Conclusion – Proposals for Traffic Mitigation

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Skender LUARASI
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Llazar KUMARAKU
POLIS University / Tirana, Albania

This new volume of the Scientific Journal of the Observatory of the Mediterranean Basin brings a broad overview of the challenges and opportunities of urban development in Tirana and the surrounding regions. The selected articles are not simply academic studies, but new visions for the future of the city, where history, technology and citizen participation come together to create sustainable development models.

Decentralization of the city and consequently of traffic and urban mobility includes works that directly address the challenge of congestion in the center of Tirana. Morika Kakinuma Deangelis, in the article "Decentralizing Traffic Congestion in Tirana's Urban Centre: Re-interpreting Spontaneous Commuting as a Tool for Sustainable Growth in Kashar", proposes a methodological framework that reads urban form through the small daily decisions of commuters, aiming at the decentralization of congestion points and the creation of new peripheral poles. In the same vein, Andia Vllamasi, with "Exploring the Feasibility of Using GANs for Traffic Mitigation", analyzes how generative adversarial networks (GANs) can generate new alternatives for the urban structure in Shkozë, reducing traffic and supporting the creation of a second urban center. Alma Gjonaj, in "Access to Historic Buildings and Traffic Flow in Tirana", examines the connection between historical monuments and the formation of congestion, proposing measures for public transport, pedestrian infrastructure and parking management. Vjola Ziu, with "The Role of Urban Mobility in Shaping City's Image and Boosting Tourism", connects mobility with the city's image and tourism, suggesting the use of micromobility to increase access to main attractions.

The topic of Digital Technology and Sustainable Planning is addressed in articles that examine the role of new technological tools in urban planning. Chiara Marcantonio, in "Integrated and Multilevel Knowledge", shows how GIS, laser scanning, photogrammetry and H BIM can support heritage conservation and sustainable planning, turning cultural heritage into a strategic resource for revitalization. Giulia Albini, with "Navigating Urban Complexity: The Role of City Information Modeling", explores the role of CIM in integrating spatial, infrastructural and social data, for more responsive and participatory policies. Erjon Çobani, in "Towards New Heights", analyzes the impact of new towers on the urban transformation of Tirana, proposing methods for assessing their role in the city's identity and urban density. In "Impact of rapid private motorisation growth on Tirana's traffic", Luca Lezzerini and Andia Vllamasi argue that the motorization is not the cause but a "trigger" that has revealed system wide criticalities that range from digital infrastructure and communication to physical urban infrastructures. These articles place Tirana in a global context, where digital technologies and contemporary architecture are an inseparable part of planning.

The traffic topic in relation to Cultural Heritage and urban regeneration is addressed in articles that combine the preservation of the past with the needs of the future. Luca Formigari, in "Beyond Kombinat", uses morphological analysis of the Erzen valley to propose interventions that preserve agriculture and limit uncontrolled expansion. Nicola Pio Di Tommaso, with "Inner Area and Historic Villages: Two Sides of the Same Coin?", analyzes the relationship between inner areas and historic villages, proposing regeneration models based on rural identity and co-planning. Riccardo Altobello, in "Integrating Heritage Conservation and Sustainable Urban Redevelopment", explores the transformation of a former textile factory into a "city within a city", balancing preservation with modernization. Zhuo Chang, in "Paskuqan Lake's Regeneration", proposes the regeneration of the lake area through green corridors and the integration of public transport, creating a new residential and recreational pole. In "From Abandonment to Interpretation", Erida Curraj makes the case that the restoration and rehabilitation of the existing abandoned industrial heritage can be transformed into an urban and territorial infrastructure that enables both sustainable tourism and integrated local urbanisms. These articles show that heritage is not an obstacle to development, but a basis for new urban visions.
Energy, ecology and theoretical visions of decentralization include works that link ecological transition to urban planning. Karla Cavallari, in "Integrated Energy Methodologies for Urban Ecological Transition", suggests the creation of Renewable Energy Communities in Kombinat, linking urban regeneration with local energy production. Tommaso Paolo Emiliano Randazzo presents a theoretical approach to the decentralization of functions and the creation of peripheral centers to reduce traffic congestion in the article "A Vision for Tirana's Traffic Mitigation". Arjola Sava and Dejvi Dauti treat the Shkoza area as a territory with historical layers and informal development, proposing a morphological approach that transforms it into a functional peripheral center in the article "Temporal Morphologies". These contributions see ecology and the theory of decentralization as part of an integrated vision for the city.

And finally, this volume of SJOMB contains two additional contributions that deal with the morphological structure of the city. While, at first sight, these articles do not deal directkly with teh problem of traffic, they do however cast light of the urban structure of Tirana and its historical evolution, and how such structure forms the context of Tirana's contemporary developments. In "The Structure of Tirana from 1614 to 1943", Genti Avdija argues the structure of Tirana is the result of continuities and discontinuities, of its inherited radial shape and several interventions by teh Italian architects of the 30-s and 40s. In "Fragmented Densification and Urban Form in Contemporary Tirana", Jonila Prifti offers a critique of the quantitative and formulaic mentalities and practices of planning, while arguing the importance of a morphological and phenomenological approach to the city, which would enable and sustain urban unity, continuity, and coherence.

This volume of SJOMB positions Tirana as a living laboratory where traffic challenges, cultural heritage, digital technologies and ecological transition intertwine to create new development models. The articles grouped under these four main themes offer not only detailed analyses, but also bold visions for the city's future. The journal aims to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and offer new ideas for today's urban challenges, placing Tirana at the center of a broader debate on cities in transition and their sustainable future. This is a volume that invites the reader to look beyond the boundaries of traditional planning and imagine a city where mobility, heritage, technology and ecology coexist in harmony.

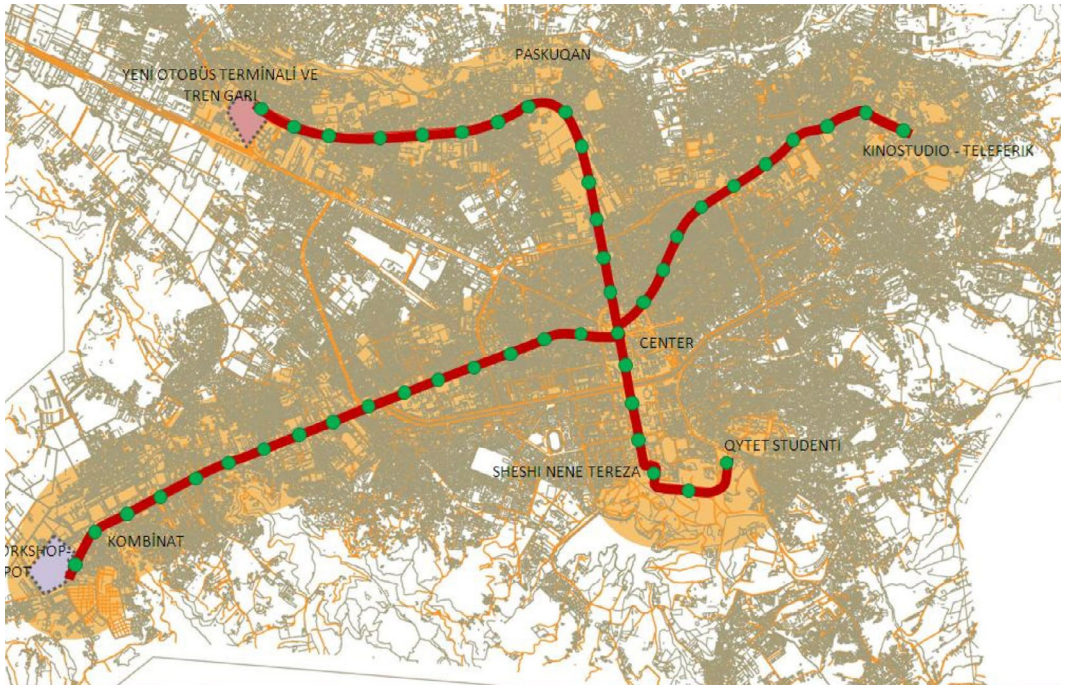

Fig. 1. Tirana Tramway Project. Soruce/ Tirana Municipality

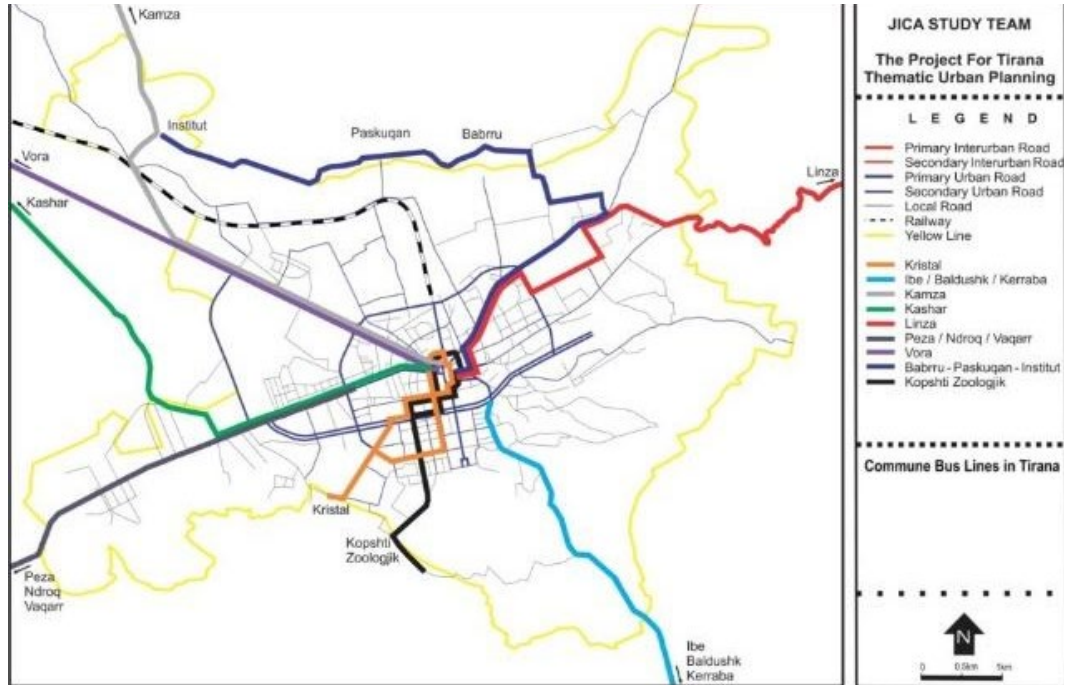

Fig. 3. Analyzing Transport Problems in Tirana on a Sound Scientific System Base . Source/ A. Seitllari, E. Luga (2016)

Fig. 2. Tirana Tramway Project. Soruce/ Tirana Municipality

Fig. 4. Tirana Tramway Project. Soruce/ Tirana Municipality

urbani.tirana.al

Tirana Bus Map

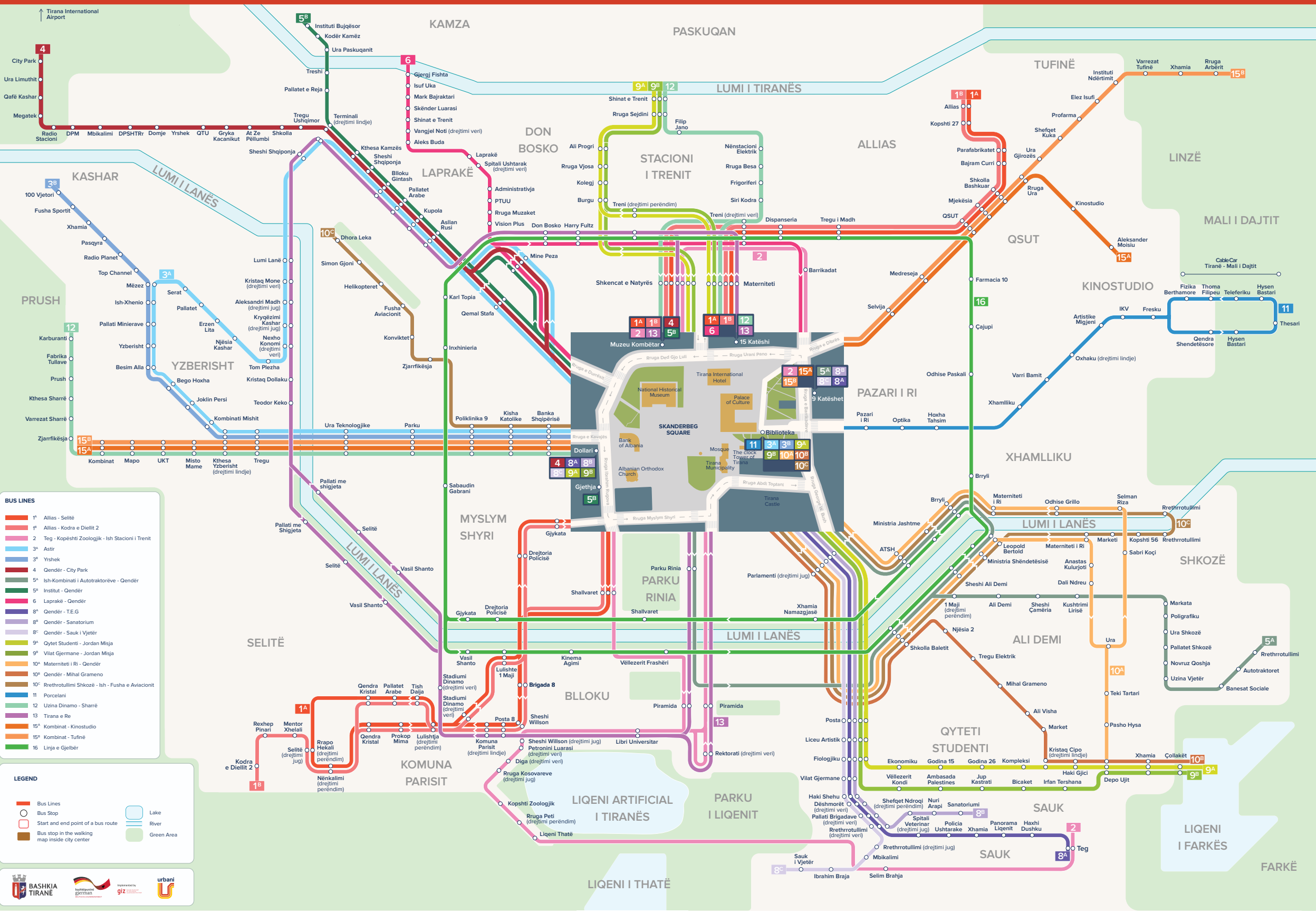

Fig. 5. SUTI Plan.
Source/ Tirana Municipality