment and financial impact on e-tolling interoperability in the Western Balkans. Expected start of assignment by end of 2021
 - Enabling e - freight in Western Balkans (based on eFTI Regulation). Detailed information will be shared. Expected start of assignment by end of 2021
6. TCT Secretariat explained to RTC members that for the project financed through the TCT Secretariat budget, Road Technical Committee will play the role of the Project Steering Committee. In addition, for the projects carried out under EU CONNECTA RTC members will be the focal point for the road related components.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

7. Kosovo's representative highlighted the need for Technical Assistance on setting up Road Asset Management System within their administration. TCT Secretariat will explore further the opportunities on how to support the Kosovo administration.
8. WB PIU expert, Mirjana Jovanovic, requested TCT Secretariat to share with them the programme of training planned by TCT Secretariat for next year, in order to avoid overlapping with their planned training and to explore the possibility of joint activities.
9. RTC's members welcomed the presentation of Ian Koepfel on the use of GIS to improve the climate resilience of road networks.
10. RTC's members welcomed the presentation of Mr. Mircea Tenovici, Road Project Officer on the Phase II of TODIS.
11. RTC's members welcomed the presentation of the structure and the current state of play for the development of the indicative TEN-T extension of the Comprehensive and Core Network in Western Balkans
12. Ms. Hoxha introduced the TCT Secretariat plan to dedicate 2022 to raising awareness, improving the institutional capacities and exchanging best practices to make our roads in the Western Balkans fit for the future – safe, smart and sustainable.
13. RTC members welcomed the handing over of the chairmanship to Kosovo.
14. The next meeting will take place in person if the situation permits. There will be 3 meetings to be organised during 2022. Respective dates and timing will be notified in due course.