



10th Railway Working Group Meeting

3-5 June 2026 | Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

10-е заседание Рабочей группы по железнодорожному транспорту

3-5 июня 2026 года | Улан-Батор, Монголия



Session 8: TA Planning and Identification of New Activities

Tyrrell Duncan

Railway Specialist/TA Team Leader
Consultant



Outline

- Status of TA activities
- Identification of new TA activities



Progress in implementing TA work plan

Work stream	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
1. Railway transport model <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model development Model usage in TA situation analysis and PFS work 	■	■			■			
2. RSAs and CAREC-wide assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RSAs TA situation analysis report 	■	■						
3. Project preparation facility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CKU traffic study UZB Northwestern Internat. Freight Corridor Tashkent–Turkmenbashy container block trains Railway–Port Connectivity, Pakistan Khushig Valley–Nomgon Railway, Mongolia 		■			■	■	■	■
4. Knowledge and capacity development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper on track capacity & timetabling software TA situation analysis presented at ADB Transp. Forum KGZ/TAJ commercialization, reform & investment Study of CAREC rolling stock needs & financing facility Development of guidance note on human resource development in railway organizations 		■		■	■	■		■



Status of approved prefeasibility and knowledge support 1/3

TA activity	Present status
Railway sector assessments for each CAREC MC	Reports published in 2019–20
Development and use CAREC Regional Transport Model	Model completed in 2019–21
Situation analysis of CAREC railways identifying opportunities for commercialization, reform and investment	Report published in 2022, presented at ADB Transport Forum 2022
Approved prefeasibility study projects:	
- <i>Traffic study on proposed China–Kyrgyz Republic–Uzbekistan (CKU) railway</i>	<i>Consultants recruited in Q1 2020 but work suspended due to pandemic. Work resumed in Q2 2022, field studies in Q3, team augmented Q1 2023. Study completed in Q3 2023.</i>
- <i>PFS of Tashkent–Turkmenbashi container block train services</i>	<i>Consultants undertook country visits in November and December 2023. Study completed in Q3 2024</i>
- <i>PFS of Uzbekistan Northwestern International Freight Corridor</i>	<i>Consultants undertook country visit in November and December 2023. Study completed in Q3 2024</i>
- <i>PFS of Railway–Port Connectivity, Pakistan</i>	<i>Consultants undertook country visit in January 2025. Study completed in October 2025.</i>
- <i>PFS of Khushig Valley–Nomgon Railway, Mongolia</i>	<i>Consultants undertook country visit in May 2025. Study completed in Q2 2026</i>

Status of approved prefeasibility and knowledge support 2/3

TA activity	Present status
Approved knowledge and capacity development projects:	
<i>- Paper on track capacity and timetabling software</i>	<i>Paper published in 2020</i>
<i>- Advisory support to prepare railway commercialization, reform and investment programs in Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan</i>	<i>Consultants recruited in Q1 2020 but work halted due to pandemic. First and second country visits conducted in Q3 2022 and Q2 2023. Reports on proposed programs for KTJ and ROT completed in Q3 2023.</i>
<i>- Study on CAREC rolling stock needs and financing facility</i>	<i>Following discussion of the study approach at the 7th RWG, ADB recruited consultants and study was completed in April 2024.</i>
<i>- Capacity development on best practices in establishing and operating a railway sales and marketing function</i>	<i>Draft TOR prepared in Q1 2020. Work suspended due to pandemic.</i>
<i>- Knowledge support on railway accounting standards</i>	<i>Draft TOR prepared in Q1 2020. Work suspended due to pandemic.</i>

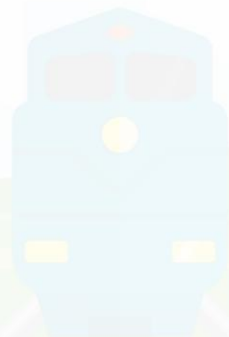
Status of approved prefeasibility and knowledge support 3/3

TA activity	Present status
<p>- Development of a guidance note on human resource management in railway organizations, addressing staff restructuring, assessment of skill needs, and staff training and development programs</p>	<p>Consultant recruited and completed reporting in 2025. Report is being edited and prepared for publication in Q3 2026</p>
<p>- Study of multimodal corridor for container transport service between PRC, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Poti</p>	<p>Identified as a possible knowledge support activity at the 9th RWG in May 2025. Requires expressions of interest/relevance from member country representatives</p>
<p>- Development of a railway code for Tajikistan</p>	<p>Identified for possible support at 9th RWG in May 2025. Need to clarify (i) if this would qualify for TA funding which generally requires involvement of 2+ MCs, and (ii) the scope of support sought, as substantial resources might be required to prepare the railway code while the TA knowledge studies are relatively small-scale</p>



Summary of TA status

- TA deliverables on track
- Ongoing approved prefeasibility and knowledge support is approaching completion
- 10th RWG to consider options for new TA support activities in 2026 and 2027
 - Prefeasibility studies, particularly in countries that have received less support from the TA
 - Knowledge support



Recap: PFS eligibility and selection criteria

Eligibility

- Focus on CAREC corridors
- Improve competitiveness
- Strategic importance for CAREC rail dev.
- Investment cost \geq \$50m
- Expect adequate traffic, EIRR, FIRR
- Limited social and environment impacts
- Addresses commercialization and reform issues

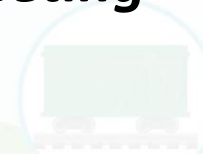
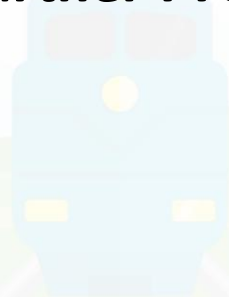
Selection

- Adequate initial proposal
- Strategic importance in 2+ MCs
- Strength of business and economic case
- Extent of addressing commercialization and reform issues

Initial suggestions of new PFS projects for 2026–2027

No.	Proposed project	MCs tbc
P32	Prefeasibility study of China-Krygyz Republic–Uzbekistan Railway (CKU) Extension Project to restore cross-border services on Tajikistan’s northern rail line primarily to serve CKU transit traffic	TAJ + PRC, KGZ, UZB
P33	Prefeasibility study on introduction of double-stack container transport on busy sections of the Middle Corridor [s]	KAZ + PRC, Middle Corridor members

MCs to propose further PFS projects at the RWG 10 meeting



**RWG members are kindly invited
to suggest any further
prefeasibility study projects**



Recap: Eligibility and selection criteria for knowledge and capacity development support

Eligibility

- Focus on CAREC corridors
- Addresses key performance issues
- Improve competitiveness
- Strategic importance for CAREC rail dev.
- Needs only limited input from well-chosen experts
- Relevance for many CAREC MCs

Selection

- Adequate initial proposal
- Strategic importance in 2+ MCs
- Addresses commercialization & reform issues

Initial suggestions of new KCD projects for 2026–2027

No.	Proposed project	MCs tbc
K34	Study of multimodal corridor for container transport service between PRC, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Poti	<i>PRC, TAJ, UZB, TKM, AZE, GEO</i>
K35	Development of a railway code for Tajikistan	<i>TAJ, other MCs?</i>
K36	Realizing the potential for international logistics companies to improve the competitiveness of long-distance cross-border railway freight services	<i>TAJ, TKM, possibly KGZ</i>
K37	Publication on policy and practice in the use of a public service obligation to compensate railways for having to operate uneconomic services	

MCs to propose further KCD projects at the RWG 10 meeting

***RWG members are kindly invited
to suggest any further **knowledge
and capacity development
support projects*****



Thank you!

tyrrell.duncan@gmail.com

