

ALMATY–ISSYK-KUL ALTERNATIVE ROAD PROJECT

A joint initiative of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Kazakhstan under the Almaty–Bishkek Economic Corridor (ABEC) framework.

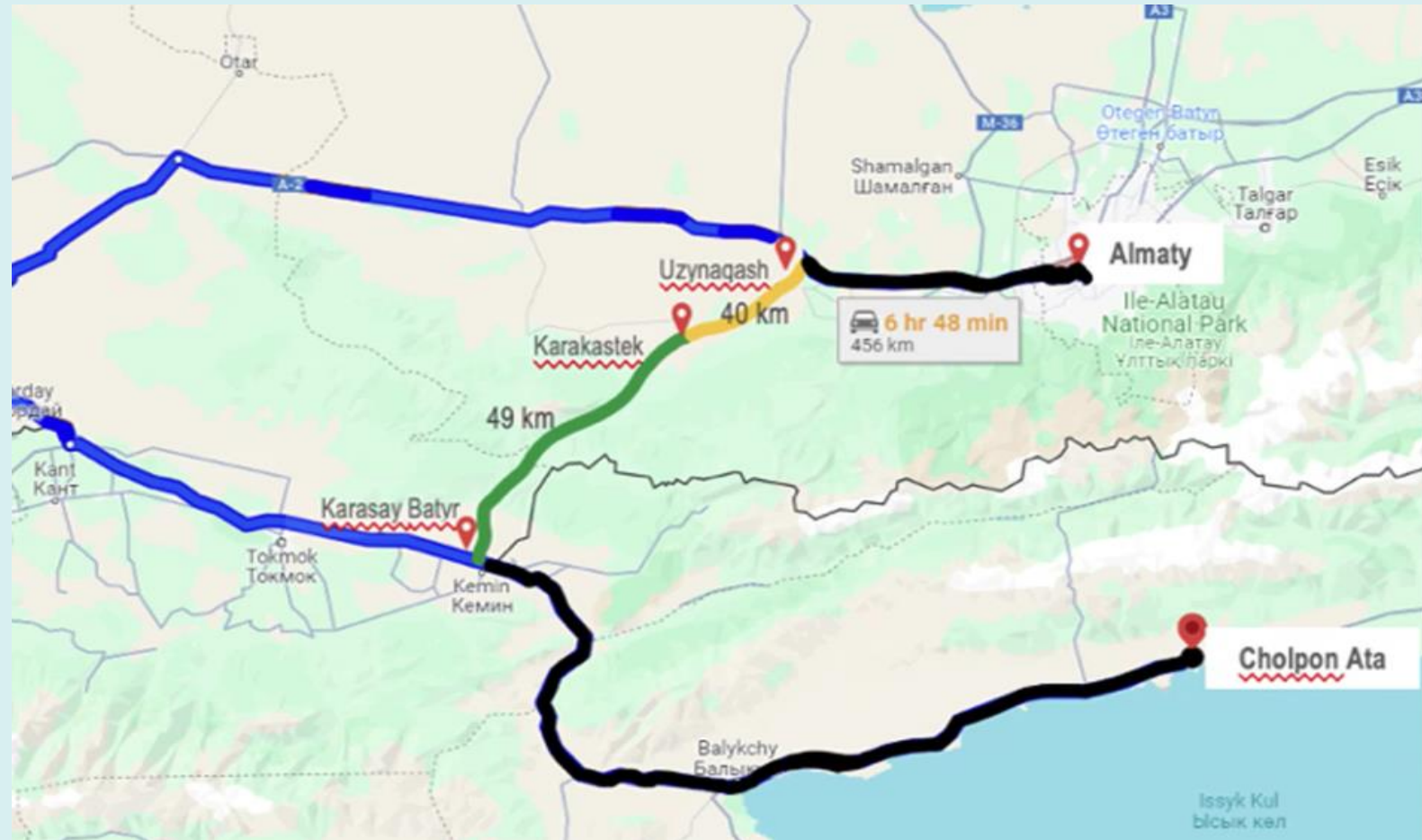
Selected Route

Project Rationale:

- Challenges: mountain ranges, congested border crossings
- Existing route: Almaty – Bishkek – Balykchy – Cholpon-Ata (485 km)

Advantages:

- Distance reduced to **301 km**
- Travel time: ~3 hours
- Economic integration and tourism growth
- Stronger ties between businesses and communities
- Transit potential for trade with China via Naryn–Torugart



Route: Almaty – Uzynagash – Karakastek – Karasai Batyr – Cholpon-Ata

- Total length: **88.4 km**
- **49 km** – new road
- Remaining section – reconstruction
- Altitude: up to 2,000 m, potential for year-round accessibility
- Estimated cost: **\$125–160 million**

- Estimated user savings: **\$4–23 million per year**
- Contribution to GDP:
 - Kazakhstan: +\$31–165 million/year
 - Kyrgyz Republic: +\$53–439 million/year (up to **6.7% of Kyrgyzstan's GDP**)
- Traffic forecast: **2,250 vehicles/day**, peak – up to 4,000 vehicles/day

- Almaty: 1.9 million residents
- Issyk-Kul: over 3.5 million tourists annually
- Expected impact: increase in short-term trips and infrastructure investment
- Improved accessibility for persons with limited mobility and rural communities

Roadmap

**June-
November**

Finalization of ToR for the technical and financial consultant

Technical and financial consultant hired

Discussion of key provisions of the Intergovernmental Agreement

ADB engaged as transaction advisor for the project

Technical and financial feasibility study underway

During this period, ADB will present preliminary findings on

(i) traffic intensity assessment and other key technical aspects,

(ii) procurement options analysis, and

(iii) socioeconomic analysis upon completion of the technical/financial feasibility study.

The governments must agree on the preferred procurement option to conclude the analysis.

December

Light touch market research and stakeholder engagement will be conducted, and feedback will be incorporated into the final options.

The results of the technical and financial analysis must be approved by the governments.

Conclusion

- ✓ The project is a key cross-border infrastructure component of the ABEC.
- 🚧 It connects two regions, boosting tourism, the economy, and logistics.
- 🤝 It requires continued political will and intergovernmental coordination.

A scenic view of Issyk-Kul Lake in Kyrgyzstan. The foreground shows the calm, blue water of the lake. Along the shoreline, there are several white buildings, including a prominent white archway structure. The background features a range of rugged, brown mountains under a clear sky with some light clouds. The text "Thank you and Welcome to Issyk-Kul" is overlaid in white, centered on the image.

Thank you
and
Welcome to Issyk-Kul