

ALMATY–BISHKEK ECONOMIC CORRIDOR Third Subcommittee Meeting

21- 22 February 2019, Hotel Orion, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

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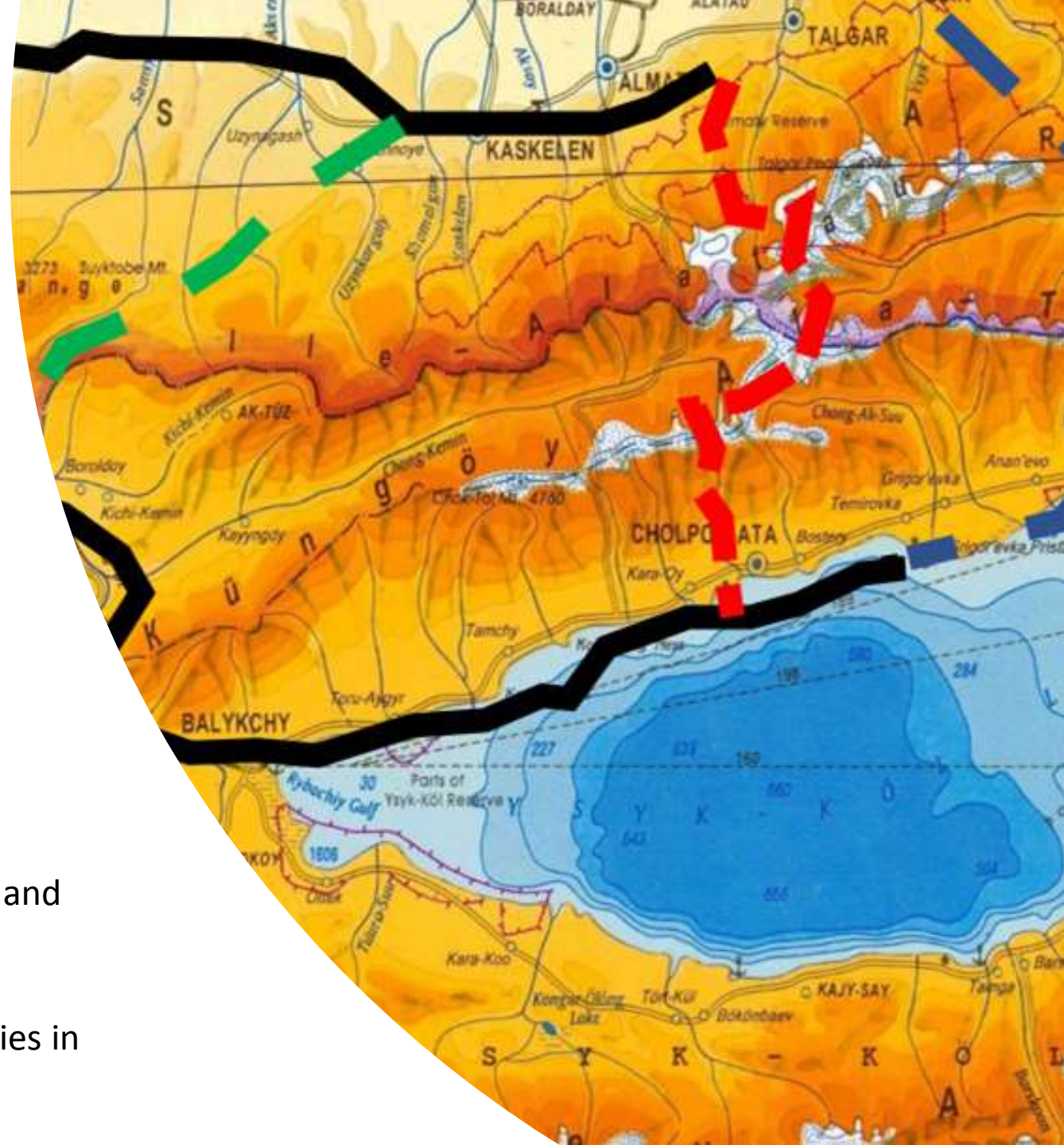
Main connectivity components

- Border Crossing Point Improvements
- **Almaty Issyk-Kul Connector Road**
- **Almaty – Bishkek Bus Service Improvement**



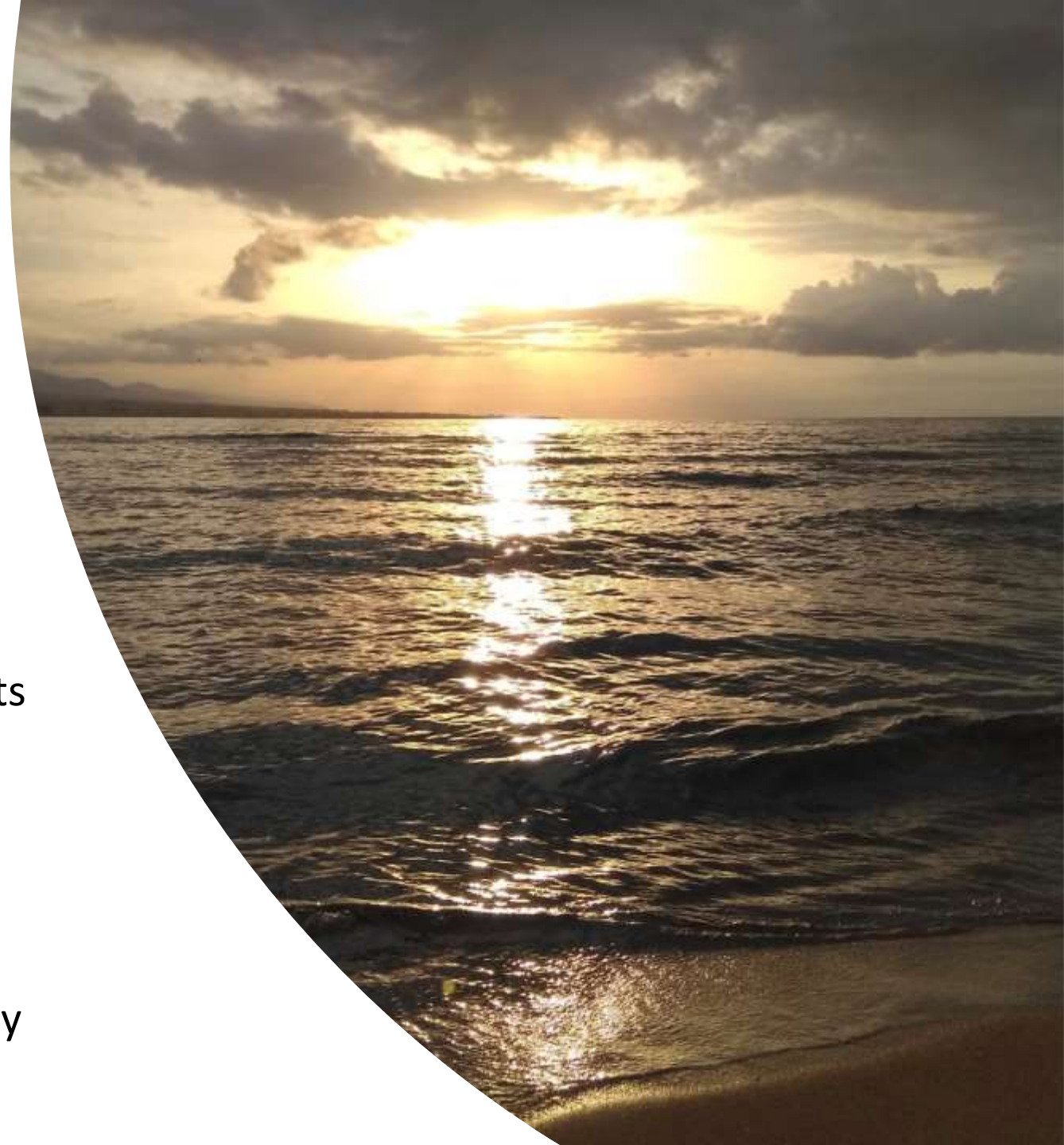
Almaty – Issyk-kul Road

- Travel today
 - 7 hours, 450 km
 - Limits potential for tourism development
- Solutions - Three potential alignments
 - 4.5 hours, 280km
 - 3 hours, 180km
 - 2.5 hours, 120km
- Benefits
 - Connects two major tourism locations (existing and planned)
 - Large time and cost savings
 - Expanded tourism and employment opportunities in both countries



Almaty – Issyk-kul Road – Next step

- Next steps
 - Reconfirm need for Economic Impact Study
 - Forecast of future travel demand
 - Indicative cost estimates
 - Estimate the transport user benefits
 - Estimate the economic impact
 - Estimate economic and financial viability
 - Recommend financing strategy
 - Political commitment to consider economically viable road
 - Ready to recruit Economic Impact Study consultants



Almaty – Bishkek Bus Service Improvements

- Services today
 - Long distance Marshrutka (5+ hours) vs. 4 hours in private vehicle
 - Operates 5 am to 7 pm – Bus leaves when full
 - About 400 som / 1800 kzt (~ \$5 to \$6 USD)
- Solutions
 - Reduce time at border crossing
 - Bus lanes at border
 - Mobile passport readers – on-bus clearance
 - Pre-clearance of passengers and/or vehicles
 - Establish scheduled service
 - Routes directly to Airports



Almaty – Bishkek Bus Service Improvements

- Next steps
 - Political commitment to consider improvements
 - Need for feasibility study
 - Public transport market assessment
 - Estimate demand and costs of improved bus service
 - Estimate economic and financial viability
 - Political feasibility
 - Expedited procedures for buses at border crossings
 - Preclearance of trusted buses

