

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: EXPRESSWAY R48 RYCHALTICE - FRÝDEK-MÍSTEK
 Project Number: 2011-0584
 Country: Czech Republic
 Project Description: The project consists in the construction of a new section of the expressway R48 from Rychaltice to Frydek-Mistek for a total length of 7.137 km, with cross section of 25.5 m, 2x2 lanes and design speed of 120 km/h (i.e.: category R25.5/120). The project also includes the rehabilitation of lower class roads for a total length of 7.478 km outside the expressway axis, to ensure the connection to the existing local road network and create an alternative route to the R48 for local traffic. The project is part of a broader plan to upgrade the overarching 74.531 km long R48 Expressway that runs from the city of Bělotín in the eastern Czech Republic to Cesky-Tesin near the Polish border.

EIA required: **YES**

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: **NO**

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment, including key issues and overall conclusion and recommendation

The project consists in the construction of a new section of the expressway R48 from Rychaltice to Frydek-Mistek for a total length of 7.137 km, with cross section of 25.5 m, 2x2 lanes and design speed of 120 km/h (i.e.: category R25.5/120). The project also includes the rehabilitation of lower class roads for a total length of 7.478 km outside the expressway axis.

The project falls under Annex I of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU and requires a full EIA process including public consultations. The EIA for the project was carried out in 2002-2003 following the Czech legislation in force at that time. The entire process for developing the project (i.e.: EIA, feasibility studies, planning and building permits) was completed in 2011 and its compliance with the European EIA directives is documented in a comprehensive Project Environmental Information (PEI) in a form acceptable for the Bank.

The project complies with the current legislation regarding the Habitat and Birds Directive. The road alignment does not cross any location included in the NATURA 2000 network. The screening reports issued by the relevant authorities confirm that the project has no impact on the closest NATURA 2000 locations (i.e.: CZ0813462 Reka Ostravice and CZ0813447 Hlunkvaldy).

Investments amounting to some EUR 20.35 million or some 16% of the total project costs have been made for minimising the environmental impacts of the expressway during the construction and operation phases. Said measures include road fencing, noise barriers, bio-corridors and landscaping as well as the construction of a 160 m long cut-and-cover tunnel to minimise impacts in terms of noise and pollution to three residential areas (i.e.: Chlebovice, Zelinkovice and Lysuvky).

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 100,000 tons CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

The Promoter will be required to comply with the guidelines outlined by the EU Directive on Road Safety Management including road safety impact assessment, safety audits, inspections and data management. A related undertaking in this respect will be included in the finance contract.

The project is acceptable for the Bank's financing from an Environmental point of view.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

Compliance with applicable Environmental Legislation

The 2007-2013 Operational Programme Transport (OPT) for the Czech Republic, under which the project is presented, requires the application of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC. The assessment of the environmental effects of the OPT, based on the SEA directive, was carried out and its outcome included key conditions for the approval, gave environmental indicators and provided general monitoring system for individual projects.

The project falls under Annex I of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU and requires a full EIA process including public consultations.

The EIA process for the project started in 2002 following the Czech legislation in force at that time (i.e.: Act. No. 244/1992 Coll.), a round of public consultations was held on 16 January 2003 at the Municipality of Frýdek-Místek. The statement of EIA concluding the EIA process for the project was issued by the Ministry of Environment on 26 February 2003.

The entire process for developing the project (i.e.: feasibility studies, EIA process, planning and building permits) was completed with the issuance of the building permit on 10 June 2011 and its compliance with the European EIA directives is documented in a comprehensive Project Environmental Information (PEI) in a form acceptable for the Bank.

The construction activities for the project began in September 2009 and are planned to be fully completed in April 2013. The new section of the expressway is expected to be in preliminary operation and partially open to traffic in January 2013.

Environmental Impacts and their mitigation

The project's main negative impacts are in terms land appropriation, increased noise and potential pollution of local water systems, mainly during the construction phase. Investments amounting to some EUR 20.35 million or some 16% of the total project costs have been envisaged for minimising the environmental impacts of the expressway during the construction and operation phases. Said measures include road fencing, noise barriers, bio-corridors and landscaping as well as the construction of a 160 m long cut-and-cover tunnel to minimise impacts in terms of noise and pollution to three residential areas (i.e. Chlebovice, Zelinkovice and Lysuvky). Said mitigation measures are considered satisfactory.

The project's main positive impacts, deriving from the more efficient road alignment and enhanced road standard, are savings in journey time, increased traffic fluency and reduced fuel consumption of vehicles with a positive effect to the quality of air at macro level.

Nature Conservation

In the Czech Republic the sites of natural habitats, wildlife species and bird areas of the NATURA 2000 system have been identified and listed after accession to the EU (1 May

2004). The Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats, wild fauna and flora and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and Council on the conservation of wild birds, were transposed into Act No. 114/1992 Coll. on protection of nature and landscape as amended by Act No. 218/2004 Coll.

The competent authority responsible for monitoring the NATURA 2000 sites (i.e.: Ministry of Environment of CR – Department of International Protection of Biodiversity) has confirmed with its opinion dated 25 May 2009 that the project is not likely to have significant effects on any site of NATURA 2000. A further declaration, issued by the Moravian – Silesian Region, Department of Environment and Agriculture on the 17 February 2011, has unequivocally excluded any direct impact of the project on the two closest NATURA 2000 locations (i.e.: CZ0813462 Reka Ostravice and CZ0813447 Hulkvaldy) which are located respectively 2 and 3 km away from the project.

The Bank has received copies of the relevant studies and approval documents which show that impacts of the project on the nature conservation sites are not significant, thus considered acceptable (equivalent to Form A).

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The Legislation of the Czech Republic provides for public participation in the process of preparation and assessment of projects through the following laws: Act on Environmental impact Assessment (i.e.: Act No. 244/1992 Coll.); Construction Codes; Act on Nature and Landscape protection (Act no. 114/1992 Coll.) and Law on Access to Information in the Area of Environment (Law No. 123 /1998).

Entities participating in the public consultations for the expressway R48 included elected representatives of the local municipalities, civic associations, environmental NGOs, property owners and general public.

A first round of public hearings was held during the process of assessment of the EIA at the Municipality of Frýdek-Místek on 16 January 2003. Public hearing was communicated to the public in the customary ways pursuant to Act No. 244/1992 Coll.

Further meetings to inform on the preparation of the construction project were held in the municipalities of Zelinkovice and Lysuvky, chaired by the municipality of Frýdek-Místek on 4 November 2005 and 4 October 2006 respectively.

A local survey, for granting exemption from protective conditions for species of flora and fauna, pursuant to Act No. 114/1992 Coll., was held by the Regional Authority of the Moravian-Silesian Region, Department of Environmental and Agriculture on 16 February 2005.

No claims or complaints against the project were filed during or after the EIA process in relation to environmental aspects.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Project will mainly contribute to savings in journey time, vehicle operation costs and savings relating to accident costs. Along with these benefits there are also positive social impacts deriving from reduced emissions and noise pollution as well as separation of long distance international traffic from local transport.

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