



Statens vegvesen



E39 Ålesund-Molde

September 2022



Illustration: Rembol

Trygt fram sammen

E39

The E39 Ålesund-Molde will tie the region more closely together and create a common residential and labour market between the two cities. When the new road is completed, travel time from Breivika in Ålesund to Bolsønes in Molde will be reduced by 50 %, from two to less than one hour.

A subsea tunnel from Vik in Vestnes municipality to Nautneset on Otrøya in Molde municipality, and a suspension bridge across Julsundet from Nautneset to Julbøen, will replace the two ferry connections E39 Vestnes-Molde and Fv668 Solholmen-Mordalsvågen. The crossing of Romsdalsfjorden means that the main road between all three Møre cities – Ålesund, Molde and Kristiansund – will be continuous without ferries in the future.

This will be important for businesses and industries in the county, which in terms of mainland exports is the second largest county in the country. Improved mobility and one hour of saved travel time each way between Molde and Ålesund means that wage costs may be cut or more goods and services may be produced.

Businesses will also be able to recruit from a larger residential and labour market, and commuters will have a significantly improved, shorter, safer and more predictable travel route between the two largest cities in the county.

Reduction in travel time

Through the E39 Ålesund-Molde construction project, more people will be able to commute to work in Ålesund, Molde or places in between.

Travel time savings will be significant on a number of routes:

- ▶ Ålesund-Molde: 47 mins
- ▶ Ålesund-Ørskogfjellet: 8 mins
- ▶ Ørskogfjellet-Vik: 10 mins
- ▶ Ørskogfjellet-Molde: 39 mins
- ▶ Vestnes-Molde: 30 min.
- ▶ Midsund-Molde: 30 min.
- ▶ Midsund-Vestnes: 1 hour and 18 minutes

Møre og Romsdal County Administration is working to realise the construction of County Road (fv.) 662 Kjerringsundet at the same time as the Romsdalsfjord crossing.

If the county road project between Gossen in Aukra municipality and Midsund in Molde municipality is realised, the E39 Ålesund-Molde project will also mean reduced travel time for Molde – Gossen and Vestnes – Gossen

FACTS

Length: 75 km new E39

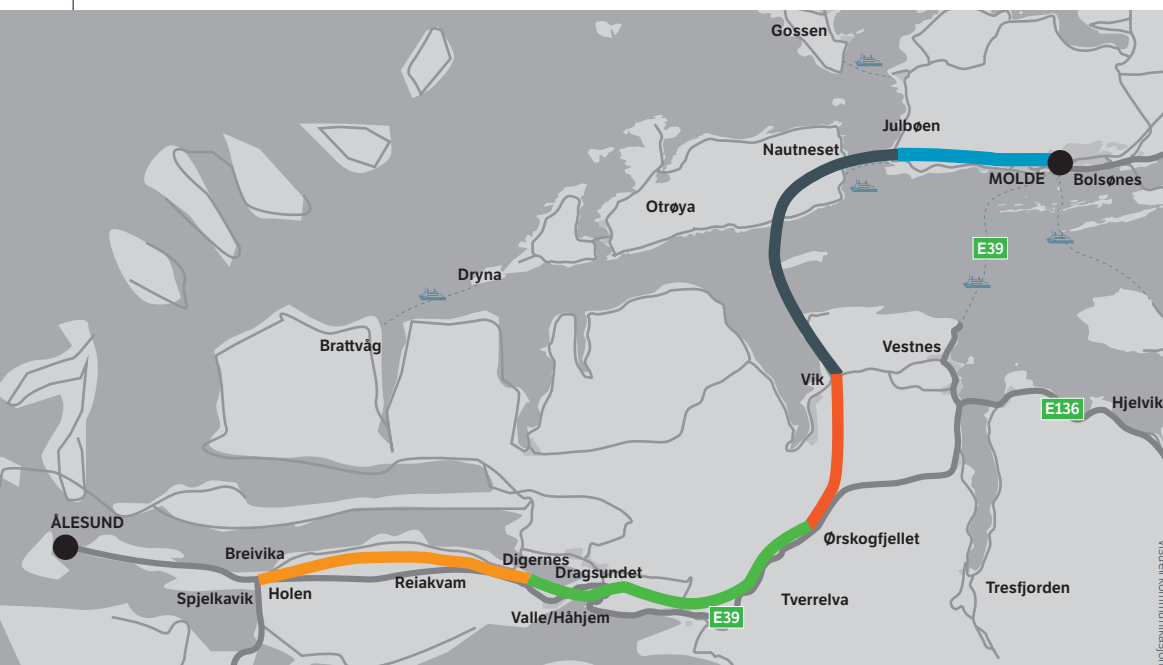
Financing: Road tolls and national government funds

Cost: NOK 24.3 bn. (2020 value)*

* The amount is the estimated cost of construction of the entire E39 Ålesund-Molde as a 2/3-lane road with a central crash barrier on approx. 50 km and as a four-lane road on 25 km of the distance.

By adopting the National Transport Plan, the Storting has approved the plan for construction to be carried out section by section, starting with the E39 Vik-Molde. External quality assurance (KS2) of this section is being carried out in the period May-October 2022.

Construction period: Subject to the Storting's decision and allocations of funds, the E39 Vik-Molde may be started in 2023/24 and be opened in 2033.



The project consists of five sub-sections

E39 Ålesund-Digernes

The new E39 from Breivika to Digernes in Ålesund municipality will mostly follow the current alignment.

Proximity to the Brudalsvatnet lake, which is a source of drinking water for Ålesund, and how to protect the lake will be an important part of the planning work.

Planning of the sub-section in accordance with the Planning and Building Act is scheduled to start around the turn of the year 2022/2023

E39 Digernes-Ørskogfjellet

The new E39 from Digernes in Ålesund municipality to the municipal boundary with Vestnes at Ørskogfjellet will be running close to the current route to Dragsundet. From there, a proposal has been made to route the road via Solnørdalen straight up to Ørskogfjellet or via Landedalen up the mountain. There is also an alternative proposal to build the new road from Digernesskiftet across Straumen and then behind Skodje up to Ørskogfjellet. A third variant proposes a crossing of Solnørvika from Håem over to Tysse, before continuing behind Sjøholt to Landedalen.

The road will mainly follow road alignment K2 and bypass the centre of Sjøholt. Through the further planning work, which started in accordance with the Planning and Building Act as a municipal sub-plan in 2022, we will be studying the alternative road alignments to find out which ones may be suitable for this road section.

A key part of this work will be to assess which solutions will provide the shortest possible road distance and which will have the best cost-benefit ratio.

E39 Ørskogfjellet-Vik

This sub-section starts in Vestnes municipality, just north of the municipal boundary with Ålesund. The new road will be running in a tunnel from Ørskogfjellet to Vik.

The planning work was started in February 2020, with both the tunnel solution to Vik and the tunnel to Tomrefjord as possible alternatives. In early 2022, a planning proposal was circulated for consultation and comment. After receiving a number of objections to the proposal, the Norwegian Public Roads Administration is proposing an alternative alignment in the autumn of 2022.

E39 Vik-Julbøen

A zoning plan has already been adopted for the crossing of Romsdalsfjorden, which includes an approximately 14.5 km long subsea tunnel from Vik in Vestnes municipality to Nautneset on Otrøya in Molde municipality. The tunnel will be built with two tubes and an incline of maximum 5 %.

From Nautneset we will be crossing the fiord with a 2-km-long suspension bridge to Julbøen. With a main span of 1,625 metres between the towers, this will be the longest suspension bridge in Europe.

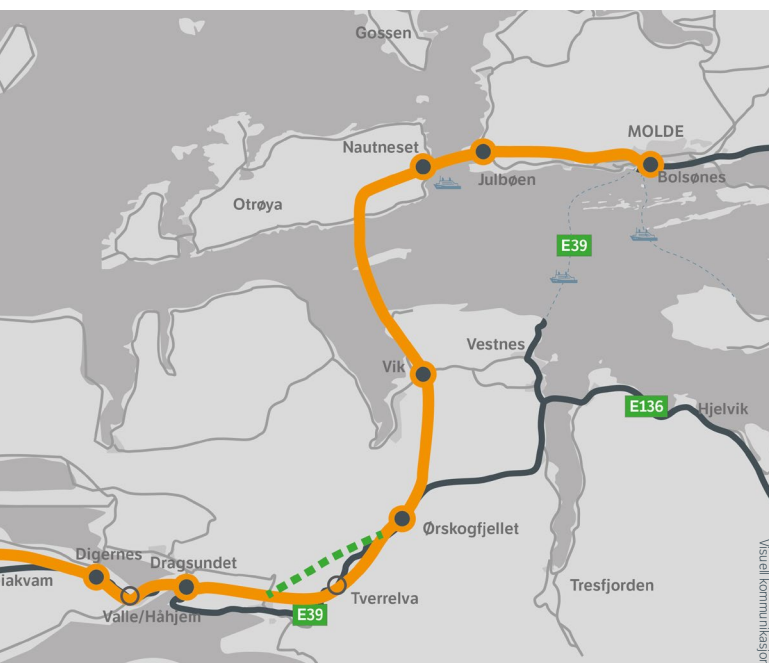
We are including a separate pedestrian and cycle lane to allow vulnerable road users to travel safely across the bridge. This lane may also be used by mopeds and other slow-moving vehicles.

E39 Julbøen-Molde

The current County Road (fv.) 662 on this section runs through Molde city centre, and is not suitable as part of the future E39 between Julbøen and Bolsønes.

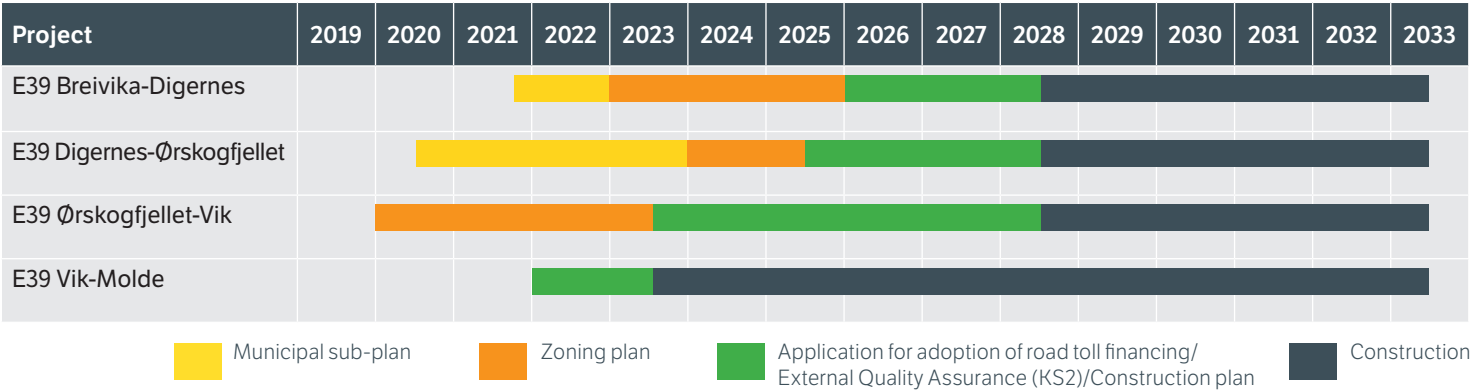
The zoning plan was adopted in May 2022 and consists of two tunnels and about one kilometre of open-air road. The road is zoned as a 4-lane road, but we are building a two-lane road in the first construction stage.

The road will be connected to the current E39 at a large roundabout at Bolsønes east of Molde city centre. Bolsønes has its own zoning plan, which was adopted in June 2022.



Progress plan

The E39 Ålesund-Molde is a priority in the current National Transport Plan and, pending continued political priority, the first stage of construction may start in 2023.



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Read more about the project on our website:
vegvesen.no/Europaveg/e39alesundmolde

