

A7 Motorway

Hamburg-Nordwest to Bordesholm



1. Asset information

The project involves planning, financing, and expanding approximately 65 km and operating and maintaining approximately 59 km of the A7 Motorway from Hamburg Northwest to Bordesholm, covering an investment volume of approximately 735 million euros and construction volume of approximately 600 million euros. The concession duration is 30 years from 2014 to 2044.



2. Impact

- Improved road conditions on highways can enhance road safety and thereby reduce the number of traffic accidents and fatalities. Also better access to healthcare services is facilitated by faster and more reliable transportation routes.
- Highways promote economic growth by speeding up the movement of goods and services and improving supply chain efficiency. In addition, the construction and maintenance of the highway creates direct and indirect jobs.
- Reliable and resilient transport and reduced travel time for about 47 million vehicles per year with traffic volume peak loads of up to 130,000 or more vehicles per day.
- Highways often cut through natural habitats and can affect biodiversity in their surroundings. It is therefore crucial to take measures to minimize the impact of road traffic on the environment and protect the diversity of animal and plant species. At the A7 Motorway therefore flower meadows and green bridges were created to promote biodiversity and connect ecosystems.
- The construction, operation and maintenance of the A7 Motorway from Hamburg Northwest to Bordesholm was realized through a public-private partnership, which strengthens the collaboration for sustainable development projects between the public entities and the private sector.

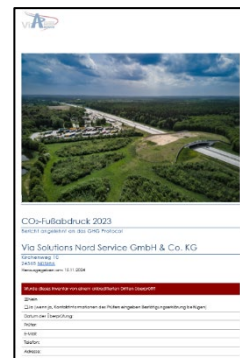


3. Environment

GHG emissions

The project aims to provide reliable schedules, stable costs, and full transparency. It supports environmentally friendly and resource-saving mobility.

Each year, a CO₂ report is therefore compiled to document and analyse the annual emissions. This report is based on the GHG Protocol, and the level of detail in tracking emission sources is continuously improved. The report also identifies potential reduction measures and documents the impacts of the measures that have been implemented.



Climate risk

The project was screened to evaluate the potential physical impacts from climate change based on 'Paris-aligned' (RCP2.6 ~+1°C) and 'High emissions' (RCP8.5 ~+3.7°C) scenarios across three time periods (2020, 2050 and 2100). The project maintains a Very Low physical climate risk score under both scenarios.

Waste & Water

The project generates waste and involves water consumption at the highway maintenance facility as well as at the rest areas along the highway. The management services provider continues to monitor waste and water consumption and is actively exploring opportunities to reduce them wherever possible.

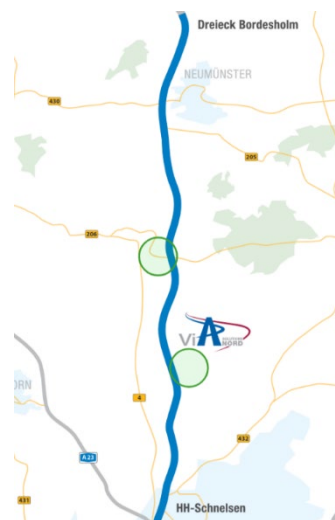
The project ensures that waste is separated correctly, and a detailed waste balance analysis is conducted. Furthermore, waste disposal contractors are selected in such a way that they provide detailed annual waste balance reports, indicating the types and quantities of waste generated.

The consumption of water is monitored for each rest area and the highway maintenance facility separately.

Biodiversity

Highways often cut through natural habitats and can affect the biodiversity in their surroundings. Therefore, it is crucial to implement measures to minimize the impact of road traffic on the environment and to protect the diversity of animal and plant species. To enhance the ecological diversity along the highway, an individual development plan for the two areas along the A7 Motorway was created with the support of the DVL in the context of the "Blütenbunt-Insektenreich" initiative. As a result, over the coming years, a site-specific, species-rich flower meadow using native seeds will be established on a total area of approximately 8,100 m². Additionally, the mowing cycles will be adjusted accordingly to support the growth of those species-rich flower meadows.

For the purpose of sustainable nature and environmental protection, the A7 Motorway has two green bridges as well as 500 meters of bat overpasses. Green bridges, also known as wildlife overpasses, are structures built over highways to allow animals to safely cross from one side to the other. They are designed to maintain habitat connectivity by providing a safe passage for wildlife, thereby reducing the risk of roadkill and supporting biodiversity. These bridges are usually covered with vegetation to blend with the surrounding landscape and make them more appealing to the animals.



Noise and air quality

The project actively monitors noise along the motorway and surrounding neighbourhoods. Noise protection measures cover an area of 100,000 m² and include sound walls, gabions, green embankments, and whisper asphalt.

An interactive map on the project website provides additional information about the various noise protection facilities and their locations through photos and explanatory texts in German.

4. Social

Health & Safety

Health and safety is on the agenda each board meeting. Our asset managers work actively with the Portfolio Company or its management service providers, to promote a strong health and safety culture, facilitate the sharing of best practices.

We endorse a zero-tolerance approach to occupational health and safety incidents. Additionally, the Portfolio Company has a Health & Safety policy in place and regularly conducts a fire or health and safety audit.

In addition to internal discussions on safety and health topics, regular exchanges also take place with employees of other similar projects, such as the A6 section of Via6West and A8 Section of Pansuevia in Germany.

Diversity

Not applicable as the Portfolio Company does not employ any staff.

Impact for local communities

This project supports the local communities by providing reliable transport infrastructure and enhancing environmental sustainability through various initiatives such as noise reduction measures and biodiversity projects. The Portfolio Company supports local social initiatives as the Regenbogen E.V. and the Nützen Kindergarten.



5. Governance

Delegation & oversight

The Portfolio Company directors review on a quarterly basis comprehensive board report, including both general project management and financial management. The project has a rigorous governance structure in place with quarterly board meetings, ad-hoc meetings when required and an authority delegation matrix to the management services provider.

VSN has robust ESG policies and procedures in place and clear board-level responsibility to monitor their application. The ESG standard policies include:

- Biodiversity policy
- Code of Conduct, including anti-bribery, anti-corruption and non-discrimination
- Conflict of interest
- Cyber-security
- Diversity
- ESG
- Health and safety (workplace accident prevention)
- Anti-slavery & Human Trafficking policy (Modern Day Slavery)
- No-idling
- Rapid escalation
- Responsible contractor
- Tax
- Whistleblowing

The Portfolio Company holds frequent meetings with the client DEGES to promote collaboration, coordination and integration of operations.

Reporting

The Portfolio Company uses a quarterly board pack, reporting to the board of directors on the operational and financial performance of the project and compliance with its obligations and regulation/legislation, including the policies.

Additionally, the Portfolio Company reports annually into BBGI's ESG KPI survey, which composed of 100+ data points, covering all aspects of ESG oversight.

Cyber security

The Portfolio Company and its subcontractors continuously monitor the cyber security policy and perform information risk analysis, developing mitigating measures. They have a robust and comprehensive IT backup system in place. Additionally, the Portfolio Company has a Cyber security policy in place.

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