Early Warning System

AIIB-000998

Turkiye: Istanbul North Rail Crossing Project - Phase I

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Quick Facts

Countries	Turkiye
Financial Institutions	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
Status	Proposed
Bank Risk Rating	A
Borrower	Republic of Turkiye, represented by the Ministry of Treasury and Finance (MoTF)., Sedef Aydas
Sectors	Transport
Investment Type(s)	Loan

Project Description

OBJECTIVE

To improve the cross-Bosphorus railway connectivity of Turkiye's main national and intercontinental transport corridors.

DESCRIPTION

The Project will finance the construction of a 122 km double-tracked, electrified, and signalized greenfield railway line that bypasses the Istanbul Metropolitan Area and provides a high-capacity Bosphorus crossing connecting Cayirova (Asian side) to Catalca (European side) via the Yavuz Sultan Selim (YSS) Bridge. The line will support passenger trains at 160 km/h and freight at 80-120 km/h, linking Istanbul Airport (IST) and Sabiha Gokcen Airport (SAW) to Turkiye's high-speed rail network.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INFORMATION

Applicable Policy and Categorization.
The Project will be co-financed with the World Bank (WB) and other financiers. To support a harmonized approach to addressing Environmental and Social (ES) risks and impacts, and as permitted under AIIB's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP), the WB Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and relevant Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) will apply to the Project in lieu of AIIB's ESP. AIIB has reviewed the WB ESF and ESSs and is satisfied that they are consistent with the Bank's Articles of Agreement and materially aligned with AIIB's ESP, including the Environmental and Social Exclusion List (ESEL), and that appropriate monitoring procedures are in place. The WB has classified the Project as having Substantial ES risk, due to the nature, scale, and potential significance of the ES impacts. Accordingly, the Project is considered equivalent to Category A under AIIB's ESP. The categorization will be reconfirmed at Project appraisal.

Environmental and Social Instruments.
The Project will follow the Design and Build (D&B) procurement method. In line with this approach, draft designs for the entire length are currently under preparation and will be finalized by the selected D&B Contractor. Accordingly, the ES instruments will be prepared in two stages consistent with its D&B procurement method. In the ongoing preparation stage, draft ES instruments for the entire Project are being prepared in alignment with the Project's draft technical designs. These instruments include: (i) Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) establishing baseline conditions, assessing alternatives, and analyzing potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts, including Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP); (ii) Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP); (iii) Labor Management Procedures (LMP); and (iv) Resettlement Framework (RF). The draft ES documents will be submitted for review and disclosed prior to Project appraisal. During implementation, the selected D&B Contractor will update the draft ES documents to reflect final designs and will implement required ES measures. ES requirements for the D&B Contractor, including pre-qualification and evaluation criteria, will be defined to ensure contractors have the capacity and experience to finalize the final ES documents, implement and manage ES risks and impacts effectively.

Environmental and Social Aspects.
The Project's alignment largely follows the existing highway's right-of-way (RoW). Potentially biodiversity-sensitive areas are located within the broader landscape of the corridor, including the Sariyer-Feneryolu Wildlife Development Area, the Omerli Dam and other sensitive sites such as nature parks. Potential adverse impacts during construction may include land use changes, displacement and involuntary resettlement, soil disturbance, vegetation loss, waste management challenges, labor and working conditions, occupational health and safety risks, and community impacts such as traffic disruptions, noise, dust, and possible effects on cultural heritage. Operational phase risks may involve air pollution, noise, vibration, and the management of hazardous substances. Social risks primarily relate to land acquisition beyond the existing RoW, involuntary resettlement, and livelihood disruption. Other social considerations include community health and safety, labor influx, gender-based violence (GBV), and cultural heritage. No Indigenous Peoples have been identified within the Project area of influence, which encompasses 53 settlements in Istanbul and Kocaeli provinces. Mitigation measures will be implemented in accordance

Early Warning System Project Analysis

People Affected By This Project

Investment Description

- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

Private Actor Relationship

Private Actors Description

Contact Information

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

You can submit an information request for project information at: https://www.aiib.org/en/contact/information-request/index.html

ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM OF AIIB

The AIIB has established the Accountability Mechanism for Project-Affected People (PPM). The PPM provides Òan opportunity for an independent and impartial review of submissions from Project-affected people who believe they have been or are likely to be adversely affected by AIIBÕs failure to implement the ESP in situations when their concerns cannot be addressed satisfactorily through Project level GRMs or AIIB Management processes.Ó Two or more project-affected people can file a complaint. Under the current AIIB policy, when the bank co-finances a project with another development bank, it may apply the other bank's standards. You can refer to the Project Summary Information document to find out which standards apply. You can learn more about the PPM and how to file a complaint at: https://www.aiib.org/en/about-aiib/who-we-are/project-affected-peoples-mechanism/how-we-assist-you/index.html

The complaint submission form can be accessed in Arabic, Bahasa Indonesia, Bengali, Chinese, English, Tagalog, Hindi, Nepali, Russian, Turkish, or Urdu. The submission form can be found at: https://www.aiib.org/en/about-aiib/who-we-are/project-affected-peoples-mechanism/submission/index.html

Bank Documents

- Project Summary (September 12, 2025) [Original Source]

Other Related Projects

- EBRD-56767 INRAIL Istanbul North Rail Crossing Project