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The first public consultation phase, regarding the study of options for the Damascus Metro Green Line, was carried out.

This study is funded by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and implemented by international consultants under the supervision of the Directorate of Traffic & Transport Engineering in Damascus Governorate. This Green Line will be the first for the city of Damascus and will run between Moadamiyeh and Qaboun (about 16.5 Km).

Different methods have been used to communicate about the project to the largest possible number of people in Damascus:

1. Project website: <http://www.damascus-metro.com>.
2. Distribution of brochures explaining the stages and objectives of the project, as well as questionnaires to inform the public about the project and collect their points of view.

25.000 brochures and questionnaires were distributed in 24 points of distribution and the participation to this consultation was significant. Below, some figures indicating this interest of Damascus population in this project during the first stage of consultation, organised from mid-April to mid-June 2008:

- 2.612 answers sent to the project team via the 24 points of consultation, by post, e-mail and fax.
- The website was a principal element for the success of the consultation: 9.950 visits (6.805 different visitors) and 75.307 pages downloaded from the website.
- 26 questions from the specialists directly addressed through the website, in addition to many questions from abroad with useful suggestions for the project.

The most important results of the first phase of consultation are as follows:

- The great interest of the participants in this pioneer project to Syria. This interest was very clear among the students of Damascus University, as well as the users of public means of transportation currently available in Damascus.
- Lots of people consider that traffic congestion in Damascus is a major issue for the population of Damascus and workers (96% are bothered by this reality and they emphasize the need of Damascus for modern and sophisticated means of transportation).
- The high confidence among the respondents in the possibility of implementing a metro in Damascus (about 92% of the participants).
- The population of Damascus and the respondents to the questionnaire are waiting for the next stages of consultation because they want to know more details about the project, the conditions of its implementation, the necessary period for completion, sources of funding ...

The project team (the Directorate of Traffic & Transport Engineering in Damascus Governorate and the consultant) is convinced that the current stage of consultation that is considered pioneer in Syria will open new opportunities in the next stage beginning from late August, which will help to obtain the best option for the Green Line.

For more details and information on the results of the consultation and the progress of the project study, you can communicate with the project team through the project website: (<http://www.damascus-metro.com>), or directly via e-mail: info@damascus-metro.com.

For press enquiries:

- > e-mail: press@damascus-metro.com
(for press enquiries only)
- > fax: +963 (0) 11 21 27 806
- > website: <http://www.damascus-metro.com>
(with a dedicated area for the press)
- > address: Damascus Metro, PO Box 36641, Damascus

للاستفسارات الصحفية:

- < عنوان البريد الإلكتروني: press@damascus-metro.com
(للاستفسارات الصحفية فقط)
- < فاكس: +963 (0) 11 21 27 806
- < موقع الانترنت : <http://www.damascus-metro.com>
(مع مساحة مخصصة لوسائل الإعلام)
- < العنوان: مترو دمشق - ص.ب: 36641 - دمشق - سوريا