

Overall Rating
C

A Foundation for Sustained Growth



39 Kazakhstan
Irtys River Bridge Construction Project

Contributing to smooth traffic flow on a major trunk road by constructing a bridge and approach and access roads

Loan Amount / Disbursed Amount 21.53 billion yen / 21.236 billion yen
Loan Agreement March 1997
Terms & Conditions 2.7% interest rate (consulting services: 2.3%)
 30 year repayment period (10 year grace period), General untied
Final Disbursement Date June 2004
Executing Agency Semipalatinsk Oblast Akim Apparatus (SOAA) (currently East Kazakhstan Oblast Akim Apparatus)



Project Objectives

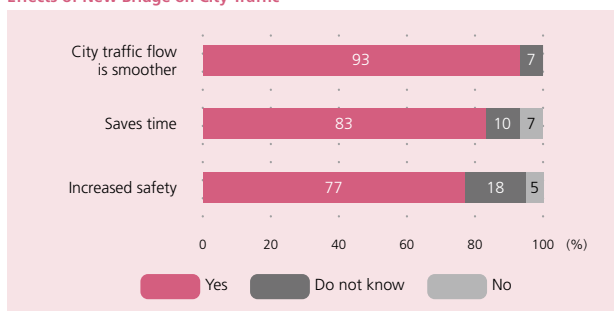
The objective of this project was to ensure the smooth and safe flow of traffic on a major trunk road by constructing a new bridge across the Irtys River and by constructing the approach and access roads in the city of Semipalatinsk, located in Eastern Kazakhstan Province, and thereby contribute to the stimulation of the local economy.

Effectiveness and Impact

Rating **a**

As a result of the construction of a new bridge through this project, traffic volume on both banks of the Irtys River increased to an extent that greatly exceeded the assumptions at the time of appraisal and contributed to the smooth flow of traffic. Under the initial plan, the predicted annual average daily traffic volume on the preexisting and new bridges was 42,215. The actual volume of 79,289 in 2006 greatly exceeded the planned figure. The required traveling time on the segment of road that underwent construction was 108 minutes prior to the project. It was planned to shorten this time to 17 minutes on the route via the preexisting bridge and to nine minutes on the route via the new bridge by resolving traffic congestion. In 2006, the actual time required on each route was 21 minutes and 11 minutes, respectively. Thus, the plan was almost achieved. It was confirmed that the safety of road traffic was improved by construction of overpasses for an intersection and railroad crossing, construction of a left-turn lane, and separation of the sidewalk. After project implementation, the industrial output growth rate of Semipalatinsk exceeded that of the country and of Eastern Kazakhstan Province. Thus, it is regarded that the bridge constructed by the project contributes to the development of local industry because it is a necessity for road transport passing through Semipalatinsk. Therefore, this project has largely achieved its objectives, and effectiveness is highly satisfactory.

Effects of New Bridge on City Traffic



Source: Beneficiary survey (given to 100 users of the new bridge)

Relevance

Rating **a**

This project has been highly relevant with Kazakhstan's national policies both at the time of the appraisal and at the time of the ex-post evaluation. Moreover, as the smooth flow of traffic was being hindered by lane restrictions put in place due to the deteriorated condition of the preexisting bridge, both urgency and necessity of the project were high.

Efficiency

Rating **b**

The project cost slightly exceeded the plan (106% of planned cost) although the project period was almost as planned; therefore the evaluation for efficiency is moderate.

Sustainability

Rating **c**

Although the condition of the bridge and roads is generally good, sustainability of this project is low, since there was no operation and maintenance agency as of April 2007, and no budget has been allocated for operation and maintenance.

Conclusion, Lessons Learned, Recommendation

In light of the above, this project is evaluated to be moderately satisfactory. As a recommendation, it is advisable that East Kazakhstan Oblast Akim Apparatus promptly establish an operation and maintenance agency, secure a budget, and manage and utilize the construction machinery and operation and maintenance equipment, which were procured by this project from the contractor, in a suitable manner.



Interview with beneficiaries of new bridge.

Third-Party Opinion

Smooth road transport was realized through this project. Given the geographic location of Semipalatinsk, the bridge is very important. I hope that an operation and maintenance system is established immediately.

Name of specialist: Mr. Murat T. Laumulin (academia)
 Holds a Ph.D. in industrial development history with the Academy of Sciences in Moscow. Former First Secretary and Counselor of the Kazakhstan Embassy in Germany. Currently Vice-Director of Foreign Policy Department at the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies. Specializes in diplomacy.