



# ZANGEZUR CORRIDOR: A New Stage in Eurasian Transport Integration



MINISTRY OF DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT  
AND TRANSPORT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

# **ZANGEZUR CORRIDOR:** A New Stage in Eurasian Transport Integration



**With the opening of the Zangezur Corridor, Azerbaijan is emerging as a key guarantor of peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. By advancing connectivity and fostering cooperation, Azerbaijan is leading the transformation process of the South Caucasus into a more secure, integrated, and forward-looking region, reinforcing its role as a reliable anchor of regional development.**

**Ilham Aliyev,**  
President of the  
Republic of Azerbaijan

# STRATEGIC LOCATION

Located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Azerbaijan serves as a vital bridge between North, South, East, and West - a dynamic hub that ensures energy security, connects markets, facilitates trade, and strengthens regional cooperation across Eurasia.



# MAJOR TRANSPORT CORRIDORS:

## Middle Corridor



### Route Stability

Offers greater predictability and reliability



### Faster Transit

15-18 days, significantly faster than 35-45 days by ocean



### Cost Reduction

Lowers transportation expenses for specific goods



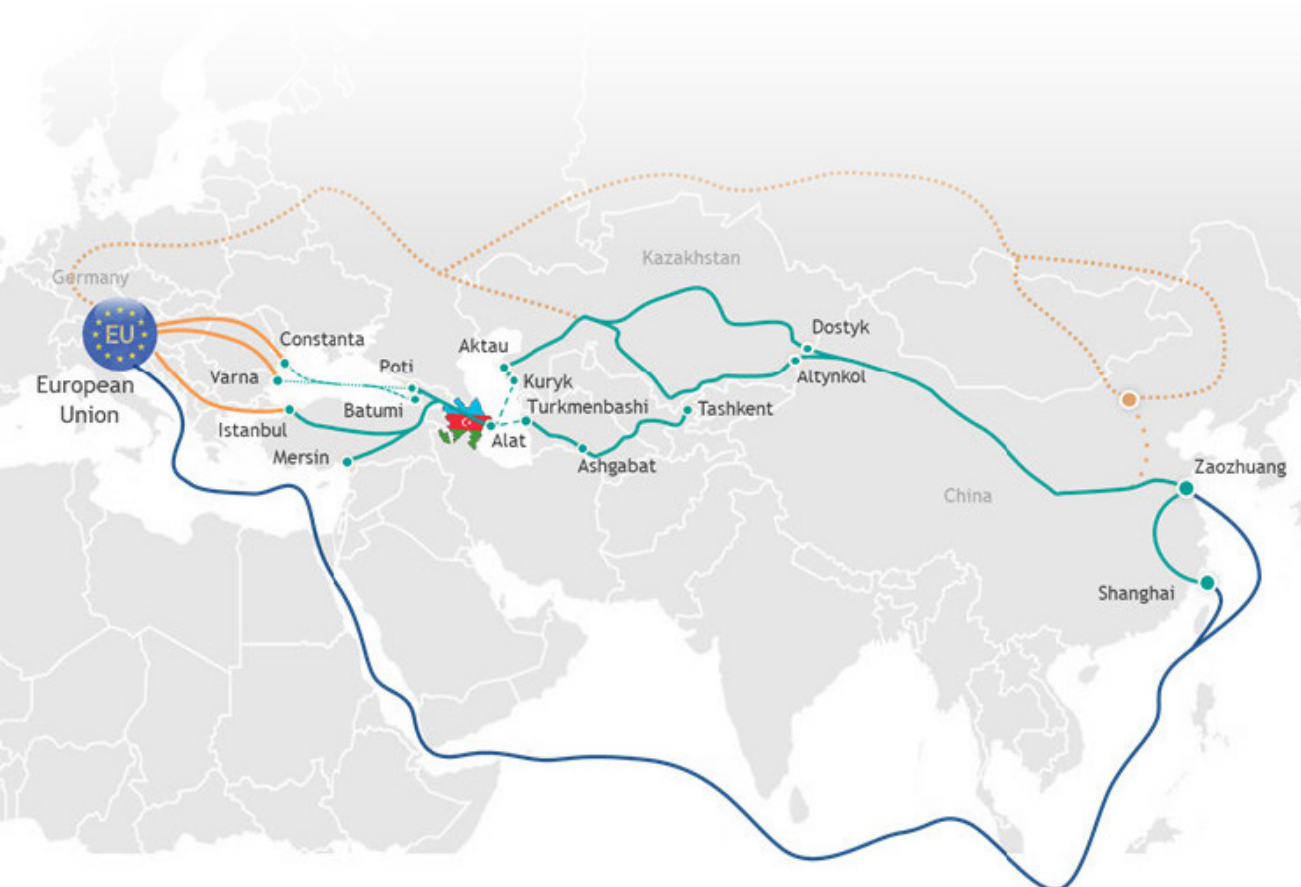
### New Markets

Opens up new economic opportunities for Central Asia



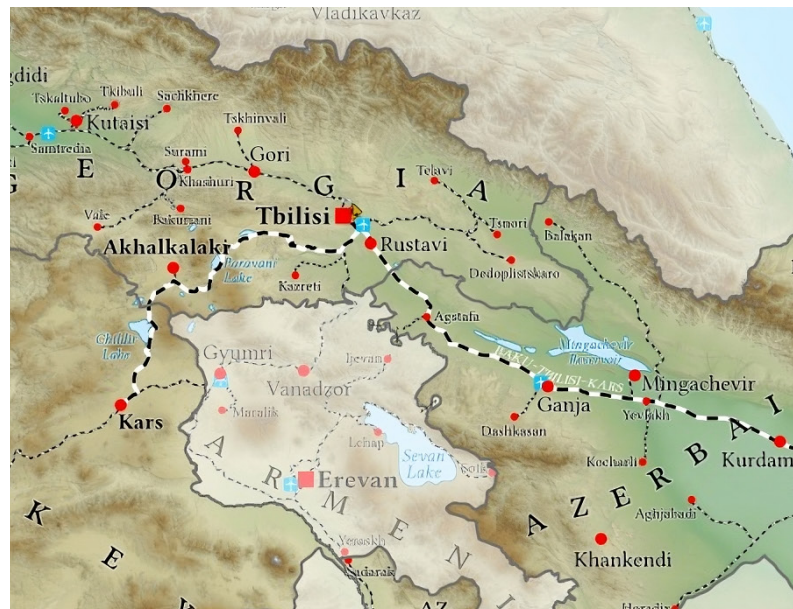
### Sustainable Transport

Railway is considered the best mode of transport in terms of CO2 emissions



### SUMMARY:

- The Middle Corridor — a key multimodal route linking Europe and Asia via the Caspian Sea — is emerging as a strategic alternative for Eurasian connectivity.
- With a current capacity of 15 million tons and 160,000 TEUs, it plays a vital role in regional trade.
- Ongoing infrastructure and policy reforms aim to boost efficiency, with container volumes projected to rise from 130,000 to 865,000 TEUs by 2040, underscoring the need for integrated and forward-looking development.



## Railway Network



Main indicators:

**25M**

tons of annual transit capacity



**2,200**

kilometers of total railway network



**5M**

tons of increased annual capacity of Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway



**60%**

of total railway network electrified



# Marine Transport



Main indicators:

**15M\***

tons of annual general cargo capacity



\* to be increased to 25M tons at Phase 2

**400**

hectares of total area



**160K\***

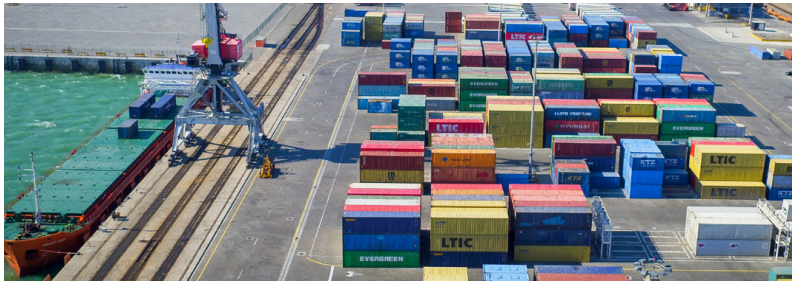
TEU of annual container capacity



\* to be increased to 500K TEU at Phase 2

**13**

berths in total for 4 terminals





## Road Transport



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**Top  
rank**

**Ranks 24th globally and 1st among CIS countries** for road infrastructure quality\*



**4.3x**

The total length of motor roads (from **18,799 km in 2003** to **80,320 km in 2024**).



**2.4x**

The volume of goods transported by road increased from **59 M tons in 2003** to **143 M tons in 2024**

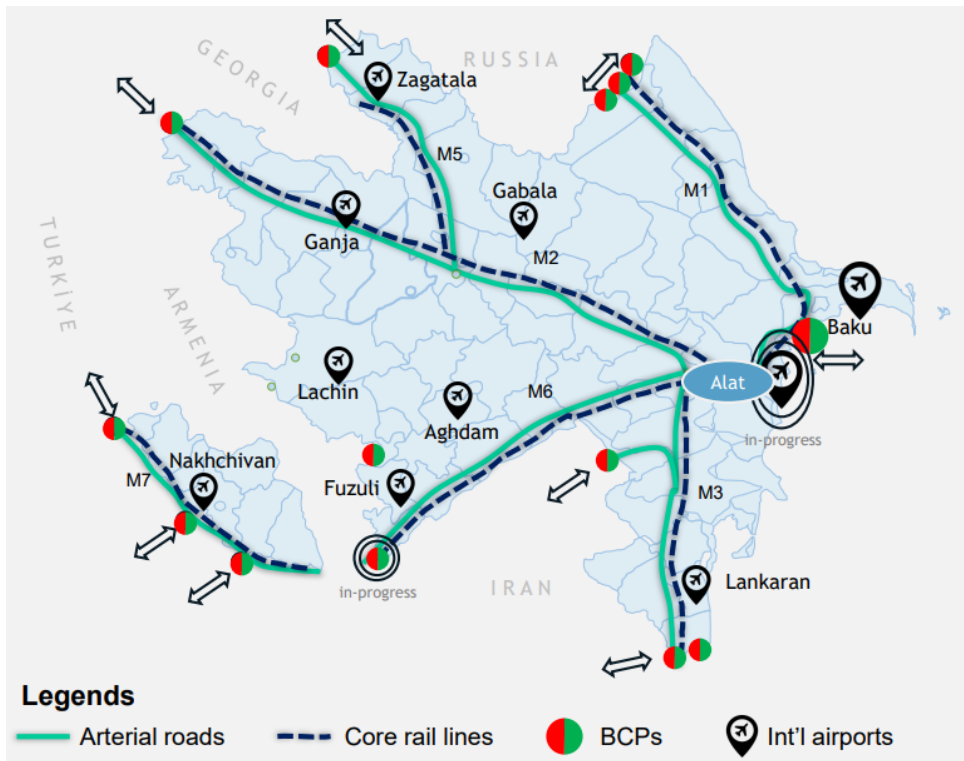


**14  
BCPs**

Upgraded and newly commissioned facilities with a **throughput capacity of 4,100 vehicles/hour**.

\* Note: According to the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report 2019, which evaluates the "Quality of Roads" indicator based on data from the 2006–2019 period.

# OVERVIEW OF AZERBAIJAN'S STRATEGIC TRANSPORT NETWORK



- Border Crossing Points (BCPs) with a capacity of **4,100 vehicles/day** in one direction,
- **Total network of 3K km railway and ~20K km automobile road,**
- **9 international airports.**

In the Alat area, a multimodal transport hub has been formed- integrating

- **road and railway networks,**
- **a BCP,**
- **the Alat International Sea Trade Port,**
- **the Alat Free Economic Zone, and**
- **the Alat Cargo Terminal.**

# NEW MULTIMODAL HUB ALAT FREE ECONOMIC ZONE



**Road & Highways**



**Railway Network**



**Marine Transport**



**Aviation**

# AFEZ



Adjacent to the Baku International  
**Sea Trade Port.**



Easily accessible via both **railways** and  
**motorways** that pass through the area



The Alat Cargo Airport and Terminal is  
**initially designed with an annual handling  
capacity of 0.5 million tons, expandable to  
1.5–2 million tons** in later phases.



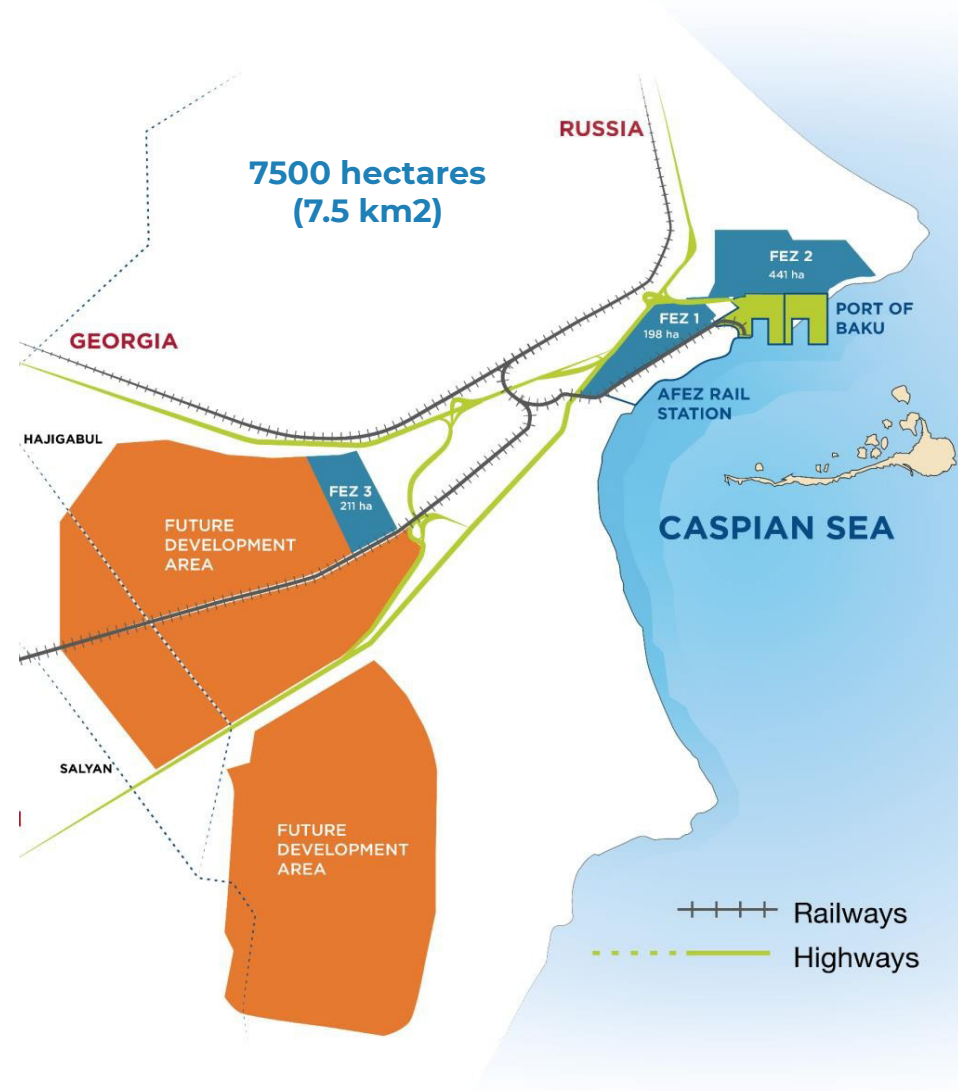
The nearest civil international airport in 65  
kilometers.



Operates under a special legal regime  
ensuring **prevailing law, property immunity,  
and extensive tax exemptions** for investors.



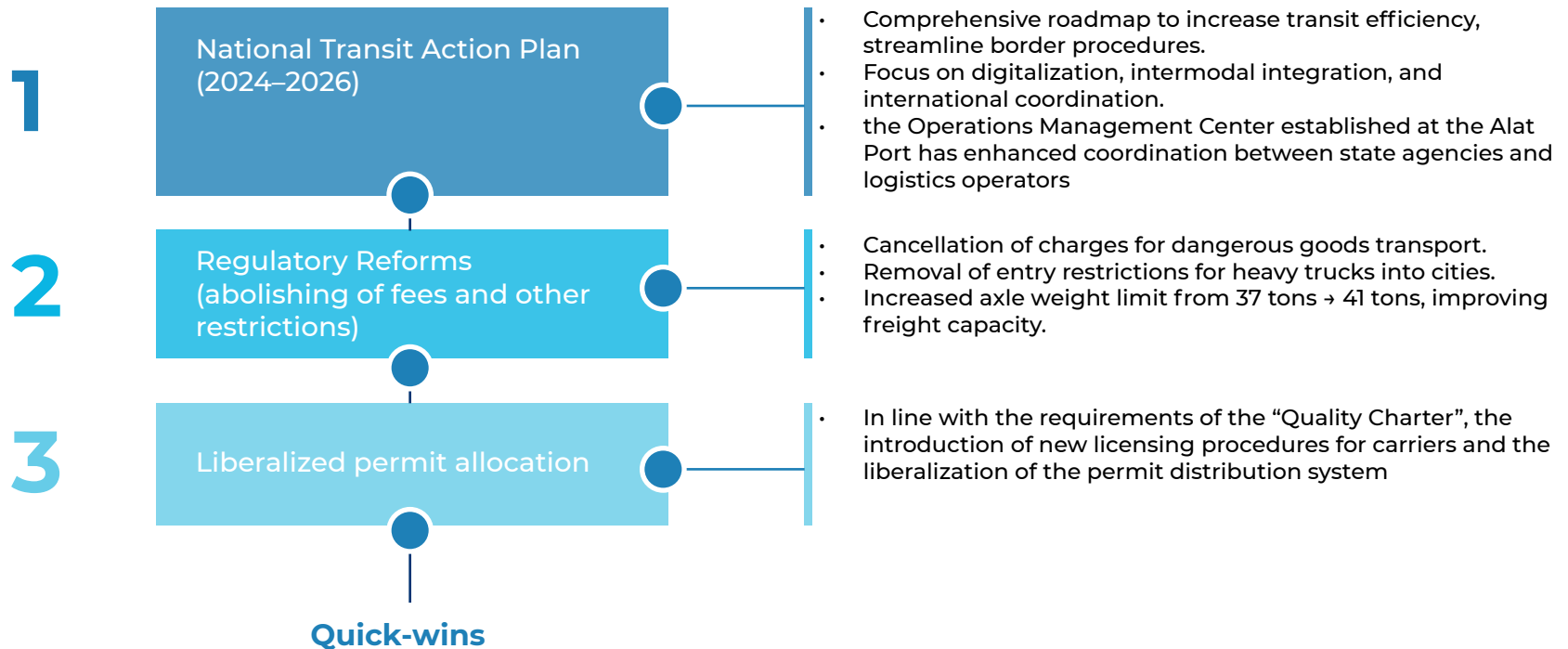
Will deliver an outstanding business  
environment for investors engaged in  
**export-oriented manufacturing**



# MEASURES TO ENHANCE TRANSIT OPERATIONS

## Key Actions

## Details



- Upgraded road/rail/port infrastructure improved transport speed and resilience;
- Border capacity expanded to **4,100 vehicles/day**;
- Permit exchanges increased from **94K (2019)** to **171K (2024)**;
- Ensured more flexible, transparent transport management.

Further development requires operational synchronization, simplified border procedures, and digital platforms to eliminate bottlenecks and increase competitiveness.



# SOFT INFRASTRUCTURE

**“Vision:** to position Azerbaijan as a hub of sustainable trade by advancing regional connectivity through transparent operations, reliable services, reduced transit times, and competitive pricing — creating a seamless, trusted, and efficient transit corridor for global commerce”



## Operational Efficiency



Streamlining processes, pre-arrival info exchange, and coordinating with partners to ensure fast, predictable, and cost-effective movement of goods.



## Collaboration & Coordination



Establishing joint ventures, roadmaps, and partnerships to harmonize procedures and eliminate bottlenecks across corridors.



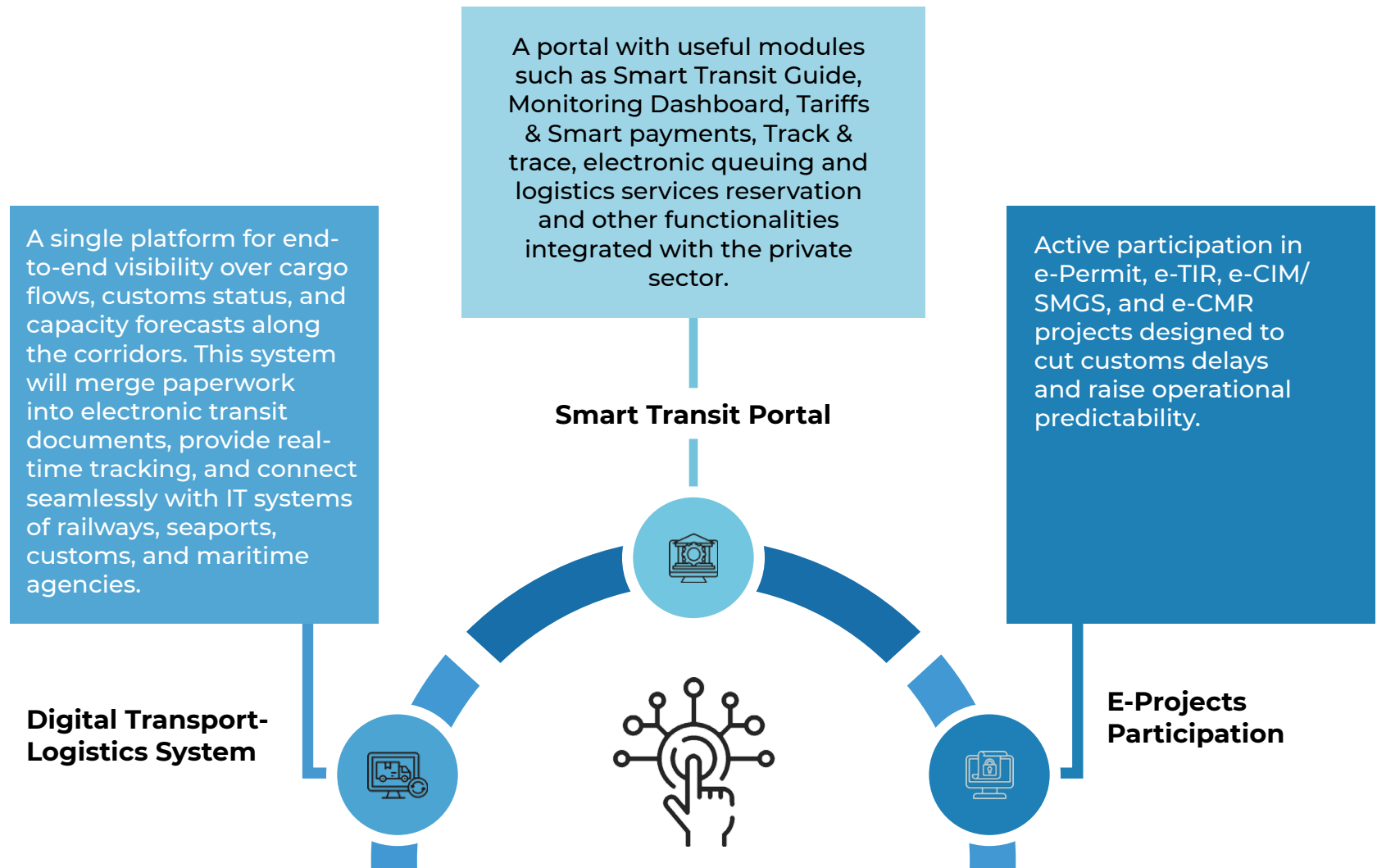
## Digitalization



Implementing information systems, e-documents, and real-time tracking to enhance transparency and predictability along the routes.

# DIGITALIZATION

To unlock the full value of physical infrastructure, it should be paired it with equally robust digital infrastructure. This commitment to digitalization will make transport through Azerbaijan faster, greener, and far more transparent.



# AZCON

## Towards an Integrated Transport Management Model



### Creation of AZCON

- ✓ Aims to establish a unified management model in the transport sector.
- ✓ Ensures efficient use of state resources and alignment with international governance standards.

1



### Strategic Cooperation

- ✓ Focus on enhancing transit capability (i.e. shipbuilding capacity at Baku Shipyard).
- ✓ Under partnership agreements initial vessel orders placed with Abu Dhabi ports

2



### Integration and Modernization Efforts

- ✓ Promotes interconnectivity of transport and logistics infrastructure.
- ✓ Strengthens Azerbaijan's position within global and regional transit systems.
- ✓ Advances a holistic approach to transport policy and investment planning.

3

# THE COORDINATING COUNCIL ON TRANSIT FREIGHT

- Established by Presidential Decree No. 655 (21 October 2015).
- Aims to simplify border-crossing and transport procedures for transit cargo via rail, sea, and ports.
- Ensures coordination among state bodies involved in transit operations.
- Functions as a collegial executive body to attract and efficiently manage transit flows through Azerbaijan.
- Operates under the Constitution, laws, presidential decrees, cabinet decisions, and international agreements of Azerbaijan.
- Cooperates with state authorities, municipalities, and private entities.
- The 2024–2026 Transit Action Plan is currently under implementation, while the 2027–2030 plan is under development.

## Members



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Azerbaijan Republic  
State Customs Committee



AZƏRBAYCAN  
RESPUBLİKASININ  
İQTİSADİYYAT  
NAZİRLİYİ  
Ministry of Economy  
of the Republic of Azerbaijan



Ministry of Justice  
of the Republic of Azerbaijan



Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Republic of Azerbaijan



State Border Service  
of Azerbaijan Republic



Azerbaijan Railways CJSC



Azerbaijan Caspian Shipping CJSC



State Oil Company  
of the Republic of Azerbaijan



"Baku International  
Sea Trade Port" CJSC



## Strength of The Transit Council is based on 4 main elements



### Power to make decisions (legislative component)

The Council is authorized to make decisions on the State Customs Committee, the State Border Service and other institutions related to transit



### Collaborative decision-making

All stakeholders work together, sharing their diverse input, expertise, and perspectives to reach a shared decision and effective solution



### Strong leadership

The chairmanship by the Minister provides the right vector of development and protection of the strategic interests of the country.



### Regulatory role without financial interest

As the only structure that includes the State Customs Committee, the State Border Service and other institutions related to transit, it ensures that the interests of the state are always prioritised.

# TRANSPORT SECTOR

## A Pillar of Azerbaijan's Economic Growth

**Strong state governance and sustained economic growth since 2015.**

Transformation of Azerbaijan's Transport Sector (2004–2024)

**Doubled**  
Employment

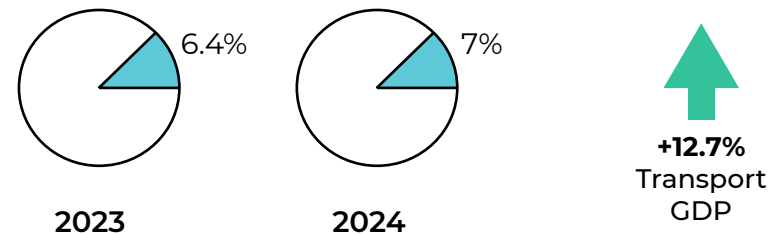
**14x**  
Added value

**13.5x**  
Average nominal  
salary

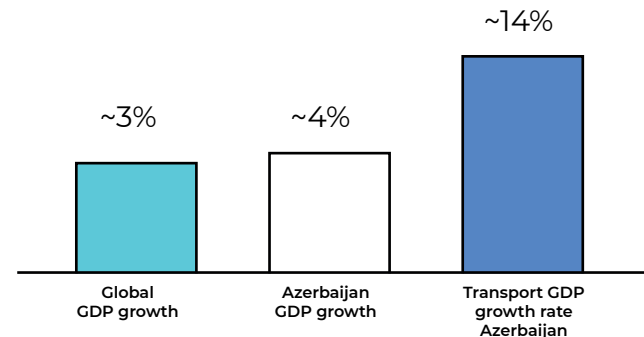
**18x**  
Investment in  
fixed assets

**Rapid modernization and strong economic expansion** across Azerbaijan's transport and logistics sector.

### 1. Share of the transport sector in GDP



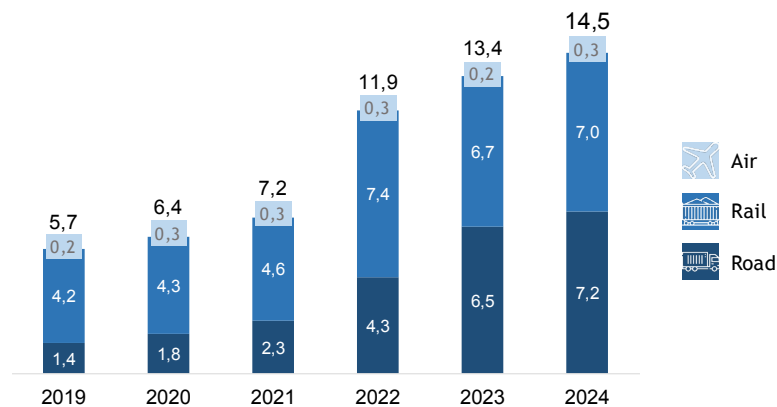
### 2. Transport Sector's Contribution to GDP — Global vs. Azerbaijan



Source: The State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan

# TANGIBLE RESULTS: TRANSIT IN FIGURES

6-year transit cargo dynamics, M tons



In 2024, transit cargo in Azerbaijan reached **14.5 million tons**, marking a **17%** compound annual growth rate (CAGR) since 2019 — a **2.5-fold increase** over the five-year period.

In 2024, the volume of containerized transit cargo in Azerbaijan reached **55,000 TEU**, representing a **39% increase** compared to the previous year.

In 2024 a total of **358** block trains were sent along the China-Central Asia-Azerbaijan route. During the first nine months of 2025, this figure reached **296** block trains, which is **39%** more than in the same period of the previous year.

Block trains from China



Country total transit containers, 2024

**55K**

+39% ▲ TEU

Port of Baku total transit containers, 2024

**48K**

+35% ▲ TEU



# KEY HIGHLIGHTS (KARABAGH)



## Restoration of Sovereignty and Economic Space

Liberation of Karabakh restored territorial integrity and expanded Azerbaijan's economic sovereignty zone.

Enabled management of a larger national transport and logistics network



## Reintegration and Reconstruction

Liberated territories have been integrated into the unified national economy.

Large-scale infrastructure and recovery projects launched under the "Great Return" program.



## Strategic Connectivity: The Zangezur Corridor

Aims to diversify transport routes and strengthen Azerbaijan's East–West and North–South linkages.

Expected to boost freight volumes and stimulate regional economic clusters.

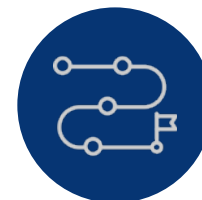


## Infrastructure Achievements (as of 2025)

3 International Airports: Fuzuli, Zangilan, Lachin

3,200+ km of highways (71% of planned total)

180 km of railway lines completed (75% progress)

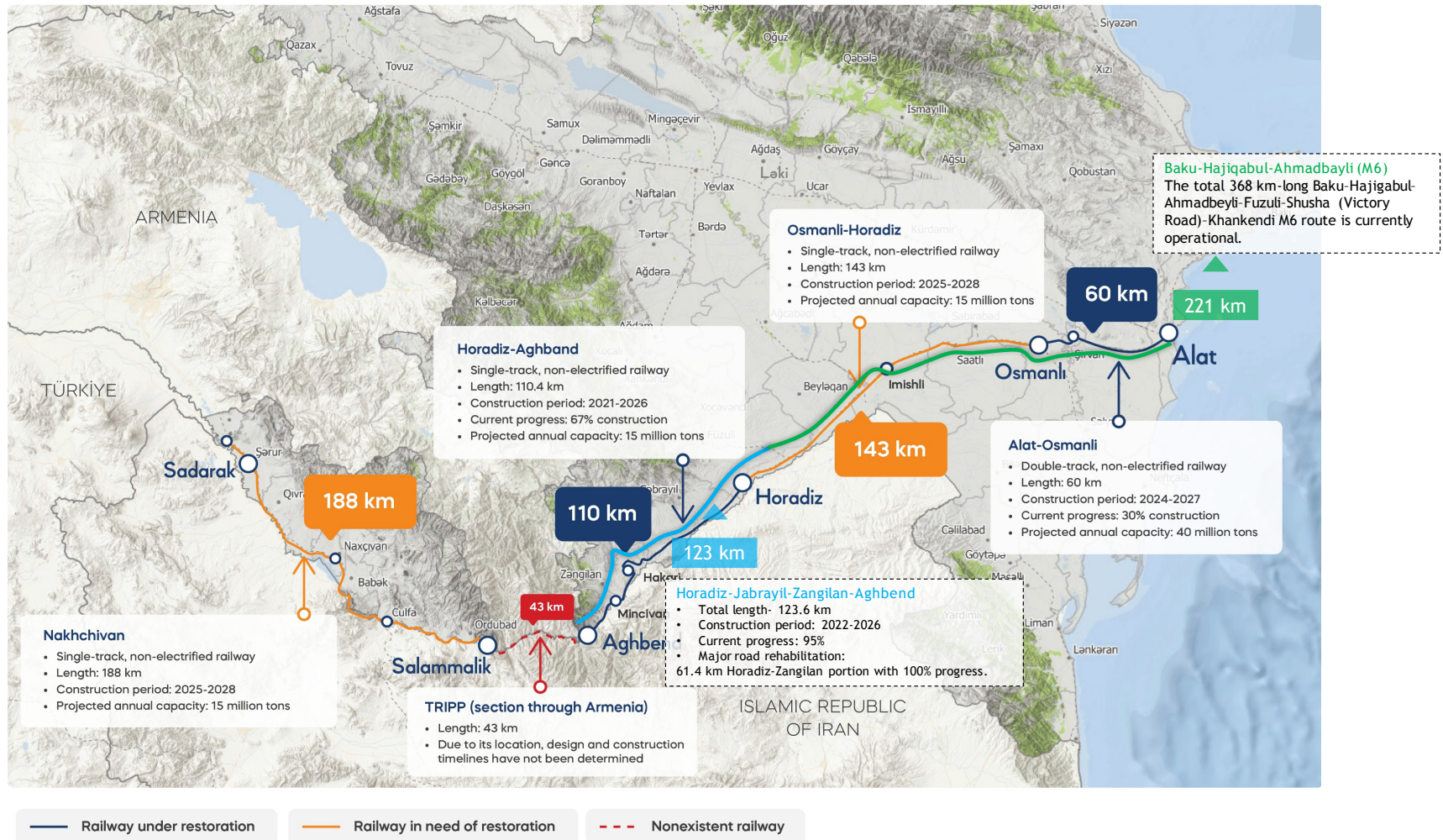


## Regional Development Outlook

Karabakh and Eastern Zangezur are emerging as models of modern economic independence, powered by connectivity, sustainability, and innovation.

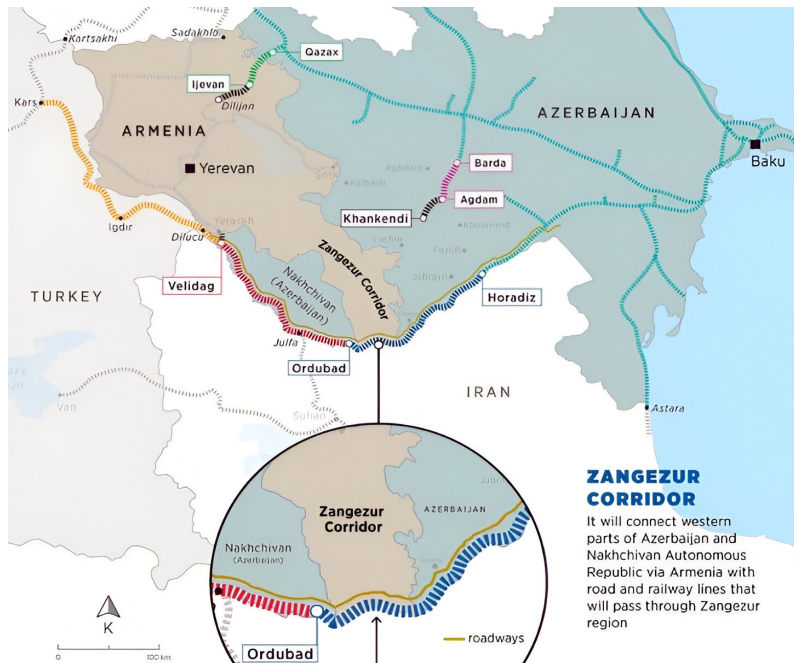
# ZANGEZUR CORRIDOR

## Development of road and rail infrastructure along the Corridor



# ZANGEZUR CORRIDOR

## Further developments



## INFORMATION ABOUT THE ROUTE

- Alat–Osmanli railway line – 60 km
- Osmanli–Horadiz railway line – 143 km
- Horadiz–Agband railway line – 110.4 km
- Nakhchivan (Salmamalik–Sadarak) railway line – 188 km



- Kars–Dilucu – 244 km (inagurated)
- Railway line passing through the territory of Armenia – 43 km (pending)

+15  
Mt/year

Regional &  
global  
integration

Peace and  
prosperity

