

Tbilisi, Georgia

Partner city

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)

Context

Tbilisi is the largest city and capital of the 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 a green transport network in line with the Tbilisi Sustainable Urban Transport Strategy. Today, Tbilisi has 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 minibus services with a ridership of more than 350,000 daily passengers, and a recently introduced bicycle road network.

The city, however, still faces major mobility-related challenges. Three of the most pressing challenges relate to a lack of infrastructural and fare integration of the diverse public transport services, a persistent predominance of private motorised 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 MobiliseYourCity implementing partners to develop, among others, a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP), improve the existing BRT system in the city centre promote active transport, strengthen the capacities of the local government and develop a cable-car service.

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 the Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- Infrastructure development and financing of the SUMP

By Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

- Technical assistance to the transport department of the Tbilisi City Hall to monitor SUMP elaboration
- Follow-up on initiatives related to active mobility with the Tbilisi City Hall
- Complementary study on (i) improvement of the existing BRT-light in the city centre; (ii) improvement of the standard bus network; (iii) potential development of a cable car system; (iv) development of a bike share scheme and a cycling master plan

Status of the SUMP process

Project start: Q1 2019

Expected project completion: Q1 2024

Completed outputs:

- Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan

Next expected outputs:

- Adoption the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan by Tbilisi City Hall

SUMP key measures, leveraged financing and projected impact

Final SUMP deliverables will be published after official approval by Tbilissi local authority.