

Tbilisi, Georgia

Status of the project: ongoing technical assistance



Basic Information

Urban area: 726 km²

Population: 1,108,717 | Growth rate: 1.33%

GDP per capita: USD 5,422

Modal Share:

Public transport: 49%

Walking: 28%

Private cars: 20%

Taxis: 2%

National GHG emissions per capita: 4.61 (tCO₂eq)

Region capital city

Context

Tbilisi is the largest city and capital of Republic of Georgia, located in the South Caucasus, in East Georgia along the bank of River Mtkvari. Due to its strategic location between Europe and Asia and its proximity to the Silk Road, the city serves as an important trade route between neighbouring countries thereby significantly experiencing high traffic levels especially through the Tbilisi Metropolitan Area. The population census indicates that around 1,108,717 inhabitants currently reside in the city which accounts for approximately 30% of Georgia's total population (Tbilisi Sustainable Urban Transport Strategy, 2015).

Tbilisi is on the road towards sustainable urban mobility and is working on major areas to promote it. Previously, the city was heavily dependent on private vehicle ownership resulting in major traffic congestions and environmental challenges such as air and noise pollution. However, from 2010s onwards, the city has invested extensively in green transport network in line with Tbilisi Sustainable Urban Transport Strategy. Today, Tbilisi counts with a 27.6 km long soviet-era metro network – servicing an average of 450,000 passenger trips a day and accounting for approximately 13% of total trips¹ – operating as the backbone of the public transport system. The metro is complemented by an expanding BRT system and extensive municipal and mini bus services with a ridership of more than 350,000 daily passengers, a recently introduced bicycle road network.

The city, however, still faces major mobility-related challenges, of which three of the most pressing relate to a lack of infrastructural and fare integration of the diverse public transport services, a persistent predominance of private motorized transport and a very low modal share of active modes, especially cycling. Tbilisi joined the MobiliseYourCity Partnership in 2019 and is now part of a new project aiming at supporting city administrations in the South Caucasus to design, implement and further develop their urban transport systems in the frame of a participatory, sustainable, and integrated urban development.

Georgia's capital is cooperating with various implementing partners of MobiliseYourCity to develop, among others, a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP), improve the existing BRT system in the city center, promote active transport, strengthen the capacities of the local government and develop a cable-car service.

¹ Tbilisi Metro Upgrade and Refurbishment Plan | Cities Development Initiative For Asia (cdia.asia)

Support from the Partnership

Technical Assistance: Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP)

Funded by: AFD for MobiliseYourCity Asia

Funding amount: EUR 406,000

Implemented by: AFD in collaboration with ADB and GIZ

Local counterpart: Municipality of Tbilisi

Finance leverage: EUR 400,000

Supported Activities:

- By Asian Development Bank (ADB)
 - » Infrastructure development and financing of the SUMP
- By Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
 - » Development of the SUMP
 - » Improvement of existing BRT-light in the city center
 - » Follow-up on initiatives related to active mobility
 - » Improvement of the bus network
 - » Development of cable-car system

Status of implementation

Project start: Feb 2019

Expected project completion: March 2022

Next expected outputs

- Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan

Highlights

Implementing organizations working together increases the likelihood of successful implementation

MobiliseYourCity implementing partners have teamed-up in several countries to support SUMPs not only during their development, but also throughout their implementation phase. This is especially the case of MobiliseYourcity Asia, where AFD and ADB are working together in several cities throughout the continent. Tbilisi is a clear example of this beneficial relationship, where the city can reap the benefits of working with three different implementing organizations.