



NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Reconstruction of the Shirokë – Zogaj Road and Medium Voltage Power Network

1. Introduction

The Reconstruction of the Shirokë–Zogaj Road is an important infrastructure project located within the Municipality of Shkodër, in northwestern Albania. The project aims to improve the transportation corridor connecting the city of Shkodër with the lakeside settlements of Shirokë and Zogaj, extending toward the border crossing with Montenegro. The road passes through one of the most attractive natural landscapes in Albania, along the shores of Lake Shkodra, an area recognized for its environmental, cultural, and tourism significance.

Over the years, the road has experienced increasing levels of traffic, particularly during the summer season, when the area attracts a growing number of local and international visitors. Despite its strategic importance, the existing infrastructure has deteriorated due to age, limited maintenance, and increasing traffic demand. The road currently contains sections with inadequate geometry, limited safety features, insufficient drainage, and restricted facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.

The project has therefore been developed to modernize the existing road corridor, improve safety and accessibility, strengthen regional connectivity, and support the long-term economic and tourism development of the area.



2. Project Objectives

The primary objective of the project is to create a safe, reliable, and sustainable transportation corridor that serves both residents and visitors while supporting future development opportunities within the region.

The project specifically aims to:

- Improve road safety and traffic conditions.
- Enhance accessibility between Shkodër, Shirokë, Zogaj, and Montenegro.
- Facilitate tourism development around Lake Shkodra.
- Improve mobility for local communities.
- Support economic growth and investment opportunities.
- Create better conditions for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Increase the resilience and durability of the transport infrastructure.
- Improve utility services through the installation of a Medium Voltage electrical network.

By combining transportation and utility improvements, the project contributes to both economic development and the improvement of living conditions for local residents.

3. Description of the Proposed Works

The project involves the reconstruction and upgrading of the existing road alignment while maintaining its general route through the project area. Several sections of the existing road will be improved to eliminate dangerous curves, enhance visibility, and increase overall traffic safety.

The upgraded road will include:

- A modern two-lane carriageway.
- Dedicated pedestrian and bicycle facilities.
- Improved drainage infrastructure.
- Road safety barriers and retaining structures where necessary.
- Modern vertical and horizontal road signage.
- Enhanced road lighting and safety measures.
- Improved intersections and traffic management features.

The project has been designed in accordance with applicable engineering standards and considers both current and future traffic demand.

Special attention has been given to ensuring that the road remains functional, safe, and durable under the local climatic conditions, which include high rainfall levels and seasonal increases in tourist traffic.

4. Road Safety Improvements

One of the most significant benefits of the project is the improvement of road safety.

The existing road contains several geometric limitations, including narrow sections and sharp curves that can increase the likelihood of traffic accidents. The reconstruction works will improve alignment, visibility, and overall driving conditions.

Safety improvements include:

- Installation of modern road signs and information panels.
- New pavement markings and lane delineation.
- Clearly marked pedestrian crossings.
- Enhanced visibility at intersections and curves.
- Safer conditions for cyclists and pedestrians.
- Improved roadside protection measures.

These interventions will significantly reduce risks for road users and create a safer transportation environment for residents, tourists, cyclists, and pedestrians.

5. Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure

The project recognizes the increasing importance of non-motorized transport within the area.

Lake Shkodra has become an attractive destination for cycling, walking, and recreational tourism. To support these activities, dedicated facilities for pedestrians and cyclists are included in the project design.

The introduction of these facilities will:

- Improve user safety.
- Encourage sustainable mobility.
- Promote healthy lifestyles.
- Enhance the tourism experience.
- Reduce conflicts between vehicles and vulnerable road users.

These improvements are expected to contribute positively to the attractiveness of the region as a recreational and tourism destination.

6. Drainage and Climate Resilience

The Municipality of Shkodër experiences some of the highest annual rainfall levels in Albania. Consequently, drainage has been identified as a critical component of the project.

The project includes the construction and rehabilitation of drainage structures designed to effectively manage stormwater and surface runoff.

The drainage system will:

- Prevent water accumulation on the roadway.
- Reduce the risk of flooding.
- Protect road foundations and pavement structures.
- Minimize erosion of surrounding land.
- Improve traffic safety during adverse weather conditions.
- Extend the lifespan of the infrastructure.

These measures will increase the resilience of the road and reduce future maintenance requirements.

7. Medium Voltage Electrical Network

In addition to the transportation infrastructure improvements, the project includes the installation of a new Medium Voltage (MV) electrical power network along the project corridor.

This component represents a major investment in public infrastructure and will bring significant benefits to local communities.

The new electrical network is expected to:

- Improve the reliability and quality of electricity supply.
- Reduce interruptions and service disruptions.
- Increase electrical capacity for future residential development.
- Support local businesses and economic activities.
- Enable future tourism investments and hospitality facilities.
- Improve access to modern public services.
- Enhance living standards for residents of Shirokë, Zogaj, and surrounding communities.

The inclusion of the Medium Voltage network demonstrates that the project goes beyond road construction and serves as a broader regional development initiative.

Reliable electrical infrastructure is essential for sustainable growth. Improved electricity supply will support households, tourism facilities, commercial enterprises, public institutions, and future investment opportunities throughout the region.

8. Environmental and Social Benefits

The project is expected to generate substantial environmental and social benefits.

Environmental benefits include:

- Reduced vehicle operating times and fuel consumption.
- Improved traffic flow.
- Encouragement of walking and cycling.
- Better management of stormwater runoff.
- Reduced infrastructure deterioration caused by water infiltration.

Social benefits include:

- Improved accessibility to services and employment opportunities.
- Enhanced road safety.
- Better connectivity between communities.
- Improved quality of life.

- Greater accessibility for visitors and tourists.
- More reliable utility services through the MV electrical network.

The project will contribute to the long-term sustainable development of the wider Lake Shkodra area while supporting local communities and preserving the attractiveness of the region.

9. Economic and Tourism Benefits

The Shirokë–Zogaj corridor plays an important role in the economic and tourism development of northwestern Albania.

The reconstruction of the road and the installation of improved electrical infrastructure will help unlock additional economic potential by creating better conditions for investment and business growth.

Expected economic benefits include:

- Increased tourism activity.
- Greater attractiveness for investors.
- Improved access to local businesses.
- Better connectivity with Montenegro.
- Increased property and development potential.
- Creation of employment opportunities during and after construction.

Tourism is expected to be one of the principal beneficiaries of the project. Improved access and infrastructure will encourage visitors to explore the natural, cultural, and recreational attractions of the Lake Shkodra region, supporting local hospitality providers and related businesses.

10. Conclusion

The Reconstruction of the Shirokë–Zogaj Road and the installation of the Medium Voltage Electrical Network represent a strategic investment in the future of the region.

The project will modernize an important transport corridor, improve road safety, strengthen regional connectivity, and support sustainable economic development. Through improved road infrastructure, dedicated pedestrian and cycling facilities, enhanced drainage systems, and reliable electrical services, the project will provide long-term benefits to residents, businesses, and visitors.

By integrating transportation and utility improvements into a single development initiative, the project contributes not only to mobility and accessibility but also to



improved living standards, enhanced public services, and increased opportunities for tourism and investment.

The project will play a key role in supporting the sustainable growth of the Shirokë–Zogaj area and will create lasting social, economic, and infrastructure benefits for generations to come.