

5 Facts About Russia's First Highway Bridge to China

November 29, 2019



Yuri Smityuk / TASS

Russia and China have completed the first vehicle bridge to cross the two neighbors' border, the RBC news website [reported](#) Friday.

Footage from the bridge's opening ceremony [showed](#) trucks crossing the bridge between the cities of Blagoveshchensk and Heihe as ice drifted underneath. Russia and China [connected](#) their sides of the bridge across the Amur River in May 2019, three years after [signing](#) the construction deal.

"This bridge opens up export opportunities for us," Amur region governor Vasily Orlov was quoted as saying.

The Moscow Times has picked out five key facts about the two-lane highway bridge:

Preparatory work: 24 years. China and the Soviet Union first [raised](#) the prospect of connecting Blagoveshchensk and Heihe in 1988. In 1995, after the Soviet collapse, China and Russia

[signed](#) a joint construction agreement and finally began construction in December 2016.

Cost: 18.8 billion rubles (\$295 million).

Length: 1,080 meters, or 540 meters on the Chinese and Russian side each.

Load: 4 million metric tons of goods and 2 million Chinese tourists per year, as estimated by Russia's minister for Far East and Arctic development.

Launch date: April 2020. Russia's minister for Far East and Arctic development expects the bridge to open for passenger traffic in mid-2021.

Meanwhile 450 kilometers further southeast, Russia [wrapped up](#) construction of its first rail bridge to China in March 2019, half a year after China [completed](#) construction of its section across what it calls the Heilongjiang River.

Related article: [Russia Completes Construction of First-Ever Rail Bridge to China](#)

Construction of the 2,200-meter bridge between the cities of Nizhneleninskoye and Tongjiang began in 2014 as Russia pivoted East amid deteriorating ties with the West.

The rail bridge is expected to serve as an international goods transportation channel with an annual shipment volume of 21 million tons.

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