

CONSTRUCTION OF A1 - M1 LINK ROAD

I. Project Background

For long, critical decisions in transport planning to shape the future of Mauritius were being awaited for implementation. In the meantime, the country is suffering from huge congestion costs which have increased to 4 Billion MUR during the last decade.

Consequently, in order to provide an effective and efficient road network to support the socio-economic development of Mauritius, the Government, through the Road Development Authority, has already initiated the implementation of two major projects: “The construction of the Grade Separated Junctions at Pont Fer/Jumbo/Dowlut roundabouts” and “The construction of A1-M1 Link Road”.

The main objectives of the project are:

1. To improve fluidity of traffic in order to reduce congestion time and associated costs;
2. To decrease accidents by providing state-of-the-art road safety equipment; and
3. To enhance the level of service to road users through the provision of high quality infrastructure.

II. Project Scope

The A1-M1 Link Road will be an approximately 1 km long dual carriageway linking Port Louis-St Jean Road (A1) at Chebel through an approximately 350 m long bridge spanning over the Grand River North West valley to Motorway M1 and the existing Ring Road Phase 1 at Sorèze. A viaduct and roundabout shall be constructed at Chebel and a grade separated interchange at Sorèze.

This project will improve the distribution of traffic within the network of A1 Road and M1 Motorway and will provide an alternative access to the city of Port Louis to traffic originating from Rose Hill, Beau Bassin, Chebel, Chapman Hill, upper Coromandel etc. Furthermore, in conjunction with the proposed A1-A3 Link Road, the project will help to reduce generated traffic along A1 Road by providing alternative access to the west. Traffic from Port Louis through Motorway M1 and the Ring Road can use A1-M1 Link Road and then A1-A3 Link Road to move to the west of the country or the south of Port Louis district and vice-versa.

Scope of Works:

The scope of works for the A1-M1 Link Road consists of

- The construction of 1 km of road of dual carriageway;
- Construction of an extradosed 350 m long bridge at GRNW;
- Construction of 2 flyovers at Chebel (490 m) and at Soreze (650 m) at Soreze;
- Provision of drainage facilities and retaining structures;
- Provision of road safety furniture, traffic signs, road lighting and landscaping.

- **Detailed Scope of works**

a) Chebel Roundabout & Viaduct

- In order to connect A1-M1 Bridge with A1 road, a new roundabout will be built near Gamma Civic Ltd at Chebel and improve the accessibility to Port Louis and Beau Bassin.
- Vehicles on A1 road coming from Beau Bassin or Port Louis will take Chebel Viaduct (140 m) to keep going straight without stopping at Chebel Roundabout.
- Between A1-M1 Bridge and Chebel Roundabout, there will be an access road that allows vehicles coming from M1 motorway to enter the industrial zone directly.
- Chebel Roundabout will be connected with A1-A3 Link Road whereby vehicles from Port Louis will be able to move to the west of the country via Ring Road and A1-M1 Link Road.

b) A1 - M1 Bridge

- For the connection between M1 motorway and A1 road, an extra-dosed bridge with a total length of 350 m will be constructed at the Grand River North West Valley.
- The bridge will consist of 24.7 m wide four-lane dual carriageway and 1.9 m wide footpath on both sides. Citizens and tourists will be able to easily access and cross the bridge on foot, admiring the landscape of the valley at a height of more than 90 m from the river bed.

- It is expected that the bridge will be ranked as the most aesthetic structure of Mauritius and play an important role of national landmark in Mauritius.

c) Soreze Interchange

- Sorèze Interchange will form part of the A1-M1 Link Road, comprising a 70 m Pre-Stressed Concrete (PSC) girder bridge, which will span M1 motorway, and various ramps to enable road users to enter or exit the A1-M1 Bridge.
- Sorèze Ramp-A will be connected to the Ring Road Phase 1 which has already been constructed, so as to complete the ring road network in the future.

III. Project Data

Employer: Road Development Authority

Engineer: Korea Expressway Corporation

Contractor: Transinvest-GCC-Bouygues TP- VSLi Junction Pont Fer & A1-M1 Link Rd JV Ltd

Contract Value: MUR 4.1 Billion including VAT (MUR 1.5 Billion for the Construction of the Grade Separated Junctions at Pont Fer / Jumbo /Dowlut Roundabouts and MUR 2.6 Billion for the construction of A1-M1 Link Road)

Duration: 958 days

Commencement date: 06th April 2018

Ending start: 19th November 2020