

Accessibility, Transportation Cost, and Regional Growth: A Case Study for Egypt

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Accessibility, Transportation Cost and Regional Growth: A Case Study for Egypt

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Abstract

This paper focuses on a proposed development corridor in Egypt, a main component of which is a desert-based expansion of the current highway network. The main beneficial features of this proposed transport investment are travel time reductions and improved accessibility. We use a spatial computable general equilibrium (SCGE) model to estimate the economic impacts of changes in transportation costs from this new roadway. To effect this, we integrate the model with a stylized geo-coded transportation network to estimate the spatial distribution of changes in transportation costs. Ignoring the cost of the infrastructure itself, we employ a series of simulations to estimate the likely structural economic impacts that such a large investment in transportation could enable through a series of simulations. Results show the Corridor's causes the economic tide to rise for the economies of all Egyptian governorates. Gains in efficiency are particularly strong for those regions that are presently most isolated, namely those located to the southern and western extremes of the country. This suggests that the project will lessen regional disparities across Egypt's governorates. We therefore show that integrated SCGE models can be useful in estimating the potential economic benefits of transportation projects in developing nations like Egypt. Moreover, it is clear that interregional economic models can be vital in examining the varied spatial distribution of the benefits that derive from geographically targeted government spending.

1. Introduction

Even before civilizations arose, the Nile transported people, news, and products. It has also enabled better mobilization of armies and tax collections – key aspects of a unified, sustainable state. Similarly, Greek, Roman, and Arab empires assured the ease and security of travel within the boundaries of their vast territories (El-Baz, 2007). More recently, transportation

access assisted development in Europe and the Americas, leading to the rise of Western Civilization (Bairoch 1988). It is also clear that superb transportation systems allowed the United States to better utilize its vast natural resources to reach its present position of prominence (Glaab and Brown, 1967).

Currently, Egypt's population is confined to a fine strip of arable land along the Nile River: desert accounts for 96% of Egyptian land. The nation's deserts represent a potential source of future national wealth. The western desert hides energy sources, underground water, and vast spaces for settlement. Even now, the nation's seeks to alleviate overcrowding and chronic urban problems by encroaching into former desert land through urban development projects that use available local resources.

Transportation systems are important for enabling economic development. They provide accessibility to all sectors by linking producers and consumers, thereby enabling markets. They give access to raw materials, services, and factory loading docks. In essence, transportation networks are circulatory systems through which economic and social activities flow.

Economic opportunities are enabled through the mobility of people, goods, and information. A relation between the quantity and quality of transport infrastructure and the level of economic development is apparent. High density transport infrastructure and highly connected networks are commonly associated with high levels of development. When transport systems are efficient, they provide economic and social opportunities and benefits that result in positive multipliers effects such as better accessibility to markets, employment and additional investments. When transport systems are deficient in terms of capacity or reliability, they can have an economic cost such as reduced or missed opportunities and lower quality of life (Rodrigue et al., 2009).

New transportation infrastructure triggers efficiencies, which in turn permit regional and national economic growth. It reduces firms' transaction costs and thereby expand the economic opportunities in a region/country. In this way, such investments can potentially help increase incomes and standards of living for resident populations (Haddad et al., 2011).

Transportation costs play a major role not only in forming urban hierarchies, but also in forming the shapes of traditional cities. The spatial organization of land uses determines the plan and characteristics of transport networks and at the same time transport route determine land

uses. Decreased commuting costs flatten the population density and land-rent gradients for housing. Reduced commuting costs result in a larger periurban area. If the cost of commuting were zero, the population, employment, and land rent would be uniformly distributed (Edwards, 2007).

Empirical evidence on the impact of transportation investment on economic performance has been the focus of extensive research since the 1960s. Public investments in transportation can increase economic performance both in direct and indirect ways. They influence productivity on a broad geographical scale including gains from interregional and international trade, and from solving coordination problems in development (Lakshman, 2010).

The corridor approach to development uses transport corridors as a backbone or spatial focus for regional cooperation projects and activities (Srivastave, 2013). The idea behind the approach is to cluster such activities along corridors or at nodal centers on the corridors, where certain agglomeration economies naturally arise and are hopefully nurtured. Such agglomerations are expected to facilitate growth in surrounding areas by catalyzing further investment from both within and outside of the region. The spatial focus can also facilitate prioritization of regional projects, and coordination of national projects among neighboring countries. The corridor development approach is thus potentially a very practical way to get the most from limited government resources available for regional development projects.

Since 2000 study after study has demonstrated positive regional economic effects from the development of major transportation corridors: De Beer (2001) for southern Africa¹, Boopen (2006) for sub-Saharan Africa; Banomyong (2007) for the Great Mekong Sub-region in Vietnam; Phyrum et al. (2007) for the Southern Economic Corridor of Cambodia; Isono (2010) for Mekong regions of Vietnam. Many of the aforementioned studies demonstrate a redistribution or reallocation of resources from one region or country to another. That is, there are relative winners and losers when such investments are made. In this regard, Kernohan and Rognlien (2011) examined the entry and exit of firms. In essence, major investments in transport corridors contribute to economic development by stimulating a variety of interconnected

¹These development corridors are; Tazara Development Corridor, Mtwara Development Corridor, Nacala Development Corridor, Beira Development Corridor, Limpopo Development Corridor, Maputo Development Corridor, Coast to Coast SDI and Lobito Development Corridor.

economywide processes. These yield spatial and regional effects that augment overall productivity. Still, empirical evidence suggests that the economic development that results from such large transportation investments depends heavily on the connectivity and the quality of transport network.

Egypt has 23,619 kilometers of roads – from single lane “dirt” roads, to two-way surfaced streets, to multilane highways. Car ownership is rising rapidly in Egypt. The nation’s roads carry the lion’s share of freight.² Logistics providers in Egypt have expressed a need for a more consistent infrastructure for distribution purposes, as there remains a severe lack of services associated with road-based transportation. Perhaps more importantly, accessibility varies tremendously across Egyptian regions (Felkner et al., 2012). Indeed, many small centers are not well tied to the nation’s largest markets. This lack disables efficient location decisions. Consequently, while the road network is important to Egypt’s economy, the country could stand more road investment, particularly in its underdeveloped south.

Egypt’s vision 2030 emphasizes the nation’s poor level of transportation services, It underlines its limited infrastructure capacity as well as the lack of coordination between transport plans and urban development plans. The strategy incorporates some mega-projects that could contribute to achieve the strategy objectives regarding economic development pillar. Most of the projects depend an improved transportation system. Two important network-extending projects are identified to improve the country transport infrastructure. One aims to develop 5,000 km of infrastructure—tantamount to 20% of Egypt’s existing road network—dispersed across all regions and governorates. The second targets improvement of the existing network to facilitate movement of people and goods throughout the republic. Regardless, highway expansion and improved freight corridors are clearly identified by Egypt as vital to relieving congestion and boosting national economic development.

Naturally it would be good to have some sense of who will benefit from such major investments and what other developments might be anticipated as a result of their implementation. Such inquiry is typically motivated by a desire to compare the potential net economic effects of alternative government spending decisions. In this regard, we develop a framework that can be used to estimate the economic impacts of such projects in Egypt. To

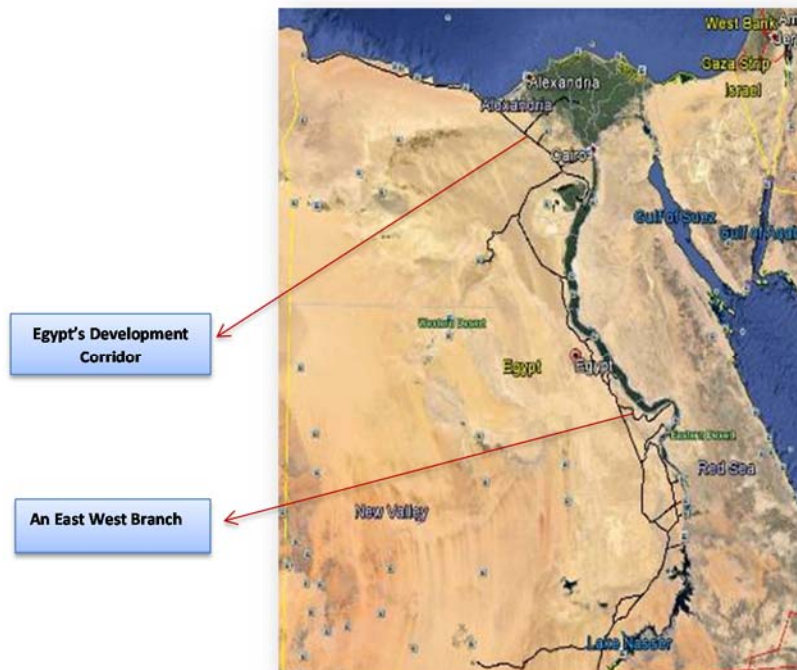
² According to the Ministry of Transport of Egypt, 94% of the nation’s freight is transported by road (<http://www.comcec.org/>).

enable examination across regions, we use a spatial computable general equilibrium model of Egypt's economy by applying a proposed network, a major highway investment called "The Development Corridor", to the model developed by Haddad et al. (2016).

Farouk El-Baz (2007) conceived The Corridor to solve numerous problems that Egypt faces. While facilitating transportation, he wants The Corridor to limit urban encroachment into the nation's prime agricultural lands along the Nile and to encourage the deconcentration of congested, overpopulated areas. Meanwhile, it is supposed to open up vast areas for industrial zones, trade centers and other developments. It is one of the most promising proposals to date, if not the best, for opening up use of the western desert.

A main component of the Corridor in Egypt is a super highway network in the western desert (Figure 1). It is to consist of a 1,200 km of eight-lane highway in a north-south direction with 21 east-west spurs that connect the main highway to densely populated river cities along its path. Parallel to it are included a railway to enable low-cost transport of people and products, a pipeline to supply fresh water to corridor developments, and a grid-connected electricity transmission line that could eventually supply energy from desert-based solar farms.

Figure 1. Egypt's Development Corridor.



Continued development of a modern network of transportation systems within the confines of the Nile Valley and its Delta would reduce agricultural land. The fertile soil within the inhabited strip of Egypt has been deposited by the Nile River over millions of year; it is a very limited and irreplaceable resource that facilitates national food security. In the meantime, the country's pace of population expansion counteracts its ability to live on just that narrow green strip, which represents 5% of its land. If the nation continues to grow, it is imperative that it do what it can to expand outside of the narrow, fertile strip. The Corridor provides the start of a potential solution for these numerous problems (El-Baz, 2011).

2. Research Approach

Public agencies are increasingly under fire to justify major spending items. Proposed transportation projects are no exception, and demonstrations of the magnitude of expected consequent economic impacts are typically employed to justify them. Indeed, such cost/benefit analysis, which include economic impact statements, are often used to compare the relative potential economic development effects of spending alternatives. They are thus often used to support planning design decisions and/or investment decisions. In most cases, the focus of economic impact studies is on estimating how projects are likely to affect economic development of the specific populations or regions within which they are placed.

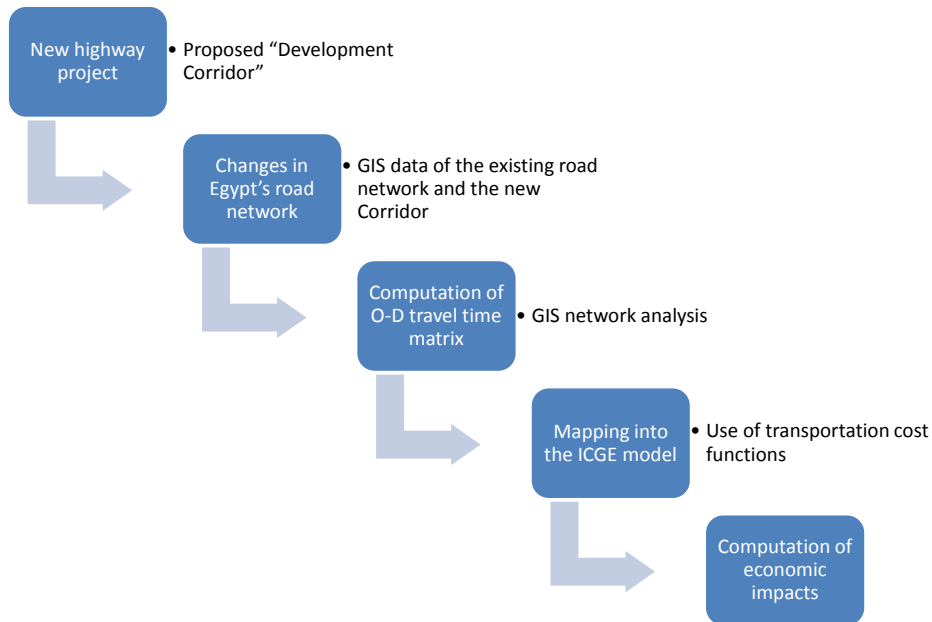
A wide range of methods have been deployed to measure economic impacts. There are qualitative surveys, detailed market studies, and comprehensive economic simulation models to list just a few. The primary economic assessment methods considered include: Social Cost Benefit Analysis (SCBA), Input-Output Analysis (I-O), and Computable General Equilibrium (CGE). SCBA is most effective for determining the value of project objectives and outcomes from a social welfare perspective. I-O and CGE take macroeconomic perspectives of system-wide effects of transport investment including employment, GDP, and taxes (Wallis, 2009). In many cases, the analysis compares a no-build or base-case scenario to one or more transportation investment scenarios. Examinations of such impacts often cover the expected life cycle of the investment, which can be 30 or more years. Some even assume the infrastructure costs and benefits are elicited in perpetuity.

If the stream of regional economics literature is a reasonable measure, infrastructure continues to play a strong role in development. A number of alternative approaches appear that address the relationship between infrastructure and regional economic development (Martin and

Rogers, 1995; Helpman and Krugman, 1985; Vickerman, 1995; World Bank, 2008). In recent years, however, applied computable general equilibrium (CGE) models have become standard tools of quantitative policy assessment. Their appeal is built on their rigorous grounding in economic theory: individual agent's decision-making behaviors are derived from explicit optimization under strictly specified technological or budget constraints, given markets signals that ensure global consistency. These theoretical foundations have made CGE models appear particularly useful for *ex ante* evaluations of policy reforms (De Palma et al., 2011). The stream of research linking CGE models to transportation networks include, among others Bröcker (1998); Bröcker and Schneider (2002); Kim and Hewings (2003); Kim et al. (2004); Haddad and Hewings (2005); Haddad et al. (2011, 2016); Sakamoto (2012).

Here we rely on simulations of the *ex ante* macro-spatial impacts of The Corridor. The exercise is based on an interregional computable general equilibrium model (ICGE) model for Egypt's economy that was developed by Haddad et al. (2016). An important feature of the ICGE model is its ability to explicitly estimate costs of moving products based on origin-destination pairs according to transportation margins. That is, the model accounts for the specific cost structure of the flow of each traded commodity. This paper amends the ICGE model by physically constraining that structure by the available transportation network, which is modeled in a geo-coded transportation module, in combination the two form what is termed a spatial CGE model. We examine the trade flows with and without the proposed Development Corridor. The model's integration with a GIS network helps quantifying the spatial effects of transportation cost change. Moreover it enables us to explicitly model commodity-based transportation costs within the ICGE model. Thus, the model intrinsically accounts for the spatial structure of the Egyptian economy. That is, inclusion of the transportation network within the ICGE augments the general model framework for understanding the equilibrating role of transportation (and hence transportation investments) in regional economic development. The transport module measures minimum travel times between regions using actual road routes. The ICGE model estimates the short and long-run spatial spread of national Gross Domestic Production (GDP), as well as other measures of economic activity, caused by expected changes in regional accessibility. Figure 2 summarizes the main methodological aspects of our modeling strategy, further discussed below.

Figure 2. Summary of the Integrated System



A main feature of the modeling structure used in this paper is the manner in which we have integrated a geo-coded transportation network for Egypt with the ICGE model. Thus, if one wants to simulate changes in the network, which might affect relative accessibility (e.g., the Corridor), a transportation cost matrix can be calculated *ex ante* and *ex post*, and mapped to the ICGE model through transportation cost functions. This mapping includes two stages – one for model calibration and another for the simulations.

A detailed national-level GIS road network data was generously provided by the Egyptian Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS). We merged this database with information on specific technical road attributes. Particularly important was an estimate of the maximum speed of each road in the network so that, when combined with road length information, we could estimate travel times of every single road and, hence, network link and path. In addition, we obtained GIS data for the highway aspect of the Development Corridor and with a bit of effort and consternation connected it to the network (see Figure 3).

Following Haddad and Hewings (2005), we next integrate the afore-discussed geo-coded transportation network with the pre-existing ICGE model for Egypt. This enables us to simulate changes in the network, which have the potential to affect relative accessibility, which triggers estimation of a new transportation cost matrix, which in turn is mapped to the ICGE model

then calculates the minimum interregional (path) times, considering the road network as connected. Travel times are then associated via a gravity model formulation to the transportation costs implicit in the transactions of the ICGE database, and tariff functions using data on general cargo prices (for domestic trade flows) and container prices (for international trade flows) based on survey work by Felkner et al. (2012).

General equilibrium effects occur within a system of market relationships that is stable and relatively well understood. According to the model structure (Haddad et al., 2011), this may represent a margin-saving change, i.e. the use of transportation services per unit of output is reduced, implying a direct reduction in the output of the transportation sector, which frees resources for the economy (technical change channel).

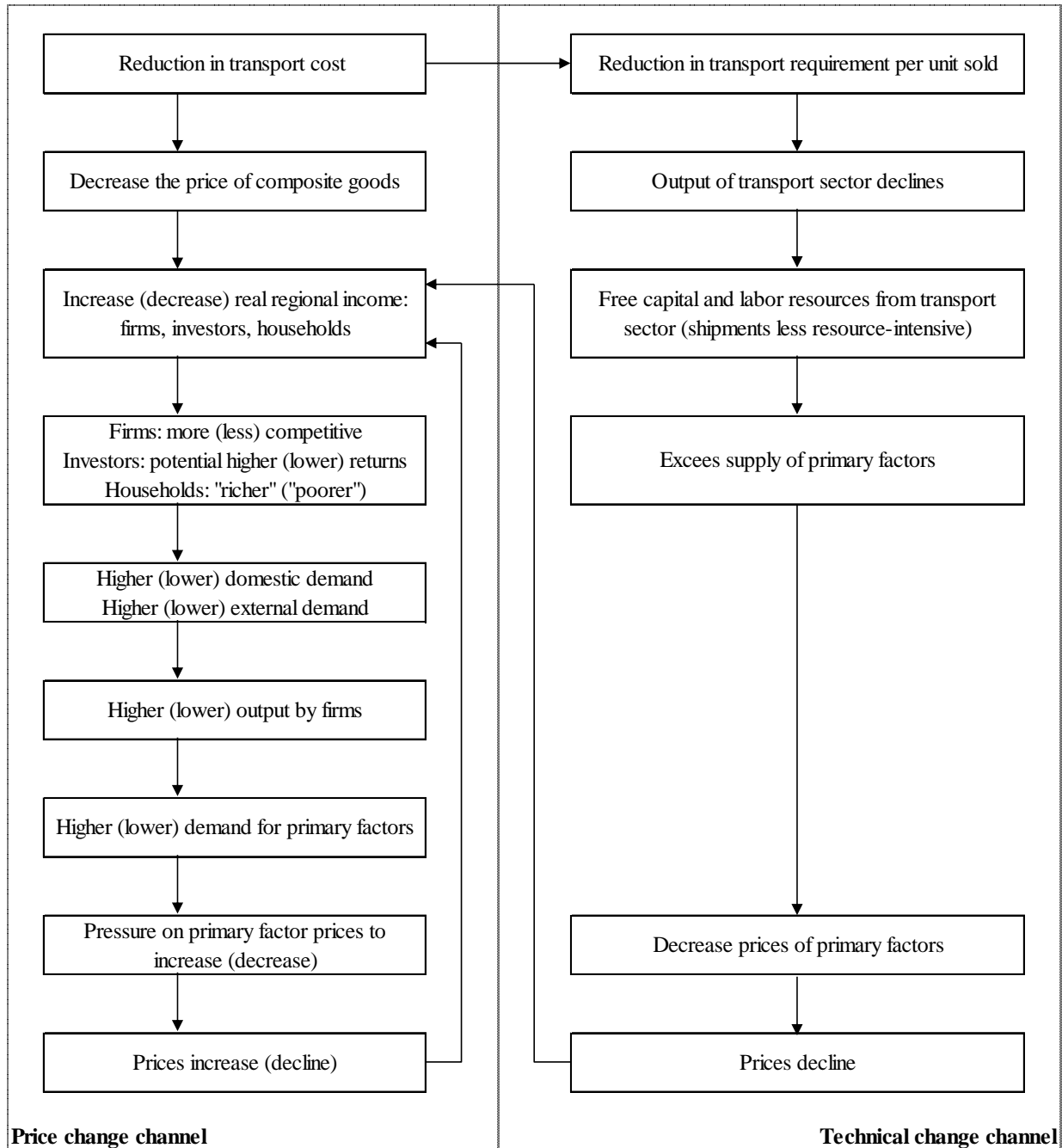
The reduction in transport cost also decreases the price of composite commodities, with positive implications for real regional income (price change channel): in this cost-competitiveness approach, firms become more competitive – as production costs go down (inputs are less costly); investors foresee potential higher returns – as the cost of producing capital also declines; and households increase their real income, envisaging higher consumption possibilities. Higher income generates higher domestic demand, while increases in the competitiveness of national products stimulate external demand. This creates room for increasing firms' output – directed for both domestic and international markets – which requires more inputs and primary factors. Increasing demand puts pressure on the factor markets for price increases, with a concomitant expectation that the prices of domestic goods would increase.

Second-order prices changes go in both directions – decrease and increase. The net effect is determined by the relative strength of the countervailing forces. Figure 4 summarizes the transmission mechanisms associated with major first-order and second-order effects in the adjustment process underlying the model's aggregate results.

3 Economic Impacts of the Proposed Development Corridor

Regional models have been developed specifically to increase understanding of the impact of changes, such as shifts in government policy or chance events, on a specific region. General equilibrium analysis could be considered a powerful tool to capture both direct and indirect or secondary impacts. The model has the ability to estimate the overall result of the policy change on the wide economy as well on the regional economies.

Figure 4. Causal Relationships in the Simulation



Source: Haddad et al. (2011)

We must note in advance that this study is merely designed to give a demonstration of what SCGEs model can do in developing countries. So, for now, we ignore any drag on the economy that the costs of the investment might pose, even if it was funded by an international banking organization of some sort, and focus only on its economic benefits. Moreover, if The Corridor itself was further along in planning stages, so that we had access to viable cost

elements, we probably would also have to consider how institutional factors might affect project implementation. They along with transaction cost factors would undoubtedly affect project outcomes and the manner in which any economic impact might play out, including where side developments would be located, what contractors would win bids, and where regional construction project headquarters would be situated. Moreover, recall that we focus only on the highway aspect of The Corridor, which will undoubtedly include other lifelines: water, petroleum pipelines, electricity transmission systems, etc. In essence a full evaluation of the costs and benefits of The Corridor would be far more complicated—economically and politically—than what we present here.

So let us start by calculating The Corridor's effect on the travel times among regions.³ We did so by identifying the minimum impedance paths, in terms of hours, among the prime cities of Egypt's governorates. Figure 5 shows the aggregate time savings by governorate obtained when the Corridor is connected to the current highway network. It reflects the reduction in travel time that the Corridor engenders on the average accessibility of a governorate to/from all other governorates.

The main results are shown in Figure 5. Notice that governorates that face higher reductions in travel time are in the direct area of influence of the project – Matrouh, Aswan, El-Wadi El-Gidi, Luxor and Suhag. However, network effects spread the benefits of higher accessibility to other governorates in the country. Table 1 presents the specific travel time changes for every pair of origin-destination. The change in the travel-time matrix associated with the operation of the new transport infrastructure project provides the basis for integrating the transport module to the ICGE model. Table 1 shows that in some cases there is no change in travel time between some governorates (zero saving in travel time). This means that the proposed new corridor does not affect the path between them, i.e., that the shortest route is the same.

We then proceed to calculate the change in transportation cost depend on the change in travel time. The change in transportation cost among regions is considered the primary direct impact of the corridor, which should followed by other economic impacts on the economy as

³ We used the origin-destination (O-D) cost matrix function within the ArcGIS's Network Analyst software extension.

discussed in Figure 4. We use the change in travel time to calculate the change in cost for domestic and international trade flows using the following two estimated functions⁴

$$Tariff_i = 0.53875 * Time^{0.65914_i} \quad (\text{Domestic trade cost Function})$$

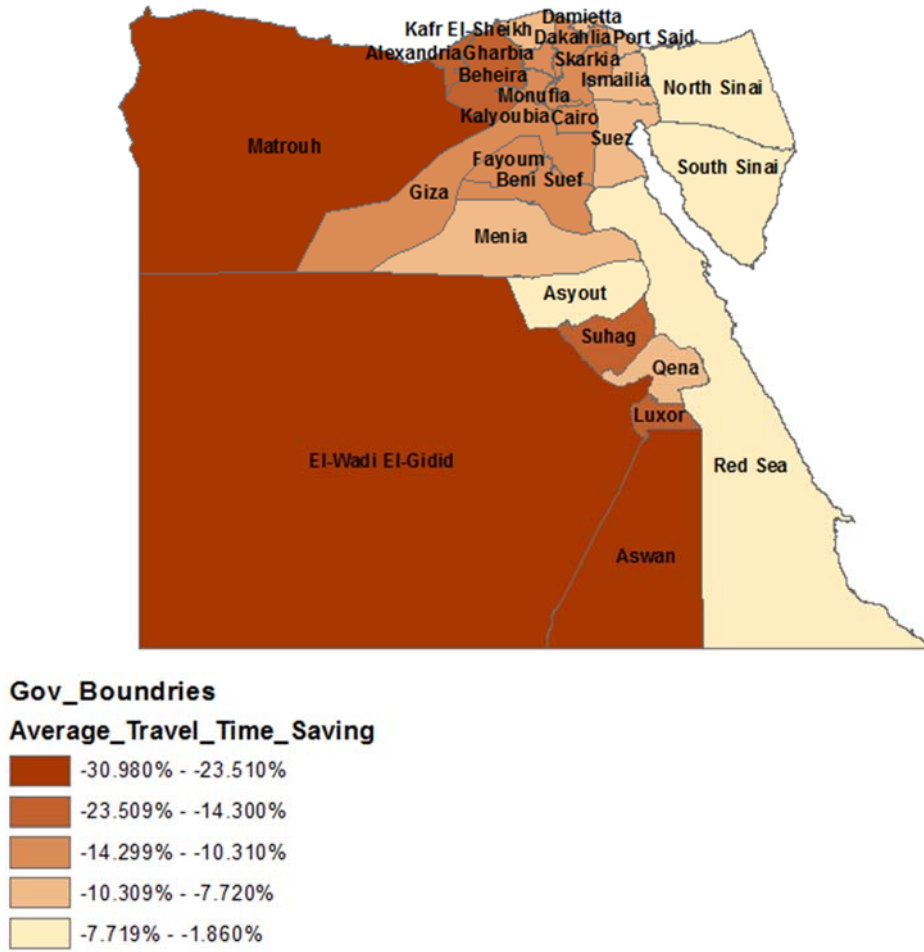
$$Tariff_i = 3.65506 * Time^{0.71851_i} \quad (\text{International trade cost Function})$$

where *Tariff* is the change in transportation cost, *Time* is the change in travel time due to the corridor.

Table 2 presents the change in transportation cost to/ from all governorates and to other countries. This information serves as a shock (change in margins) to our spatial CGE (SCGE) model. We use the SCGE model to estimate the short- and long-run impacts of the project on both national and regional variables. A distinguish feature of short- versus long-run simulations is the treatment of capital stock. Short-run simulations are characterized by an assumption of fixed capital stock. That is, industries' capital stocks are held at their pre-shock level while, in the long-run, policy changes affect capital stocks.

⁴ For More information about the cost functions estimation see Haddad et. al (2015).

Figure 5. Change in Average Travel Time to/from Governorates due to the Corridor (percentage change)



Source: Map created by the researchers using ArcMap.

Table 1. Change in Travel Time to/from Governorates due to the Corridor (in percentage change)

		REG_1	REG_2	REG_3	REG_4	REG_5	REG_6	REG_7	REG_8	REG_9	REG_10	REG_11	REG_12	REG_13	REG_14	REG_15	REG_16	REG_17	REG_18	REG_19	REG_20	REG_21	REG_22	REG_23	REG_24	REG_25	REG_26	REG_27	
		Cairo	Alexandr	Port Sai	Suez	Daniett	Dakahlia	Skarkia	Kalyoub	Kafr El-	Gharbia	Monufia	Beheira	Ismailia	Giza	Beni Suel	Fayoum	Menia	Asyout	Suhag	Qena	Aswan	Luxor	Red Sea	El-Wadi E	Matrouh	North Sir	South Sinai	
REG_1	Cairo	0.00	-5.49	0.00	-0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-7.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-14.86	-6.94	-27.74	-15.04	0.00	-26.44	-33.91	0.00	0.00
REG_2	Alexandria	-5.49	0.00	-3.56	-3.44	-1.82	-6.08	-6.22	-7.16	0.00	-7.86	-7.52	0.00	-4.40	-0.53	-12.17	-8.62	-7.97	-2.08	-24.59	-19.40	-32.88	-24.72	-1.83	-32.14	-31.01	-2.37	-1.78	
REG_3	Port Said	0.00	-3.56	0.00	-0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-4.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-10.92	-4.99	-22.52	-11.37	0.00	-20.76	-24.68	0.00	0.00
REG_4	Suez	-0.02	-3.44	-0.02	-0.03	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-4.13	-0.03	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-11.78	0.00	-20.68	-10.71	-0.01	-22.14	-27.06	-0.01	-0.01
REG_5	Damietta	0.00	-1.82	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-3.23	-1.43	-4.53	-0.54	0.00	-12.82	-6.95	-23.78	-13.11	0.00	-22.26	-26.62	0.00	0.00	
REG_6	Dakahlia	0.00	-6.08	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-8.61	0.00	-4.68	-1.87	-5.87	-0.64	0.00	-14.11	-7.63	-25.50	-14.32	0.00	-24.16	-30.95	0.00	0.00	
REG_7	Skarkia	0.00	-6.22	0.00	-0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-8.89	0.00	-6.97	-2.41	-7.50	-0.75	0.00	-15.23	-8.22	-26.91	-15.36	0.00	-25.77	-31.20	0.00	0.00	
REG_8	Kalyoubia	0.00	-7.16	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-10.94	0.00	-9.57	-2.88	-8.87	-0.82	0.00	-15.93	-8.59	-27.77	-16.00	0.00	-26.76	-32.71	0.00	0.00	
REG_9	Kafr El-Sheikh	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-3.60	-1.56	-4.90	-0.57	0.00	-15.18	-9.08	-25.75	-15.30	0.00	-24.53	-24.31	0.00	0.00	
REG_10	Gharbia	0.00	-7.86	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-14.75	0.00	-5.72	-2.14	-6.67	-0.70	0.00	-15.33	-8.56	-26.70	-15.45	0.00	-25.55	-35.22	0.00	0.00	
REG_11	Monufia	0.00	-7.52	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-11.79	0.00	-6.80	-2.38	-7.40	-0.74	0.00	-15.16	-8.19	-26.84	-15.30	0.00	-25.68	-33.21	0.00	0.00	
REG_12	Beheira	-7.47	0.00	-4.29	-4.13	0.00	-8.61	-8.89	-10.94	0.00	-14.75	-11.79	-14.75	-5.59	-10.38	-6.31	-9.73	-3.63	-2.31	-22.70	-16.32	-31.38	-22.21	-2.01	-31.14	-27.22	-2.67	-1.95	
REG_13	Ismailia	0.00	-4.40	0.00	-0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-5.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-11.98	-5.47	-24.08	-12.37	0.00	-22.46	-27.23	0.00	0.00	
REG_14	Giza	0.00	-0.53	0.00	-0.02	-3.23	-4.68	-6.97	-9.57	-3.60	-5.72	-6.80	-10.38	0.00	-9.57	-1.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-16.48	-10.04	-29.41	-17.66	0.00	-27.56	-33.86	0.00	0.00
REG_15	Beni Suef	0.00	-12.17	0.00	-0.01	-1.43	-1.87	-2.41	-2.88	-1.56	-2.14	-2.38	-6.31	0.00	-1.32	-3.35	-3.35	-9.14	0.00	-14.33	-17.29	-34.74	-24.51	0.00	-27.23	-40.54	0.00	0.00	
REG_16	Fayoum	0.00	-8.62	0.00	-0.01	-4.53	-5.87	-7.50	-8.87	-4.90	-6.67	-7.40	-9.73	0.00	0.00	-3.35	-3.35	-7.15	-4.32	-13.56	-16.60	-34.10	-23.79	-1.08	-26.45	-39.50	0.00	0.00	
REG_17	Menia	0.00	-7.97	0.00	-0.01	-0.54	-0.64	-0.75	-0.82	-0.57	-0.70	-0.74	-3.63	0.00	0.00	-9.14	-7.15	-9.14	-4.74	-7.57	-13.16	-36.52	-23.41	0.00	-27.10	-32.82	0.00	0.00	
REG_18	Asyout	0.00	-2.08	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-2.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	-4.32	-4.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	-7.50	0.00	0.00	-12.50	-20.19	0.00	0.00	
REG_19	Suhag	-14.86	-24.59	-10.92	-11.78	-12.82	-14.11	-15.23	-15.93	-15.18	-15.33	-15.16	-22.70	-11.98	-16.48	-14.33	-13.56	-7.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	-23.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	-18.23	-37.14	-9.00	-7.92
REG_20	Qena	-6.94	-19.40	-4.99	0.00	-6.95	-7.63	-8.22	-8.59	-9.08	-8.56	-8.19	-16.32	-5.47	-10.04	-17.29	-16.60	-13.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-11.90	-33.18	-3.03	0.00
REG_21	Aswan	-27.74	-32.88	-22.52	-20.68	-23.78	-25.50	-26.91	-27.77	-25.75	-26.70	-26.84	-31.38	-24.08	-29.41	-34.74	-34.10	-36.52	-7.50	-23.55	0.00	-15.08	-15.08	0.00	-25.64	-41.02	-19.20	-15.48	
REG_22	Luxor	-15.04	-24.72	-11.37	-10.71	-13.11	-14.32	-15.36	-16.00	-15.30	-15.45	-15.30	-22.21	-12.37	-17.66	-24.51	-23.79	-23.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	-15.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1.66	-36.51	-9.50	-7.77
REG_23	Red Sea	0.00	-1.83	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-2.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-7.54	-18.47	0.00	0.00
REG_24	El-Wadi El-Gidid	-26.44	-32.14	-20.76	-22.14	-22.26	-24.16	-25.77	-26.76	-24.53	-25.55	-25.68	-31.14	-22.46	-27.56	-27.23	-26.45	-27.10	-12.50	-18.23	-11.90	-25.64	-1.66	-7.54	-15.04	-41.52	-17.55	-15.65	
REG_25	Matrouh	-33.91	-31.01	-24.68	-27.06	-26.62	-30.95	-31.20	-32.71	-24.31	-35.22	-33.21	-27.22	-27.23	-33.86	-40.54	-39.50	-32.82	-20.19	-37.14	-33.18	-41.02	-36.51	-18.47	-41.52	-31.01	-19.83	-17.85	
REG_26	North Sinai	0.00	-2.37	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-2.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-9.00	-3.03	-19.20	-9.50	0.00	-17.55	-19.83	0.00	0.00
REG_27	South Sinai	0.00	-1.78	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-7.92	0.00	-15.48	-7.77	0.00	-15.65	-17.85	0.00	-0.01

Table 2. Change in Transportation cost to/from Governorates due to the Corridor (in percentage change)

		REG_1	REG_2	REG_3	REG_4	REG_5	REG_6	REG_7	REG_8	REG_9	REG_10	REG_11	REG_12	REG_13	REG_14	REG_15	REG_16	REG_17	REG_18	REG_19	REG_20	REG_21	REG_22	REG_23	REG_24	REG_25	REG_26	REG_27	EXP	
		Cairo	Alexandr	Port Sai	Suez	Damiett	Dakahli	Skarkia	Kalyoub	Kafr El-	Gharbia	Monufia	Beheira	Ismailia	Giza	Beni Suel	Fayoum	Menia	Asyout	Suhag	Qena	Aswan	Luxor	Red Sea	El-Wadi E	Matrouh	North Sir	South Sinai		
REG_1	Cairo	0.00	-3.66	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-4.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-10.06	-4.63	-19.28	-10.19	0.00	-18.32	-23.89	0.00	0.00	-3.98
REG_2	Alexandria	-3.66	0.00	-2.36	-2.28	-1.20	-4.05	-4.15	-4.78	0.00	-5.26	-5.02	0.00	-2.92	-0.35	-8.20	-5.77	-5.33	-1.38	-16.98	-13.25	-23.11	-17.07	-1.21	-22.56	-21.71		-1.57	-1.18	0.00
REG_3	Port Said	0.00	-2.36	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-2.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-7.34	-3.32	-15.48	-7.65	0.00	-14.22	-17.04	0.00	0.00	-2.57
REG_4	Suez	-0.01	-2.28	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-2.74	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	-7.93	0.00	-14.16	-7.20	0.00	-15.21	-18.78	-0.01	0.00	-2.49
REG_5	Damietta	0.00	-1.20	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-2.14	-0.95	-3.01	-0.36	0.00	-8.64	-4.64	-16.39	-8.85	0.00	-15.29	-18.46	0.00	0.00	-1.31	
REG_6	Dakahlia	0.00	-4.05	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-5.76	0.00	-3.11	-1.24	-3.91	-0.42	0.00	-9.54	-5.10	-17.64	-9.69	0.00	-16.66	-21.66	0.00	0.00	-4.41	
REG_7	Skarkia	0.00	-4.15	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-5.95	0.00	-4.65	-1.60	-5.01	-0.49	0.00	-10.32	-5.50	-18.67	-10.41	0.00	-17.83	-21.85	0.00	0.00	-4.51	
REG_8	Kalyoubia	0.00	-4.78	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-7.35	0.00	-6.42	-1.90	-5.94	-0.54	0.00	-10.81	-5.75	-19.30	-10.86	0.00	-18.56	-22.98	0.00	0.00	-5.20	
REG_9	Kafr El-Sheikh	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-2.39	-1.03	-3.26	-0.38	0.00	-10.28	-6.08	-17.82	-10.37	0.00	-16.94	-16.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	
REG_10	Gharbia	0.00	-5.26	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-9.99	0.00	-3.81	-1.41	-4.45	-0.46	0.00	-10.39	-5.73	-18.52	-10.47	0.00	-17.67	-24.89	0.00	0.00	-5.71	
REG_11	Monufia	0.00	-5.02	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-7.94	0.00	-4.54	-1.57	-4.94	-0.49	0.00	-10.27	-5.48	-18.61	-10.37	0.00	-17.77	-23.36	0.00	0.00	-5.46	
REG_12	Beheira	-4.99	0.00	-2.85	-2.74	0.00	-5.76	-5.95	-7.35	0.00	-9.99	-7.94	-9.99	-3.72	-6.97	-4.20	-6.52	-2.41	-1.53	-15.61	-11.08	-21.98	-15.26	-1.33	-21.80	-18.89		-1.77	-1.29	0.00
REG_13	Ismailia	0.00	-2.92	0.00	-0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-3.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-8.07	-3.64	-16.61	-8.34	0.00	-15.44	-18.90	0.00	0.00	-3.18
REG_14	Giza	0.00	-0.35	0.00	-0.01	-2.14	-3.11	-4.65	-6.42	-2.39	-3.81	-4.54	-6.97	0.00	-6.42	-0.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-11.19	-6.74	-20.51	-12.02	0.00	-19.15	-23.85	0.00	0.00	-0.38
REG_15	Beni Suef	0.00	-8.20	0.00	-0.01	-0.95	-1.24	-1.60	-1.90	-1.03	-1.41	-1.57	-4.20	0.00	-0.87	-2.22	-2.22	-6.13	0.00	-9.69	-11.76	-24.52	-16.92	0.00	-18.90	-29.01	0.00	0.00	-8.90	
REG_16	Fayoum	0.00	-5.77	0.00	-0.01	-3.01	-3.91	-5.01	-5.94	-3.26	-4.45	-4.94	-6.52	0.00	0.00	-2.22	-2.22	-4.77	-2.87	-9.16	-11.28	-24.03	-16.40	-0.71	-18.33	-28.20	0.00	0.00	-6.27	
REG_17	Menia	0.00	-5.33	0.00	0.00	-0.36	-0.42	-0.49	-0.54	-0.38	-0.46	-0.49	-2.41	0.00	0.00	-6.13	-4.77	-6.13	-3.15	-5.06	-8.88	-25.88	-16.12	0.00	-18.81	-23.07	0.00	0.00	-5.79	
REG_18	Asyout	0.00	-1.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	-2.87	-3.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	-5.01	0.00	0.00	-8.42	-13.81	0.00	0.00	-1.50	
REG_19	Suhag	-10.06	-16.98	-7.34	-7.93	-8.64	-9.54	-10.32	-10.81	-10.28	-10.39	-10.27	-15.61	-8.07	-11.19	-9.69	-9.16	-5.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	-16.22	0.00	0.00	-12.42	-26.36	-6.03	-5.29	-18.36	
REG_20	Qena	-4.63	-13.25	-3.32	0.00	-4.64	-5.10	-5.50	-5.75	-6.08	-5.73	-5.48	-11.08	-3.64	-6.74	-11.76	-11.28	-8.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-8.01	-23.34	-2.01	0.00	-14.36
REG_21	Aswan	-19.28	-23.11	-15.48	-14.16	-16.39	-17.64	-18.67	-19.30	-17.82	-18.52	-18.61	-21.98	-16.61	-20.51	-24.52	-24.03	-25.88	-5.01	-16.22	0.00	-10.21	-10.21	0.00	-17.74	-29.39	-13.11	-10.49	-24.91	
REG_22	Luxor	-10.19	-17.07	-7.65	-7.20	-8.85	-9.69	-10.41	-10.86	-10.37	-10.47	-10.37	-15.26	-8.34	-12.02	-16.92	-16.40	-16.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	-10.21	0.00	0.00	-1.10	-25.88	-6.37	-5.19	-18.46	
REG_23	Red Sea	0.00	-1.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-5.04	-12.59	0.00	0.00	-1.32	
REG_24	El-Wadi El-Gidd	-18.32	-22.56	-14.22	-15.21	-15.29	-16.66	-17.83	-18.56	-16.94	-17.67	-17.77	-21.80	-15.44	-19.15	-18.90	-18.33	-18.81	-8.42	-12.42	-8.01	-17.74	-1.10	-5.04	-10.19	-29.79	-11.94	-10.61	-24.32	
REG_25	Matrouh	-23.89	-21.71	-17.04	-18.78	-18.46	-21.66	-21.85	-22.98	-16.77	-24.89	-23.36	-18.89	-18.90	-23.85	-29.01	-28.20	-23.07	-13.81	-26.36	-23.34	-29.39	-25.88	-12.59	-29.79	-21.71	-13.56	-12.16	-23.41	
REG_26	North Sinai	0.00	-1.57	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-6.03	-2.01	-13.11	-6.37	0.00	-11.94	-13.56	0.00	0.00	-1.71
REG_27	South Sinai	0.00	-1.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-5.29	0.00	-10.49	-5.19	0.00	-10.61	-12.16	0.00	0.00	-1.28
	Foreign	-3.98	0.00	-2.57	-2.49	-1.31	-4.41	-4.51	-5.20	0.00	-5.71	-5.46	0.00	-3.18	-0.38	-8.90	-6.27	-5.79	-1.50	-18.36	-14.36	-24.91	-18.46	-1.32	-24.32	-23.41	-1.71	-1.28	0.00	

We run the two closures (short run and long run) to estimate the change in transportation cost due to the new corridor on some selected variables. Our simulations focus on the transportation cost change impact on efficiency gains (real GDP), household consumption and export for the short run. As the re-allocation effect become relevant in the long run, we investigate too the change in national investment.

3.1 National Economy Simulation Results

Transportation project are generally funded by governments. The basic economic problem that faces all countries is that of allocating scarce resources among competing uses in a way that maximizes the net benefits to society. This is especially true for transportation infrastructure investments. It often follows that transportation decision makers require additional information about the effects of investments and policies on the economy. In this section, we discuss the national results of implementing the development corridor on Egypt's economy. We focus on the efficiency gains (Real GDP) and other national variables that could help in verifying the source of the real GDP change due to the transportation cost change shock to our model. We discuss the results of the GDP component; real household consumption, investment, government expenditures, exports and imports in both short and long run. We then proceed to show the change in activity levels of all economy sectors, as well as, the change in employment of these sectors. This helps in the explanation of some national variables which are related to changes in activity levels.

Table 3 presents simulation results for national aggregates in both short run and long run. When growth in gross domestic production (GDP) is positive, efficiency gains are realized from the Corridor. GDP is positive for Real Household Consumption, Real Government Expenditures, international exports, and international imports. However the Corridor's impact on aggregate investment is negative. Gains in efficiency realized from the corridor in both short and long run. Welfare gains (equivalent variation) are revealed only in the long run. The export volume and government expenditure are the positive component of the GDP in the short run, while in the long run all the real GDP component have positive change except the real investment expenditures.

**Table 3. Short and Long Run Effects on Some Selected National Variables
(in percentage change)**

	Short Run	Long Run
Real GDP	0.249	0.241
Equivalent Variation	-0.075	0.706
Real Household consumption	-0.115	0.435
Real Aggregate Investment	0	-0.401
Real Government Expenditures	0.125	0.45
International Export Volume	0.971	0.24
International Import Volume	-0.394	0.425

Real household consumption change is negative in the short run affected by the decrease in the activity level (employment effect) only since the national real wage is assumed fixed (see Table 4). While in the long run the real household consumption increases reflecting welfare gains by 0.435%. The change in real investment expenditures prevails only in the long run since the re-location effect becomes relevant as factors are free to move between regions; new investment decisions define marginal re-location of activities. Table 3 shows that the impact on aggregate real investment expenditure is negative. Given the structure of the model, the activity effect on the transportation sector related to less resource intensive shipment (technical change channel in Figure 4) dominates the price effect (price change channel). It means that even though lower transportation cost implies lower cost of capital creation, real investment decreases due to the relative increase in overall capital stocks that leads to diminishing marginal returns. In our simulation, the reduction of the transportation requirement of output generates a stronger effect on the capital market. Thus the associated decrease in output of transportation sector creates an excess supply of capital which is adjusted in the long run through lower levels of investment.

Table 4 shows the change in both activity level and employment in all economy sectors. In the short run the change in employment is negative lead by the reduction in employment in both electricity and transportation sectors. The total employment has a positive change in the long run due to high increase in the electricity and other services sectors employment which follow the increase in their activity level in the long run and the lesser degree

of the transportation sector negative change. Table 4 shows that both the activity level and employment are in the same direction in both short and long run.

Table 4. Sectoral Activity Level and Employment (percentage change)

	Short Run		Long Run	
	Activity Level	Employment	Activity Level	Employment
AGR	0.08	0.541	0.09	0.33
MNE	0.03	1.15	0.19	0.3
IND	0.13	0.6	-0.01	-0.02
ELC	-0.26	-0.62	0.28	0.41
CNT	0.07	0.18	-0.32	-0.3
RTL	0.1	0.48	0.15	0.33
TRN	-1.45	-7.53	-2.07	-3.73
ADP	0.08	0.33	0.17	0.24
OTS	0.11	0.13	0.38	0.43

3.2 Regional Level Simulation Results

Transport infrastructure that connects regions represent some of the largest public investment programs in developing countries. The objectives are typically to increase economic efficiency (overall economic growth) as well as spatial Equity helping lagging areas of a country to catch up with leading ones. In this section, the analysis now focuses on the Corridor's effects at regional level in the short run and upon the allocation of economic activity in the long run. We estimate the corridor impacts on regional growth (change in GRP), regional household consumption, Export in both short and long run and investment in long run only. Note, as described in Haddad et al. (2016) that we model the locus of production and consumption in each governorate at its capital and assume all international trade occurs only through Alexandria.

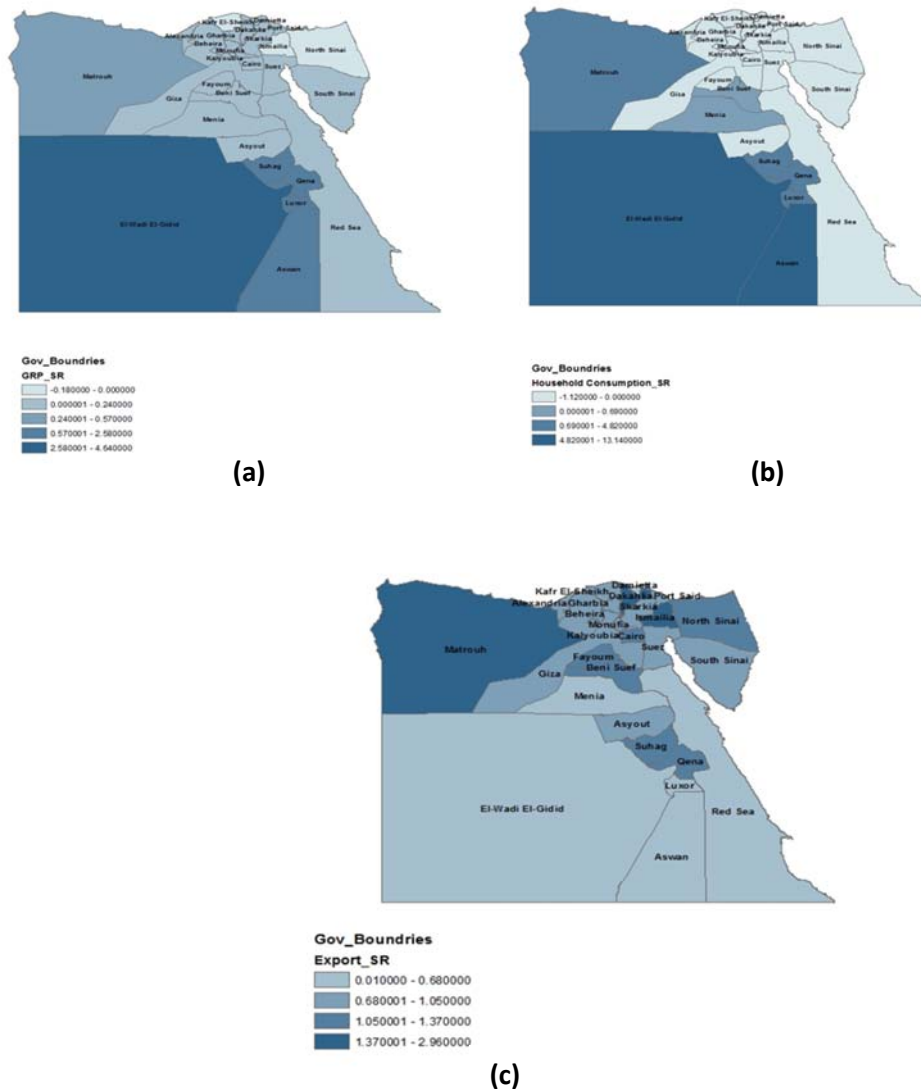
The model results on some selected regional variables are summarized in Tables 5 and 6. The impact on GRP in the short run is positive in almost all regions due to the high increase in the export only since the household consumption is negative in most regions. The positive change on household consumption in the short run is limited to the regions that gain high savings in travel time to other regions.

Table 5. Short-Run Effects on selected Regional Variables (percentage change)

		GRP	Household Consumption	Export
REG_1	Cairo	0.139	-0.672	1.374
REG_2	Alexandria	0.115	-0.770	0.796
REG_3	Port Said	0.015	-1.070	0.858
REG_4	Suez	0.133	-0.889	1.013
REG_5	Damietta	0.171	-0.274	0.621
REG_6	Dakahlia	0.033	-0.916	2.029
REG_7	Skarkia	0.041	-0.527	0.956
REG_8	Kalyoubia	0.186	-0.636	0.924
REG_9	Kafr El-Sheikh	-0.180	-1.122	0.991
REG_10	Gharbia	0.035	-0.693	1.038
REG_11	Monufia	0.041	-0.666	0.965
REG_12	Beheira	0.066	-0.721	0.843
REG_13	Ismailia	-0.033	-0.922	2.143
REG_14	Giza	0.080	-0.751	0.905
REG_15	Beni Suef	0.238	0.125	1.090
REG_16	Fayoum	0.155	-0.281	1.213
REG_17	Menia	0.147	0.691	0.436
REG_18	Asyout	0.052	-0.280	0.897
REG_19	Suhag	1.422	3.044	1.167
REG_20	Qena	1.568	3.558	1.112
REG_21	Aswan	2.582	8.907	0.572
REG_22	Luxor	1.745	4.816	0.442
REG_23	Red Sea	0.105	-0.464	0.682
REG_24	El-Wadi El-	4.642	13.138	0.008
REG_25	Matrouh	0.570	3.034	2.957
REG_26	North Sinai	-0.041	-0.787	1.281
REG_27	South Sinai	0.063	-0.541	1.047

Figure 6 is a map of the distribution of the short run results across regions. GDP (part a) and household consumption (part b) impacts across governorates show those governorates that win travel time savings via the Corridor's existence tend to gain the most efficiency benefits, while governorates in the Delta region tend to gain less. The impact on export is positive in all regions. However, the regions that gain more export benefits are the regions that locate close to the port (Alexandria).

Figure. 6 Spatial Regional Results in the Short Run



Source: Maps created by the researchers using ArcMap.

In the long run, the results are somewhat different. Not only the regions that win the most saving in transportation cost gain efficiency and welfare benefits, as the case in the short run, but also other regions in the country started to gain the corridor benefits since the result on household consumption turned to positive in most regions and the result on export is positive in almost all regions too however, the regions around the corridor still gain more benefits.

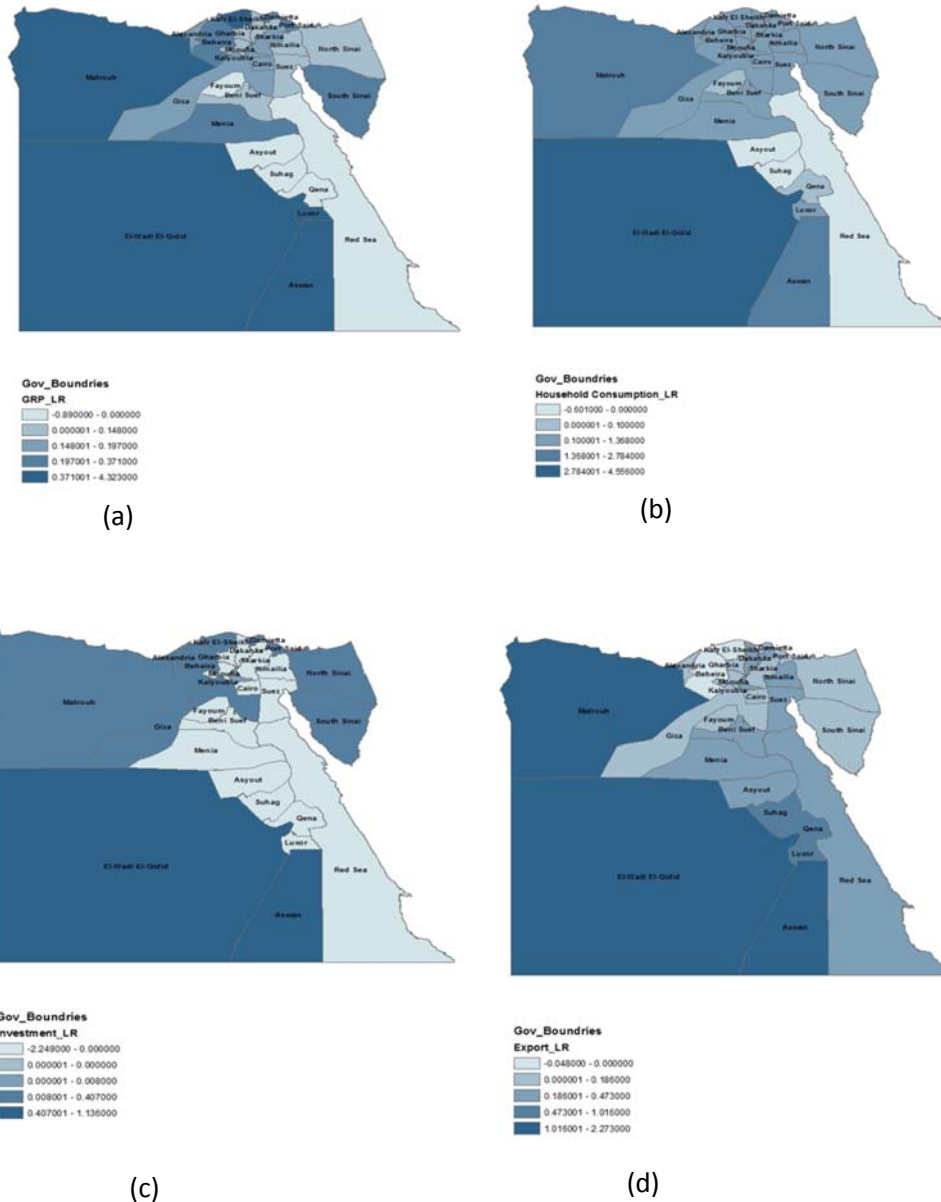
Despite the reduction in the aggregate investment, discussed in the previous subsection, we should notice positive changes in real investment in some regions. Regions that face increase

in their capital stock are mainly those are in the immediate area of influence of the project. Figure 7 sections, shows positive impacts on investment around the Corridor especially in the southern governorates and Western Desert, but the Sinai Desert also gains more benefits.

6. Table Long-Run Effects on selected Regional Variables (percentage change)

		GRP	Household Consumption	Investment Expenditures	Export
REG_1	Cairo	0.195	0.444	-0.003	0.186
REG_2	Alexandria	0.184	0.420	0.070	0.153
REG_3	Port Said	0.266	0.637	0.161	0.153
REG_4	Suez	0.099	0.370	-0.079	0.206
REG_5	Damietta	0.209	0.483	0.085	0.128
REG_6	Dakahlia	0.125	0.449	-0.013	0.293
REG_7	Skarkia	0.153	0.464	-0.078	0.156
REG_8	Kalyoubia	0.197	0.417	0.008	0.263
REG_9	Kafr El-Sheikh	0.407	0.761	0.407	-0.011
REG_10	Gharbia	0.148	0.411	-0.147	0.076
REG_11	Monufia	0.142	0.442	-0.074	0.017
REG_12	Beheira	0.371	0.581	0.043	-0.048
REG_13	Ismailia	0.117	0.433	0.000	0.232
REG_14	Giza	0.197	0.482	0.109	0.096
REG_15	Beni Suef	0.122	0.328	-0.389	0.233
REG_16	Fayoum	-0.191	0.004	-0.553	0.137
REG_17	Menia	0.273	0.416	-0.160	0.473
REG_18	Asyout	-0.890	-0.576	-1.061	0.219
REG_19	Suhag	-0.650	-0.601	-2.249	0.790
REG_20	Qena	-0.035	0.100	-1.537	0.995
REG_21	Aswan	3.585	2.784	0.779	2.273
REG_22	Luxor	1.223	1.368	-0.429	1.016
REG_23	Red Sea	-0.505	-0.333	-0.641	0.243
REG_24	El-Wadi El-Gidid	4.323	4.556	1.136	2.116
REG_25	Matrouh	2.151	2.065	0.148	1.855
REG_26	North Sinai	0.138	0.681	0.058	0.096
REG_27	South Sinai	0.227	0.570	0.119	0.150

Figure 7. Spatial Regional Results in the Long Run



Source: Map created by the researchers using ArcMap.

3.3 Structural Analysis of Gross Regional Production results

How important is the existing economic structure in explaining the short- and long-run spatial results associated with changes in the transportation network in Egypt? Do backward and forward linkages matter? How about remoteness? To answer these questions, we regress the simulation results (GRP impacts) against selected structural coefficients of the model. The regressions are shown in Tables 7 and 8.

The structure analysis of the GRP in both short and long run explain 87% and 92% of the change in GRP respectively. In the short run, high import penetration have a negative effect on GRP. Regions that suffering from high transportation cost for exports will benefit more from the project in the short run. Also, high unemployment rate is associated with positive change in GRP that the activity level is affected only by employ more people i.e. since capital stock is fixed.

Table 7. Structural Analysis of Short-Run GRP Results

Dependent Variable: GRP_SR				
Variable	Coefficient	Std. error	t-Statistic	Prob.
Constant	7.434982	2.528222	-3.89	0.008
FOR	-0.631036	0.162046	-5.99	0.001
TRFSUP	-0.105501	0.17619	3.66	0.000
AVGTRF	36.07196	9.84475	4.00	00001
COSTEXP	0.000361	0.000904	2.54	0.001
UNEP	5.664157	2.231673	2.94	0.019
R-Squared	0.8765			

GRP_SR= percentage change in GRP in the short run; FOR= import share in total consumption; TRFSUP= transportation margins over basic flows; AVGTRF= average transport tariff rate for domestic products; COSTEXP= export transportation cost; UNEP= unemployment rate.

Table 8. Structural Analysis of Long-Run GRP Results

Dependent Variable: GRP_LR				
Variable	Coefficient	Std. error	t-Statistic	Prob.
Constant	15.32004	2.088214	7.34	0.000
INTER	-0.560492	0.192424	-2.91	0.008
FOR	-1.00467	0.1310692	-7.67	0.000
EXP	0.45058	0.0087962	5.12	0.000
TRFMKT	-0.1778614	0.159307	-11.16	0.000
AVGTRF	42.17347	8.765896	4.81	0.000
R-Squared	0.9187			

GRP_LR= percentage change in GRP in the long run; INTER= share of inter-regional flows; FOR= shares of import to other countries; EXP= shares of export to other countries; TRFMKT= transportation margins over basic flows to market. AVGTRF= average transport tariff rate for domestic products.

In the long run regions who have high transportation cost to sell its products, they will benefit more from the reduction in transportation cost associated with the corridor. For the regions that rely more on imported and interregional inputs there GRP will be lower. However, the high share of export in total sales is associated with a positive change in regions GRP.

A main finding is the entire structure coefficients that drive this broad picture are highly significant. However, one should notice that the coefficient related to the variable AVGTRF (average transportation tariff rate for regional production) is an order magnitude higher than the other coefficients in both short and long run. It means that giving the structure of the model and the simulation, the Development Corridor project would be potentially very important for the most remote regions in Egypt.

4. Conclusion and Policy Implications

Computable general equilibrium (CGE) models can be a powerful tool for policy analysis. Their strength lies in their ability to facilitate economic analyses of policy shocks, particularly those that are unusually large. This is because such models can lean more heavily on economic theory than econometric history to gauge the resulting impacts. More detailed and realistic approaches have been introduced via the integration of geographic information systems (GIS) with transportation network data and multi-modal transport data. The spatial CGE models that result enable greater levels of spatial specificity, which improve the measurement of regional accessibility changes. Meanwhile, an interregional economic model is still used to measure intra-regional, spillover, and feedback effects to assess the broader economic development implications.

In this paper, we use a spatial CGE framework to assess the interregional economic effects of a new highway network proposed for Egypt—a main component of the Development Corridor project. We focus on possible changes in national economic growth and regional activities. We develop the model by connecting an ICGE model developed by Haddad et al. (2016) to The Corridor's transportation network to Egypt's current highway network. We use GIS information to calculate its impacts on travel times among Egypt's main cities (changes in the macro O-D matrix). We map network changes via a gravity model to the ICGE model in order to estimate some economic impacts of the corridor. Results show The Corridor's presence yields strong positive effects on Egypt's economy. Both nationally and regionally, the measured

impacts are positive, reflecting net gains in efficiency. The governorates located in south Egypt and west of the Nile River tend to obtain the greatest efficiency gains. These are the poorest areas of Egypt, so it appears the project should lessen regional disparities among governorates. Due to the extreme saturation of transportation capital investment that we feed into the model, diminishing marginal returns yield a similarly extreme perverse result—further capital investment negatively affects productivity. This undoubtedly would not result from a truly dynamic model. Still, it is clear from our findings that an integrated SCGE model can be useful in estimating the potential economic impacts of transportation projects in Egypt.

This paper is a first cut at estimating the economic benefits of the Development Corridor project. Viewing a proposed project in this way makes it possible to see how improvements in road or rail transport connections can affect the size of labor markets and the industry revenues across regional markets. It can also show how highway transportation improvements can affect access to intermodal connections such as airports, marine ports, intermodal rail/truck loading facilities, and international gateways. The addition of GIS has facilitated development of new analysis systems to measure access and connectivity changes and their impacts on regional economic development. In this vein, this or similar models should support government decisions on such projects.

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