



SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAM



FOUR YEARS OF PROGRESS

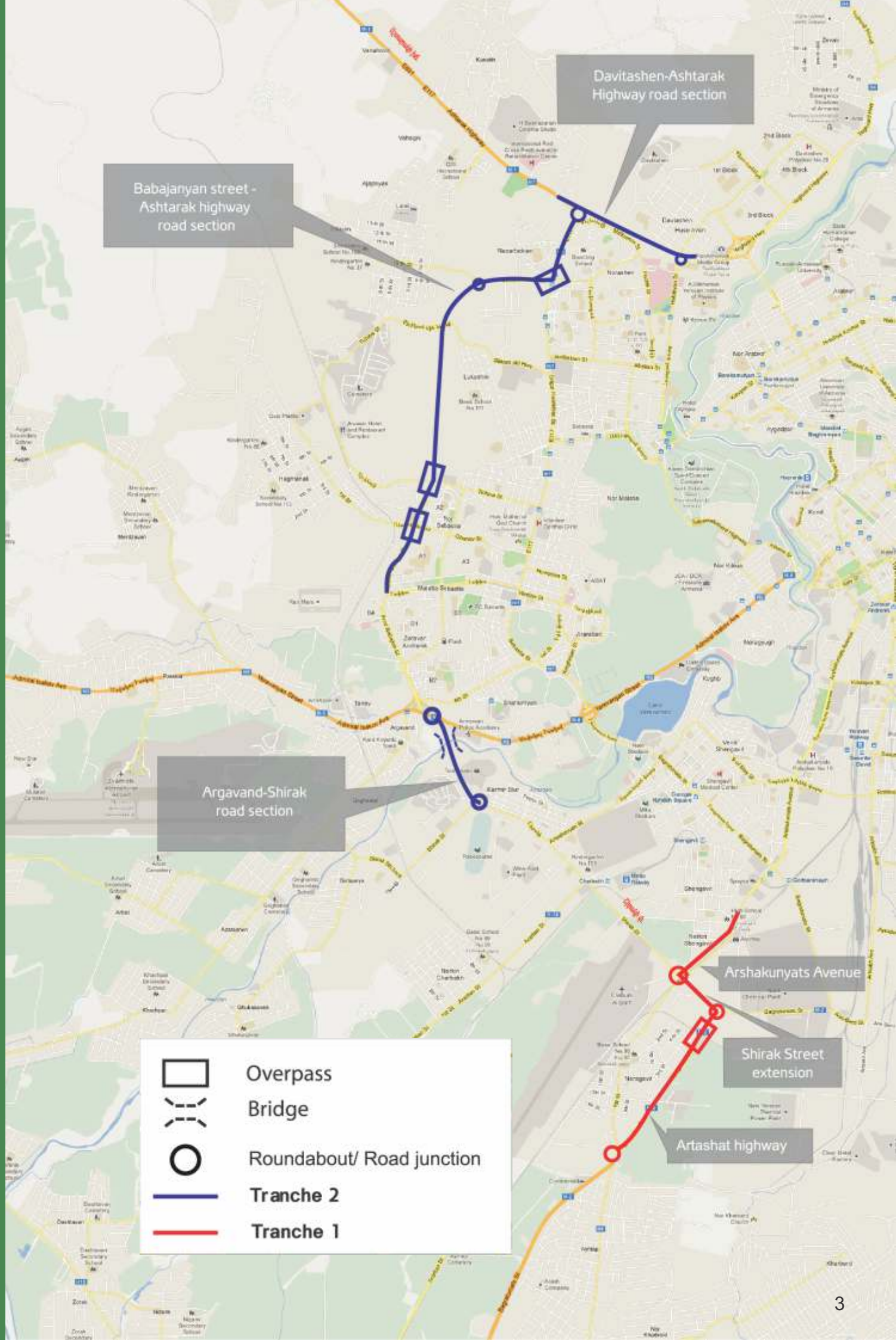
Yerevan is the economic, scientific and cultural center of the Republic of Armenia. It is considered as the major regional transportation junction. And due to the increase of the transportation flow the necessity of the city expansion is becoming a vital issue. Sustainable development preconditions are urged along with the expansion of Yerevan.

One of the sustainable development projects is implemented within the framework of Sustainable Urban Development Investment Program, the aim of which is to create safe, affordable and sustainable transport system.

The aim of the Project implemented by the loan funds of the Asian Development Bank is to construct a highway according to international standards, which will also significantly relieve the city center from the traffic flows.

Yerevan Municipality is currently working with the Asian Development Bank on the implementation of the Sustainable Urban Development Investment Program, which is the biggest infrastructure investment project implemented in Yerevan during the last 30 years. As a result of this cooperation the City of Yerevan is going to have the Western Ring Road, linking North and South of the City and significantly decreasing the traffic in the center of the City, as well as a new bus network. By the loan funds of the Asian Development Bank major road construction programs are carried out in Yerevan.

Construction of roads and bridges, improvement of urban infrastructure, rehabilitation of public transport network and infrastructure are planned within the Sustainable Urban Development Investment Program.



Babajanyan street -
Ashtarak highway
road section

Davitashen-Ashtarak
Highway road section

Argavand-Shirak
road section

Arshakunyats Avenue

Shirak Street
extension

Artashat highway



Overpass



Bridge



Roundabout/ Road junction



Tranche 2



Tranche 1

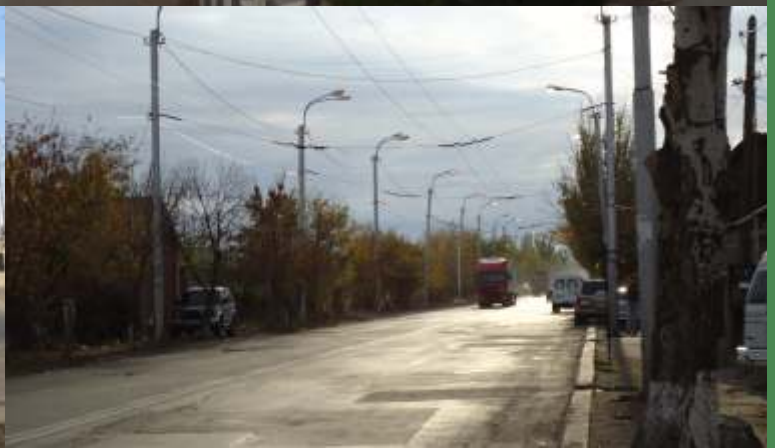
ARSHAKUNYATS AVENUE

(reconstruction/widening of the existing road section)

The newly reconstructed road section with 1.3km length and 21m width carriageway located within Arshakunyats Avenue, Ashkhatank square and Shirak street was put into operation in December 2014.

Within the Program, the carriageway was widened by ensuring 4-6 traffic lanes. One separated traffic lane was built which is foreseen to serve the population in adjacent district. The opposing traffic lanes were separated, new pavements were constructed. The street is provided with drainage system. During construction all the communications under the road are replaced with the new ones. The road is equipped with power-saving lighting system according to European standards. Appropriate compensations were provided to the land users affected by the implementation of the road construction.

BEFORE CONSTRUCTION



DURING CONSTRUCTION



AFTER CONSTRUCTION



ARTASHAT HIGHWAY AND SHIRAK STREET ARE RECONSTRUCTED

The reconstruction of Artashat highway and extension of Shirak street were launched in 2015. The quality control of the works was under strict supervision from the beginning of the construction.

“By the construction of this road Yerevan Municipality initiated the major road construction project, bypassing the capital, based on Yerevan Master Plan. The project had planned decades before. The southern entrance of the capital: Artashat highway, will be built with international standards. During the construction works, we also took into consideration the suggestions of the residents of the nearby houses, regarding the formation of service roads and pavements”, - noted Vahe Nikoyan by also mentioning that during the construction works, the Contractor had done all the possible to manage the regular flow of the traffic.



The construction works are finalized: 2 tunnel overpasses are constructed to ensure the traffic flow of the railway section and Noragavit 1st street, as well as an overpass with approximately 270m width and 9meter height is built over Artashat highway railway pass. The road is equipped with high-tech lighting system. Also a pedestrian overpass is built, furnished with elevator for the physically impaired persons, which is the first of its kind in the capital. One of the important achievements of this road construction is that all the communications under the road were removed from the carrigeway, which is a gurantee that road surface will not be damaged during elimination.

BEFORE CONSTRUCTION



DURING CONSTRUCTION



AFTER CONSTRUCTION



AFTER CONSTRUCTION



The main objective of the new road, which is a part of the complex program aimed to construct roads bypassing Yerevan, is to divert through-traffic around Yerevan city center by establishing a smooth connection between southern and northern entrances of the city.

Taron Margaryan: "Eventually, Yerevan will have a proper southern entrance of strategic importance, which has really been a dream for decades".

By particularly highlighting the implementation of major road construction programs in the capital, Mayor Taron Margaryan mentioned that the constructed road would have its logical continuation, the commencement of which had already been launched.

“By the following stage, in the result of the implementation of Tranche 2, the southern and northern entrances will be connected to each other. In this context, the construction works from Shirak street to Argavand section have already been started, within which the construction of 252m length bridge over Hrazdan River is also envisaged, which will be named "Erebuni-Yerevan 2800" and will be dedicated to 2800 anniversary of Yerevan. The tender for construction works of Davtashen-Ashtarak highway road section has already been held and now we are at a contract awarding stage and the construction works will commence at the beginning of the next year. The bidding documents of Babajanyan street -Ashtarak highway road section are also ready and we the tendering process will be announced in the nearest future. I am sure that after the completion of this road construction the central streets of the capital will be significantly relieved”- mentioned Taron Margaryan and added that the construction of the capital bypass road is foreseen to be fully completed in 2019, and the result will be 23km length highway which will connect the southern and northern entrances of Yerevan with international standards.







On 19 December 2016 Arshakunyats avenue, Shirak street and Artashat highway was officially opened by RA President Serzh Sargsyan, Yerevan Mayor Taron Margaryan and Asian Development Bank Country Director Shane Rosenthal.

The responsible officials assured President that after the implementation of this major construction project the newly constructed highway will become the main route for the traffic entering the city from the south and exiting it in the opposite direction.

The length of the road, which corresponds to international standards, is 5 km, the average width is 24-28 meters.

The construction of the road was preceded by the large-scale development works which were implemented in accordance with the procedures established by the Asian Development Bank. As a result, 217 units of inventory with 6,543 USD compensation payments were developed. The next stage – the use of the second tranche will allow to link together the northern and southern entries of the capital.





SAFEGUARDS IMPLEMENTED DURING THE PROGRAM

Environmental and social impacts assessments are the main components of the Sustainable Urban Development Investment Program, the main objective of which is to address possible social impacts and land acquisition and resettlement issues required for certain sections of the road, ensure the design, implementation and maintenance of the road and structures within the implementation of the Program according to Armenian existing laws and Asian Development Bank (ADB) Safeguard Policy Statement.

During the whole implementation of the Program, the public was informed about the possible environmental impacts and their mitigation measures, as well as social impacts through public hearings, discussions. During meetings, residents were informed about the traffic management plan and road safety maintenance principles. Affected persons were informed about their rights and responsibilities, evaluation methodology, grievance redress mechanism.

Before the implementation of the road construction activities, affected land users were provided with the appropriate compensations.





TRACING URARTIAN KINGDOM

Construction of Argavand-Shirak new road section is planned by the Sustainable Urban Development Investment Program, which will pass through the historical heritage “Karmir Blur”. Therefore, before the commencement of the construction works, excavation works are carried out to check the existence of the archaeological layers. The construction of the road here was planned as far back as in the Soviet years.

Worth mentioning, that the first excavation works of “Karmir Blur” historical heritage site have been implemented starting from 1939. However, during 90s the historical heritage site became a dump. And only within the framework of the program it became possible to restart the excavations which have already given its positive results.

Karmir Blur “red fortress” or Teishebaini is an Urartian city is located on the left bank of the Hrazdan river. The city was built by the last powerful king Rusa B of Van Kingdom in the first half of VII BC. Teishebaini fortress is named after war and thunder Urartian God Teishebani. A huge building has been excavated in Teishebaini which is 2000 square meters with 4 separate entrances from front of the oblong. The two-story castle citadel is surrounded by a stone fence, storage buildings and had irrigation systems. The bases of that building have been preserved. Facade of the building with its own entrance is very similar to the one found in Van -bronze border on the three-story building with separate entrances (some parts of which are kept in British and Berlin museums).

Asian Development Bank and Yerevan Municipality pay a great attention to the archaeological findings, which are not only national valuable heritage materials, but are also significant archaeological heritage materials of Asia, Middle East and Asia Minor.



On April 16, 2014 an exhibition called “Tracing History” took place in Yerevan History Museum hall. The findings dated from the Urartian period till the 1st century AD which were discovered at the historical and cultural site of Karmir Blur were presented. This archaeological site occupying the area of 40 hectares consists of the pre-Urartian settlement, an Urartian town with a middle fortress. From the 6th century BC till the 1st century AD the area served as a burial place.

We have rather a flexible design. As a result of numerous discussions, with the involvement of specialists, representatives of NGOs, all interested parties it was decided that first of all excavations are to be organized so that no items of archaeological significance remained there. So, the construction of the road caused the discovery of the necropolis of Karmir Blur. The design is implemented through mutual consent preserving and reviving cultural and historical values to public and cit benefits.”, mentioned the Deputy Mayor of Yerevan Aram Sukiasyan in the opening speech of the exhibition called “Tracing History” and added that the construction of the road will also limit the expansion of the cemetery adjacent to Karmir Blur.



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