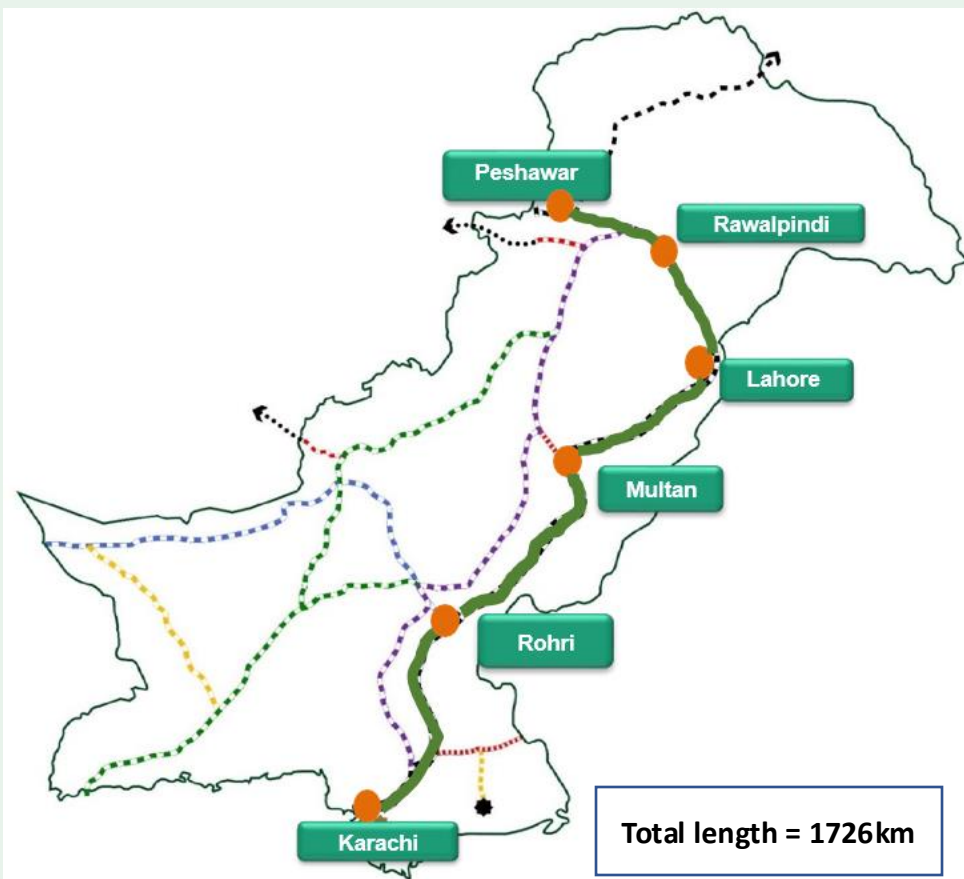


Upgradation of Main Line-1 (ML-1) of Pakistan Railways



ML-1: The Backbone of Pakistan's Rail Network

Karachi – Rohri – Multan – Lahore – Rawalpindi – Peshawar



ML-1 route highlighted (situation-analysis map)



of Pakistan Railways' total route length — yet carries the bulk of all traffic



of the population and major industrial zones lie along the ML-1 corridor



of all passenger traffic on Pakistan Railways moves on ML-1



of all freight traffic on Pakistan Railways moves on ML-1

Current Operating Snapshot

67%

Route overage

90%

Signal & telecom overage

70%

Avg. punctuality

88%

Operating ratio

Pre vs Post Upgradation: A Step-Change in Performance



Technical parameters, current scenario vs. after track upgradation

Parameter	Current	Post-Upgradation
Line capacity (train pairs)	34	120
Passenger speed (km/h)	105	160 / 120
Freight speed – avg. (km/h)	30	80
Travel time, Karachi–Rohri (hrs)	8	4.5
Axle load (tons)	22.86	25



Scope: Full ML-1 spans Karachi–Peshawar. The Karachi–Rohri Section (480 km) is being upgraded first, under active engagement with ADB and co-financing partners.



Freight Demand Outlook

7.8 → ~21 mtpa

projected freight volume by 2035, more than 2.5x today's levels

- Thar coal-fired power plants
- Reko Diq copper-gold project
- Transit & regional trade

Rising freight demand reinforces the economic case for track upgradation and added capacity.

Karachi–Rohri Section (480 km): Financing with ADB & Partners



~US\$ 2.5 billion

Estimated project cost, Karachi–Rohri Section



Lead financier and co-financing partners

ADB (lead)

AIIB

World Bank

IsDB

EIB

IsDB = Islamic Development Bank • EIB = European Investment Bank



Progress to Date



Current focus: a Pakistan Railways delegation is in Manila (21–25 Sep 2026) discussing the progress and the way forward for the Karachi–Rohri Section on the margins of the ADB Business Opportunities Fair.

Way Forward: Extending Upgradation Across ML-1

Pakistan Railways is pursuing financing for the remaining Rohri–Peshawar sections in parallel

01	02	03	04
Rohri–Multan	Multan–Lahore	Lahore–Rawalpindi	Rawalpindi–Peshawar
 449 km	 334 km	 289 km	 174 km
Track length	Track length	Track length	Track length
 US\$ 1,257 mn	 US\$ 882 mn	 US\$ 1,556 mn	 US\$ 924 mn
Estimated cost	Estimated cost	Estimated cost	Estimated cost
 3 years	 2 years	 3 years	 2 years
Upgradation time	Upgradation time	Upgradation time	Upgradation time



Financing for the Rohri–Peshawar sections remains open. Pakistan Railways continues to engage prospective financiers, building on the ML-1 (Karachi–Rohri) engagement with ADB and its co-financing partners to extend modernization across the full Karachi–Peshawar corridor.



Thank You