

Almaty-Bishkek Corridor Initiative: Possibilities, Challenges and Opportunities

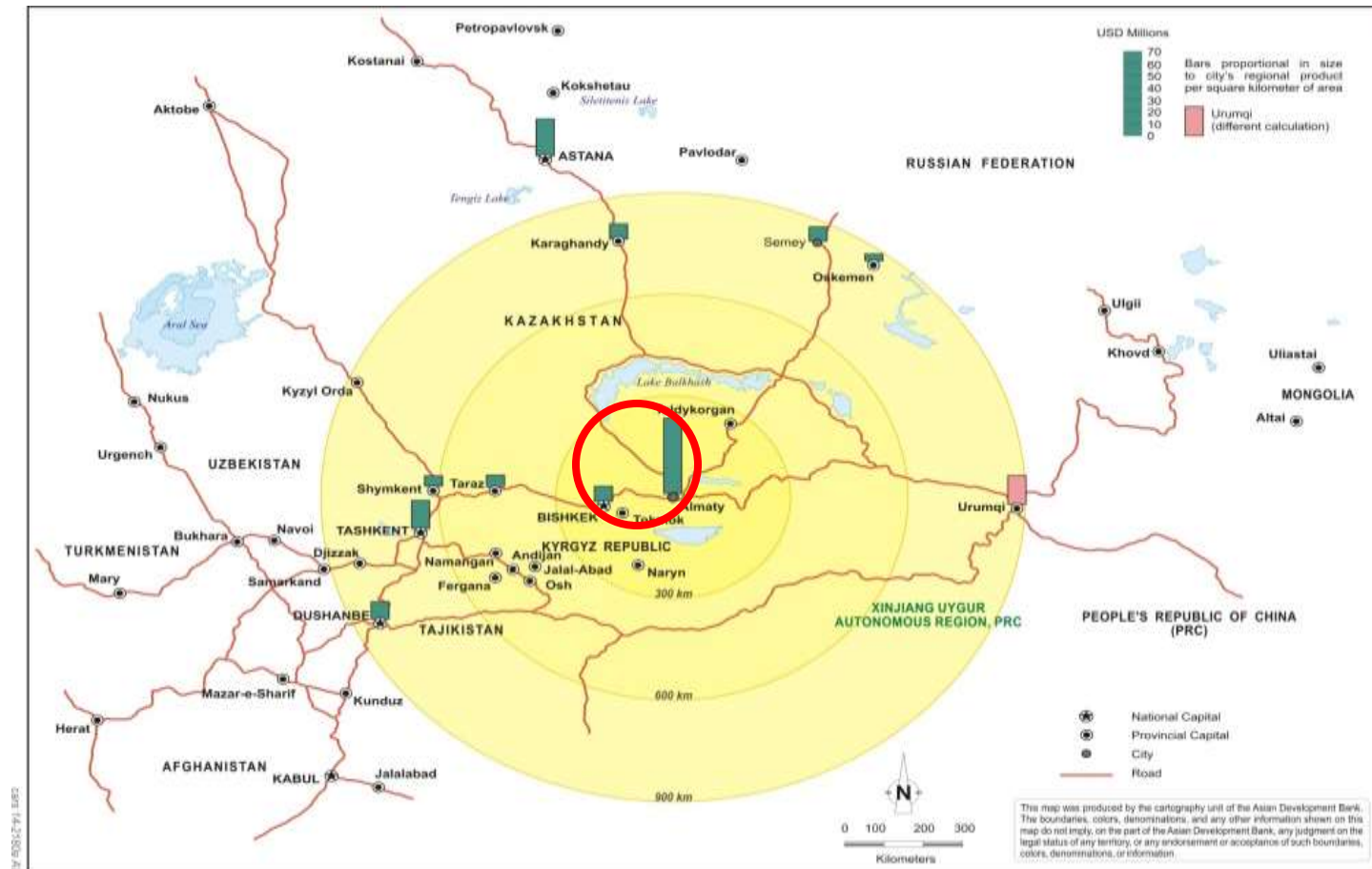
P. Srivastava, ADB
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CAREC CORRIDORS



ABC and CAREC urban economic geography

- Almaty and Bishkek: GRP \$ 42.5 b, \$2.6 b; Populations 1.6 m and 0.9 m



Almaty-Bishkek Corridor Initiative (ABCI)

- CAREC Min Conf: MoU
- Joint Working Group.
- ADB TA under CAREC
- Identify infrastructure projects, policy reforms, and institutional and knowledge needs for economic corridor development

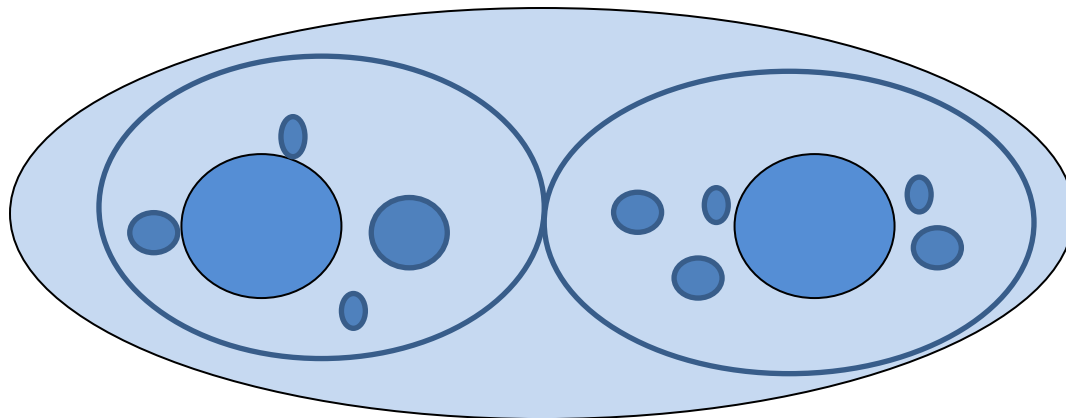
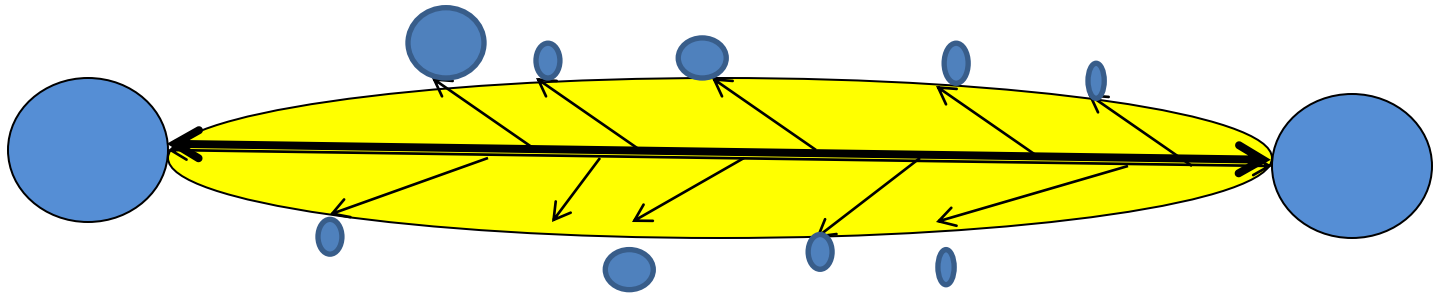


JWG agreed to focus on:

- **agriculture and agri-business; tertiary education; specialized health; tourism, infrastructure and logistics, city planning; IT development in all sectors;**

Economic Corridors: 2 types

Two different models: widening of the transport spine versus urban agglomeration



Elements of agglomeration

- Increase **economic density**

- **Improve interaction between science and businesses;** Facilitate absorption of **high-technology** and promote **innovation**

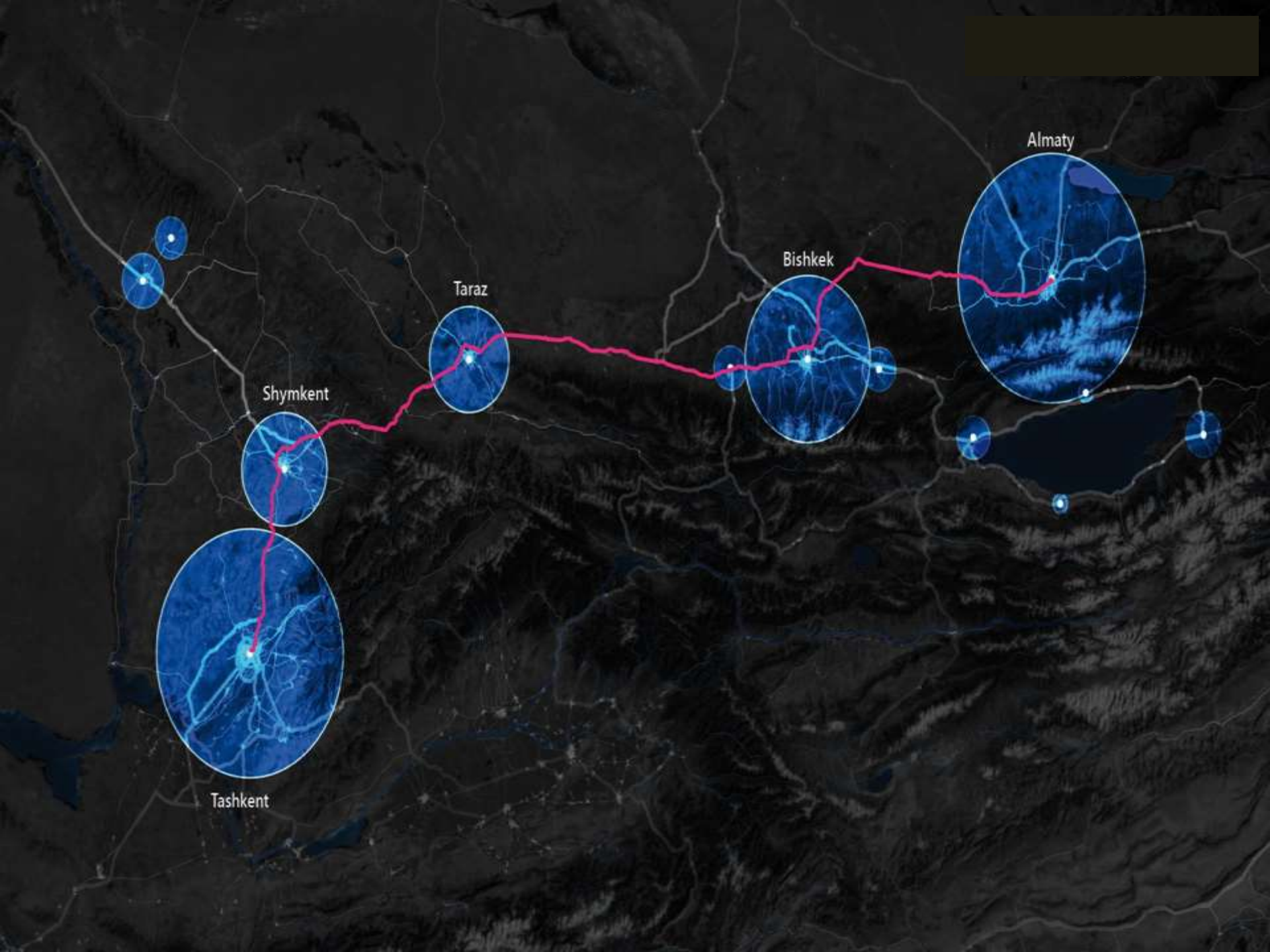
- **Create unified economic space** – scale, specialization

- Strengthen business environment – policies, infrastructure, and human and social capital
 - attract **global talent, strengthen education/skill formation;** promote free flow of ideas and attractive cities

- Formation of **high-speed transport system**

ABCI: Next steps

- Complete remaining analysis: transport, spatial planning and urban development, TVET, manufacturing – SEZs/Industrial Parks
- Draft combined report: July 2016 – infrastructure, policies, institutions, knowledge, resource mobilization
- Joint High-level Steering Committee (above JWG), to assess speed and scope of moving forward
- 15th CAREC Ministerial Conference



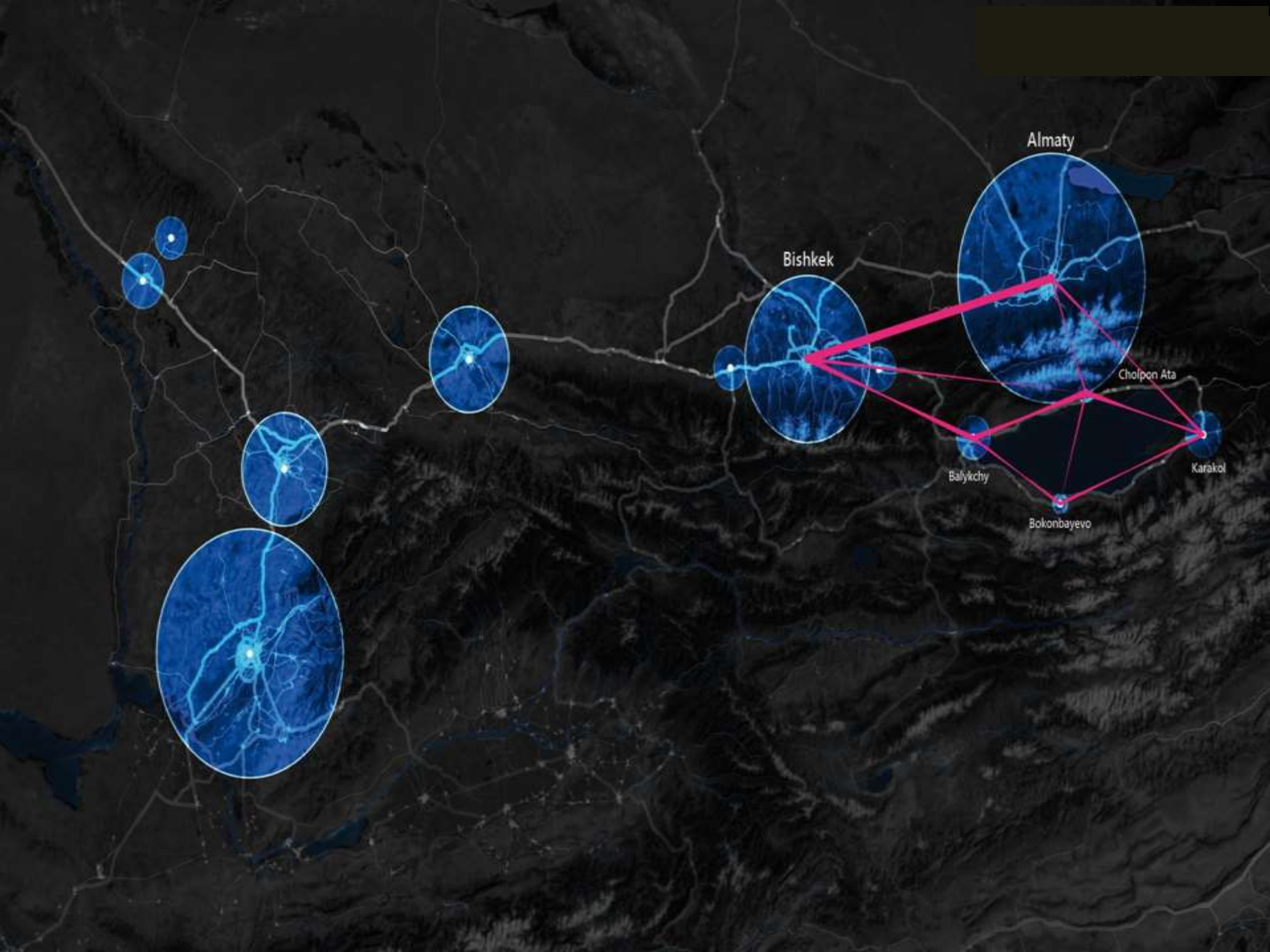
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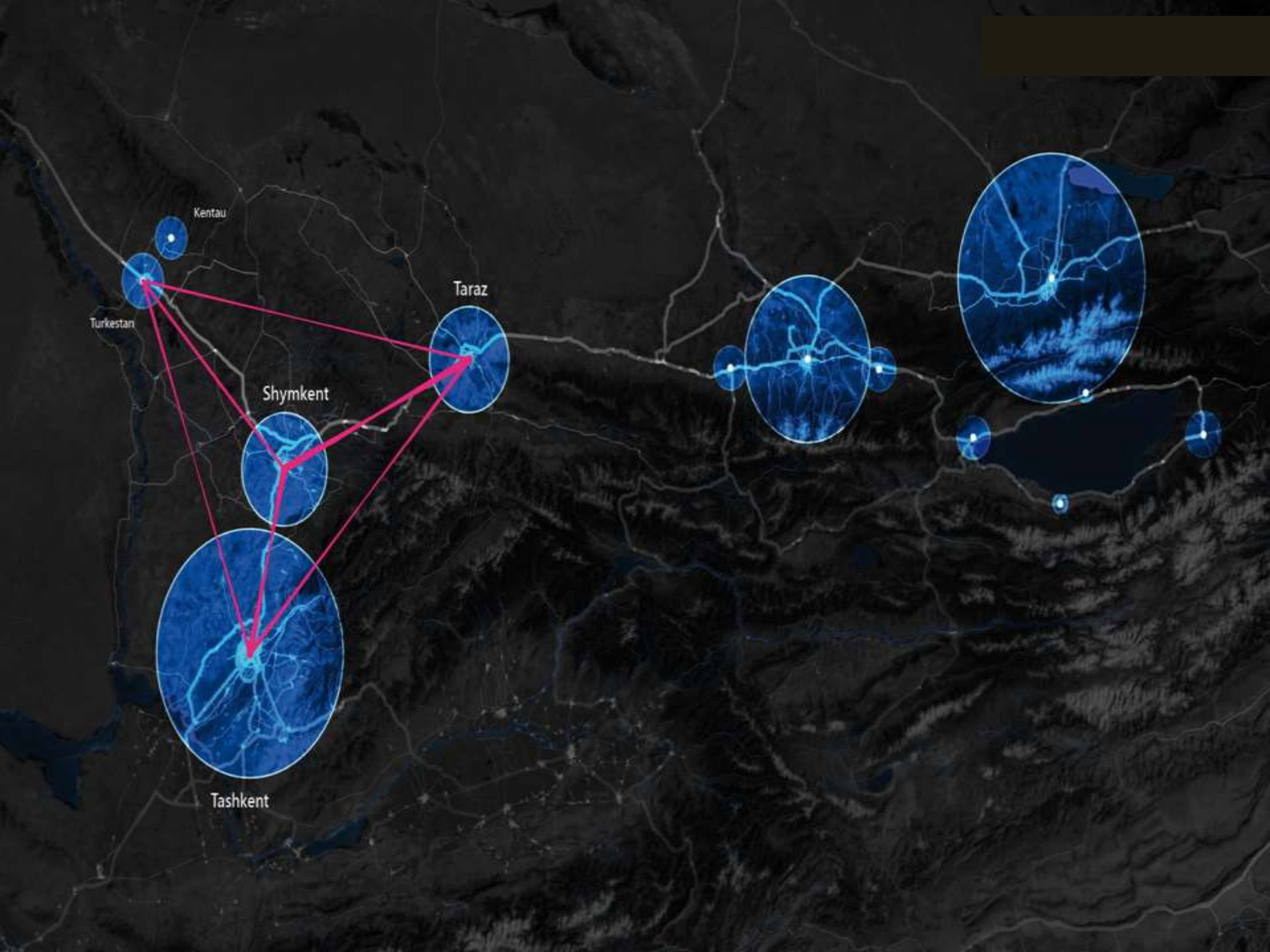
Shymkent

Taraz

Bishkek

Almaty





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