



Projects German Unity - the tunnel chain of A 44 overcomes the division of Germany –

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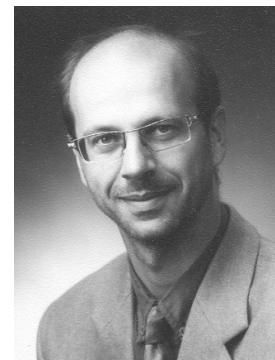


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Summary

The Motorway A44 Kassel–Eisenach is one of the German Unity traffic projects and a part of the Trans-European Road Network (TERN). One speciality is the sequence of several tunnels within a short distance forming a tunnel chain. The length of these tunnels varies from 280 m up to 4.200 m. The heading also has to master different underground conditions. All tunnels correspond to the new European Community safety standards for tunnels.

Keywords: tunnel, safety standards, project German Unity, BAB A 44.

1. Introduction

The new development of the motorway A 44 Kassel–Eisenach is one of the German Unity traffic projects and connects the Federal States Hesse and Thuringia formerly separated due to the German domestic border.

This section of motorway A44 is an important component within the transeuropean road network (TERN), because it connects the Benelux states in the west with Poland and further the states of the former Soviet Union in the east. For the German road network the A 44 is of central importance because it closes the gap between the population centre Rhine-Ruhr and the city axis Eisenach - Erfurt - Dresden. This project is a key function for merging together the western and eastern part of Germany.

2. Historical overview

The history of A 44 goes back a long way. In the year 1934 planning had already started and in 1937 the first construction work was done, interrupted in the year 1939 because of war. After the end of the Second World War the project didn't continue because of its position close to the German domestic border.

In addition there was a change of the principal axis of federal motorways from west-east to north-south. This gave an advantage compared with the German Federal Railways.