# ISOCARP GAZA & WEST BANK UPAT REPORT

7-14 JUNE 2015

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

50th anniversary
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**Urban Planning Advisory Team**

# Objectives of the UPAT Workshops

- Ensure the basic needs for food, housing, safety, utilities and amenities, education and culture, healthcare and mobility
- Make use of the human potentials, creativity and talent of their inhabitants
- Preserve and restore the natural and cultural assets to ensure livability and modern continuity with the historical past
- Look past the barriers that separate the territories of Israel and the future state of Palestine
- Take the borders of 1967 as borders that are fully open for travel, trade and traffic
- The UPAT team is invited to suggest visions, designs and ideas for Gaza and Central West Bank.

# Geo-political Parameters

*•Borders: 1949 Armistice Line, aka the Green Line is the internationally recognized borders between Israel proper and the oPt - The Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem*

*•East Jerusalem: the capital for the future Palestinian statehood under the two-state solution framework*

*•Israeli settlements: Illegal under international law and UN resolutions and conventions*

*•Palestinian refugees: lawful right of return to Palestinian refugees in the oPt and the Diaspora 'right to self determination'*

*•Natural resources (water): free access to natural resources, especially water*

# The Gaza UPAT team

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Elizabeth Reynolds (ISOCARP) UK

Martina van Lierop (ISOCARP) NL

Jeremy Dawkins (ISOCARP) AUS

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Julien Gicquel (UNDP Cons) France

Said Abu Ghazza (UNDP/PAPP)

# The West Bank UPAT team

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Ahmad El-Atrash (UN-Habitat) Palest.

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Jeff Featherstone (ISOCARP) USA

Saeb Erekat (PLO) Palestine

Martin Dubbeling (ISOCARP) NL

Katharina Gugerell (ISOCARP) Austria

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Ghulam Hassan Mir (ISOCARP) India

Alma Azzoni (ISOCARP) Palestine

# Gaza & West Bank UPAT Report

*INTRODUCTION*

***OUR OBSERVATIONS AND IMPRESSIONS***

*TWO METROPOLITAN REGIONS*

*IMPLICATIONS*

*WHAT WILL WE DO NEXT?*

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# Our activities and our approach

We saw many places, we met many people in Government, civil society and universities, and we read many documents:

- National Spatial Plan
- Gaza Revised Regional Plan
- Many reports and studies

Our approach:

- Listen and learn
- Understand perspectives and priorities
- Facilitate a long term strategic view
- Focus on the spatial dimension of policy
- Suggest, predict, propose: this is not a plan
- Engage with stakeholders in SWOT analysis

# SWOT Analysis

*State of Palestine with full sovereignty*

Using **STRENGTHS** to address **WEAKNESSES** and to make the most of **OPPORTUNITIES**, and to mitigate **THREATS**

**150 ISSUES**

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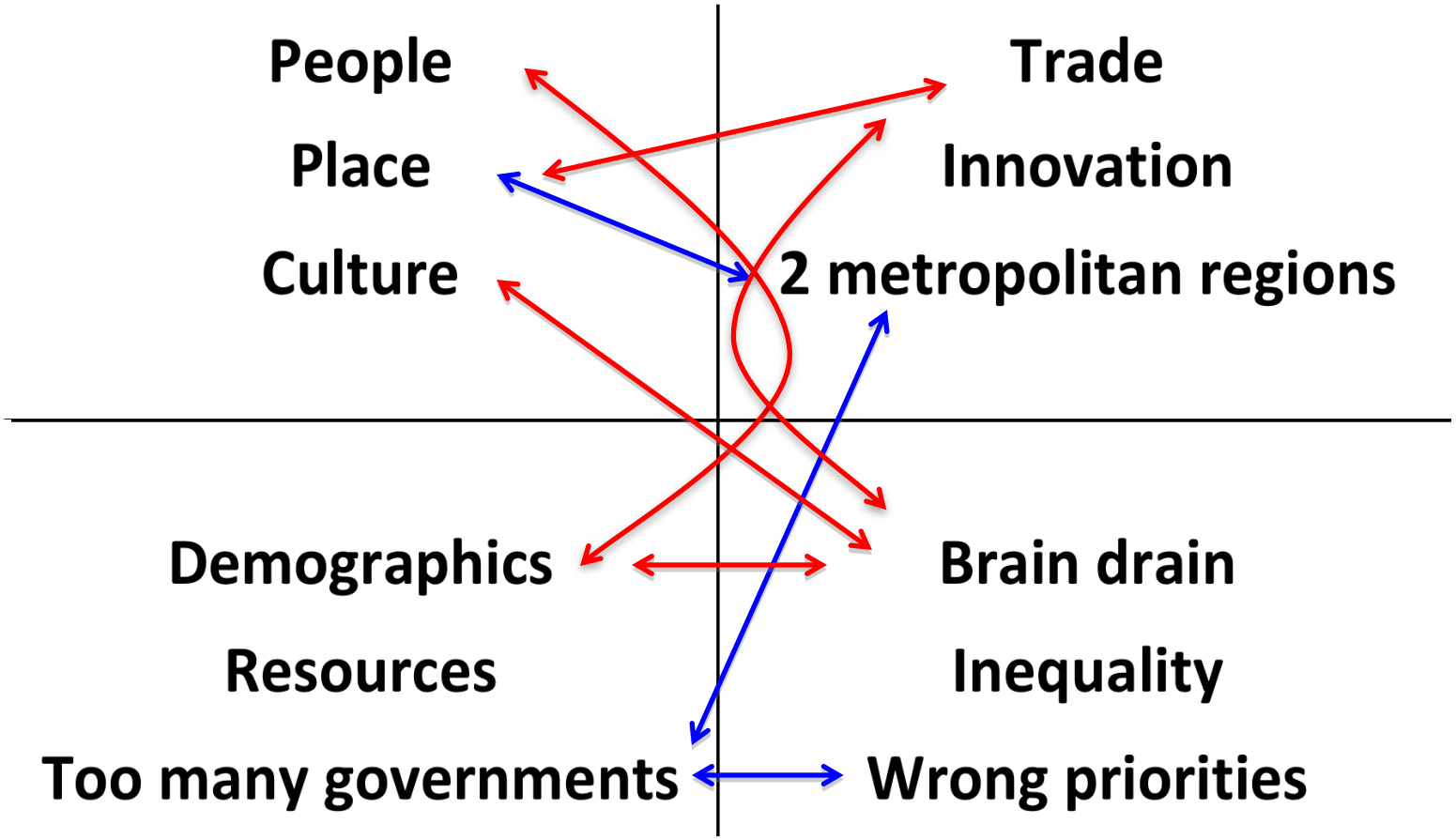
| W | T |



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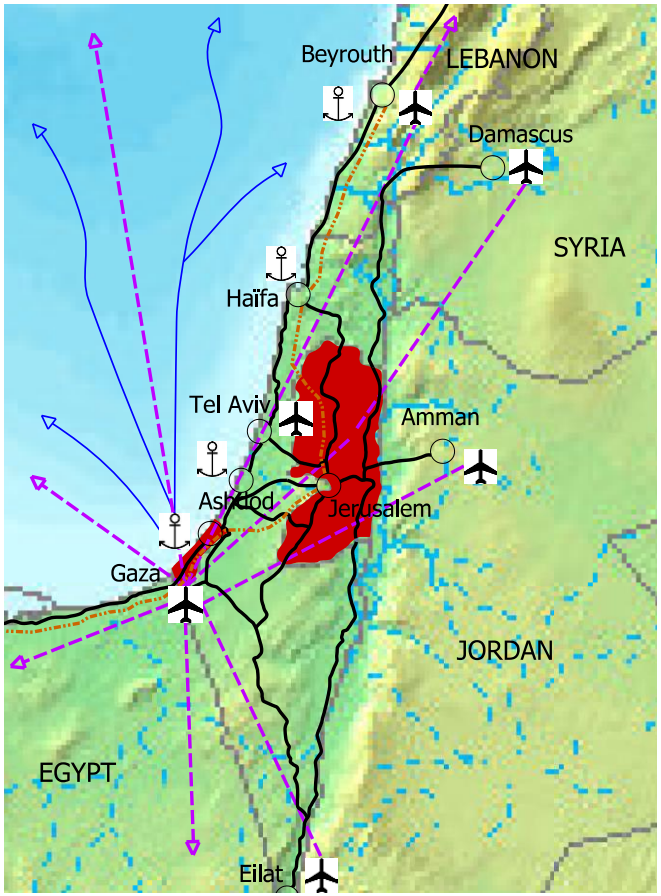
*OUR OBSERVATIONS AND IMPRESSIONS*

***TWO METROPOLITAN REGIONS***

- ***International and national scale***
- ***Urban scale***
- ***Micro scale***

*IMPLICATIONS*

*WHAT WILL WE DO NEXT?*

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## West Bank

**11** Governorates
**112** Municipalities

## Gaza Strip

**5** Governorates
**26** Municipalities

## Palestine's Capital Region

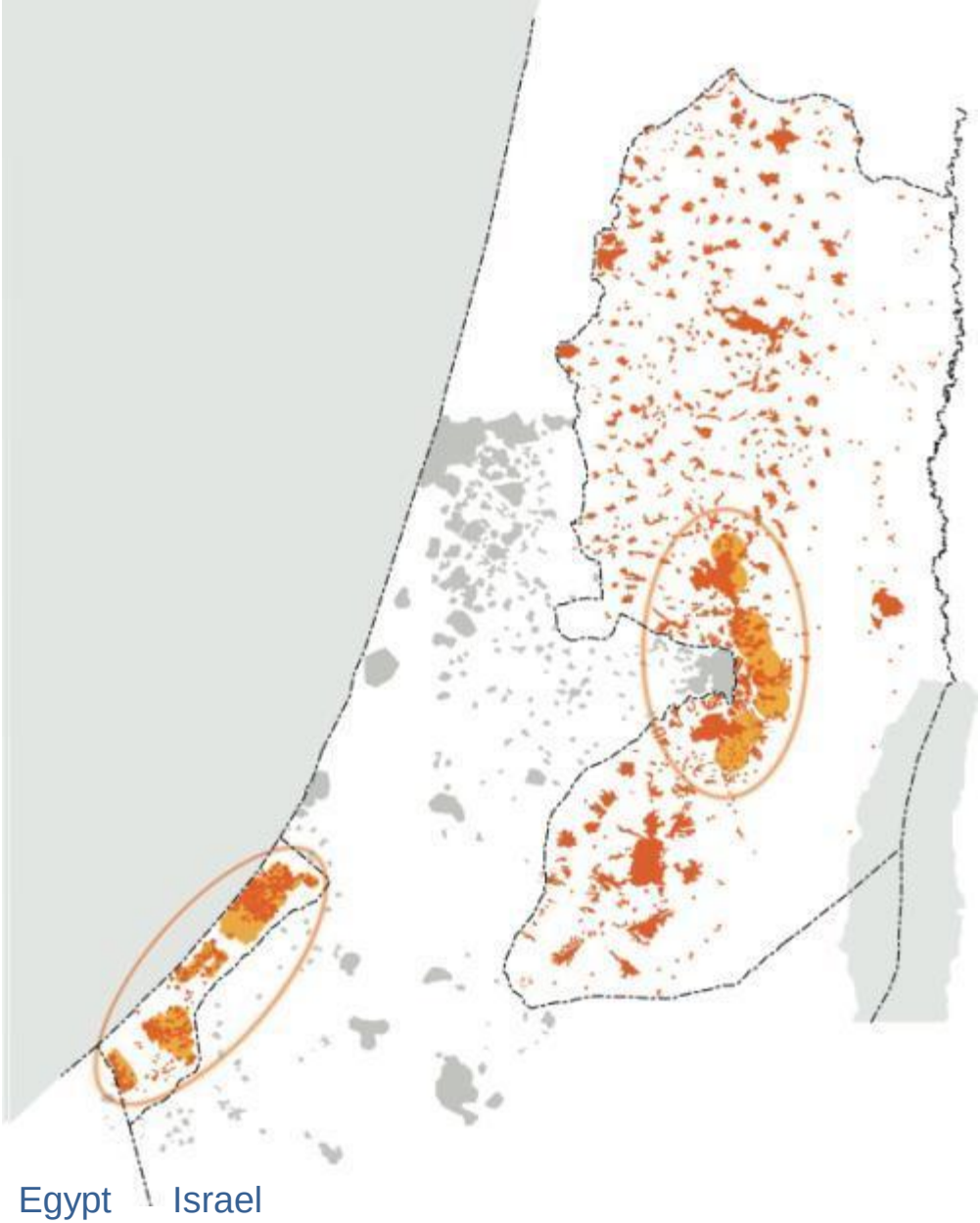
1 Metropolitan Government working with national agencies

? Governors and local councils with specific functions

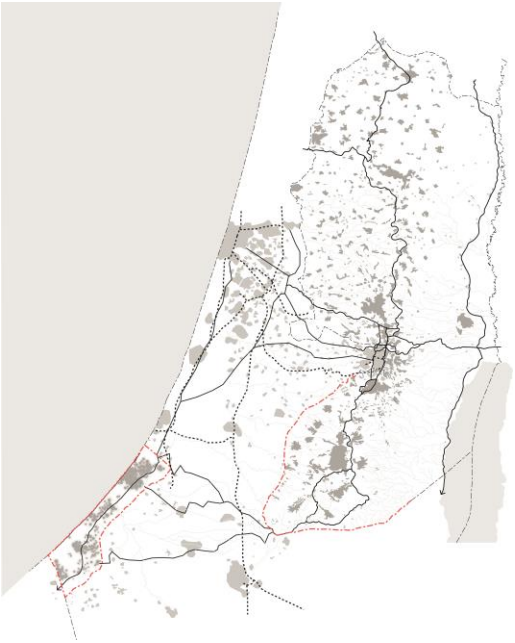
## Palestine's Gaza Coast

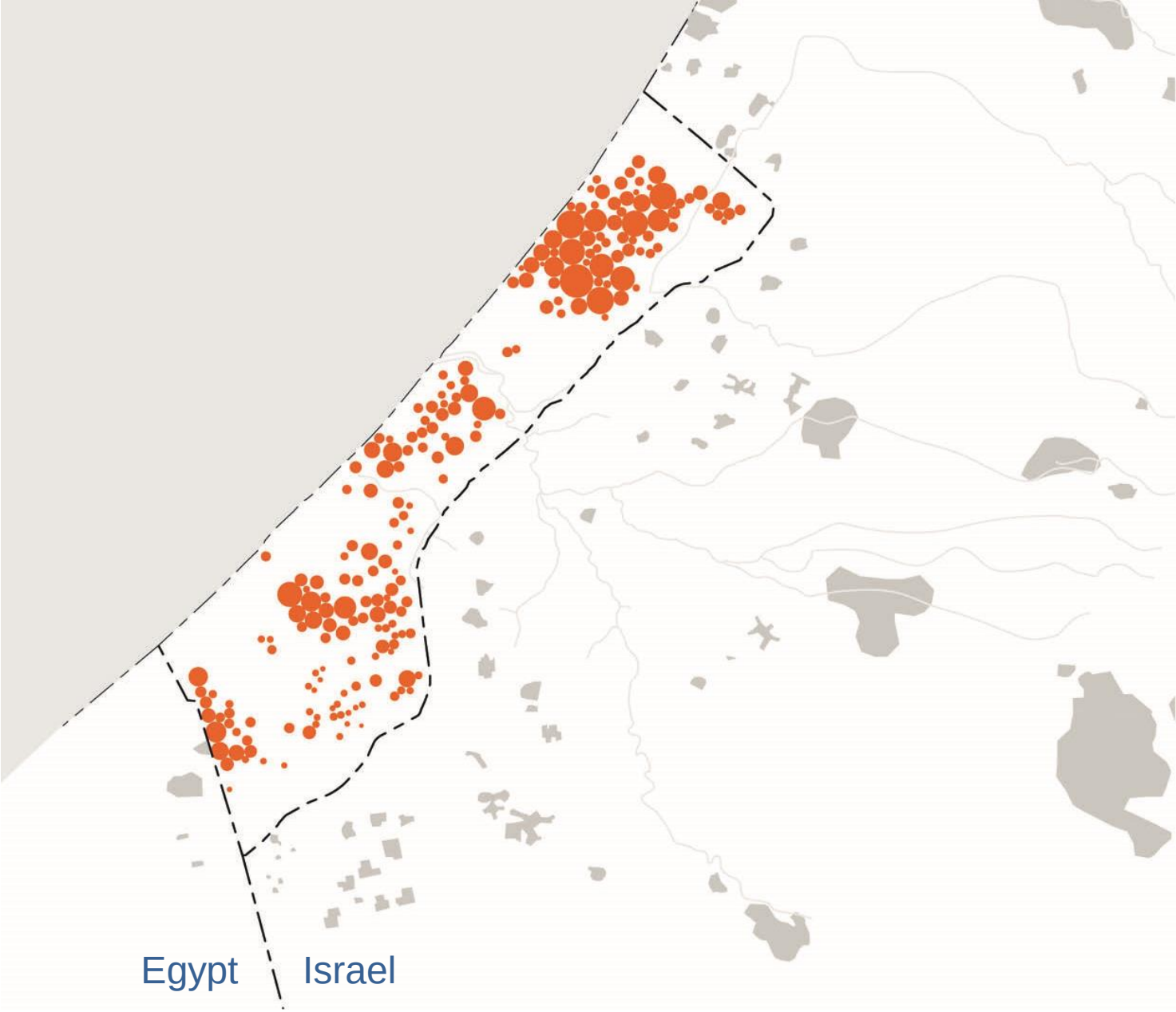
1 Metropolitan Government including metropolitan authorities

? Governorates and/or local councils with specific functions

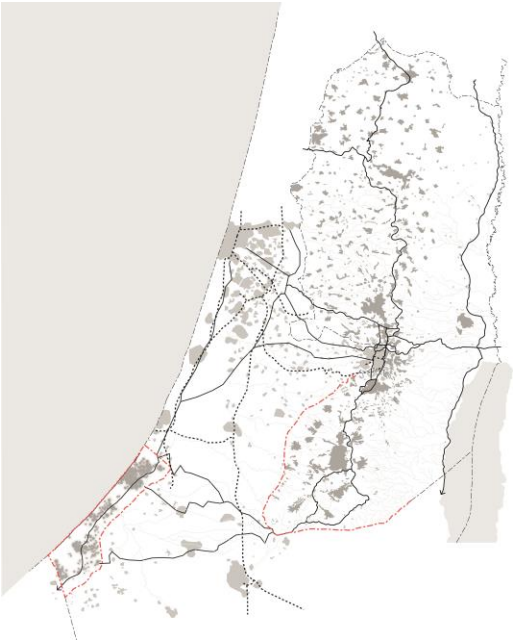


# Built up area





# Blue & Green Infrastructure



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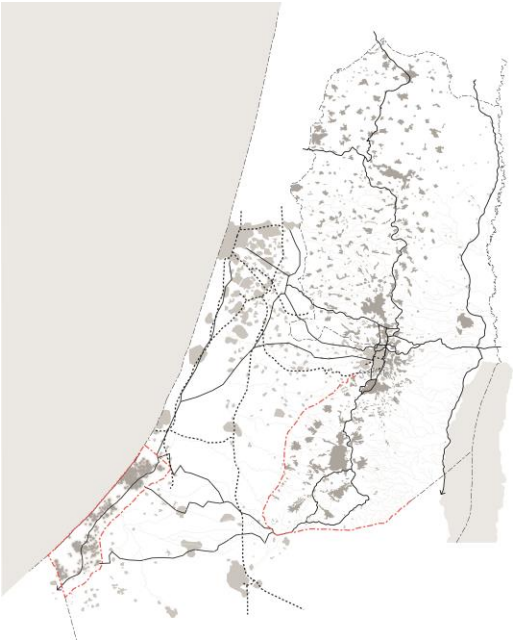
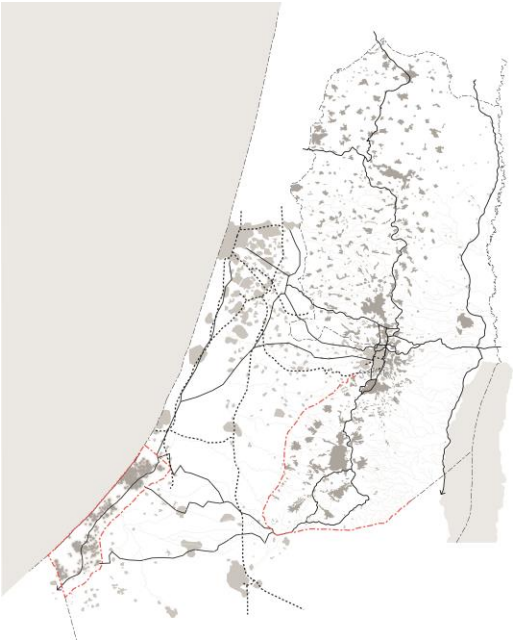
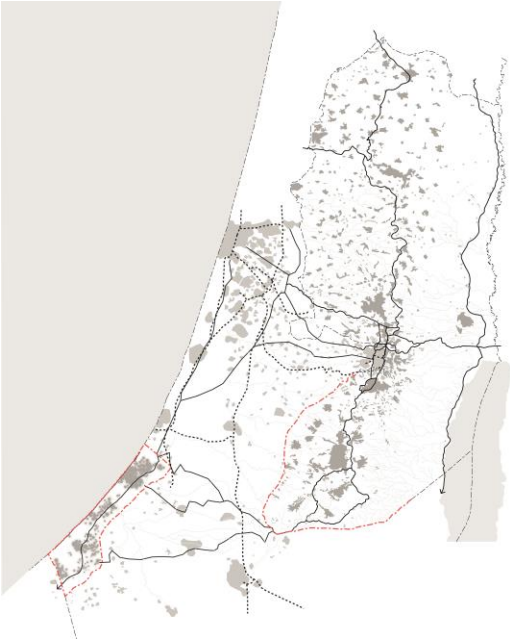
# Road Network



# Rail Network



# Public Transport Network



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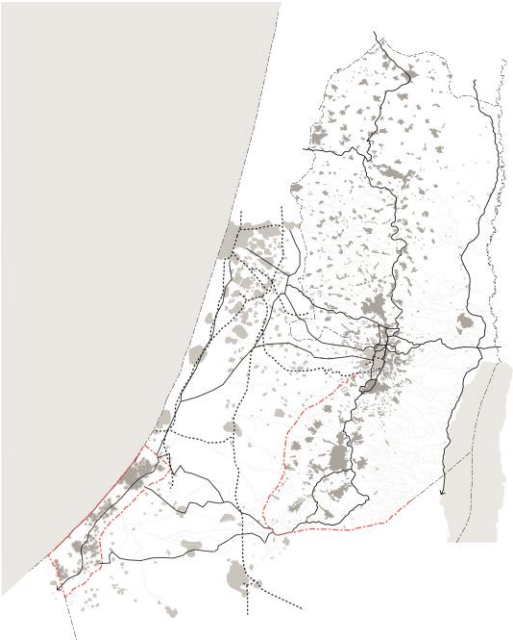
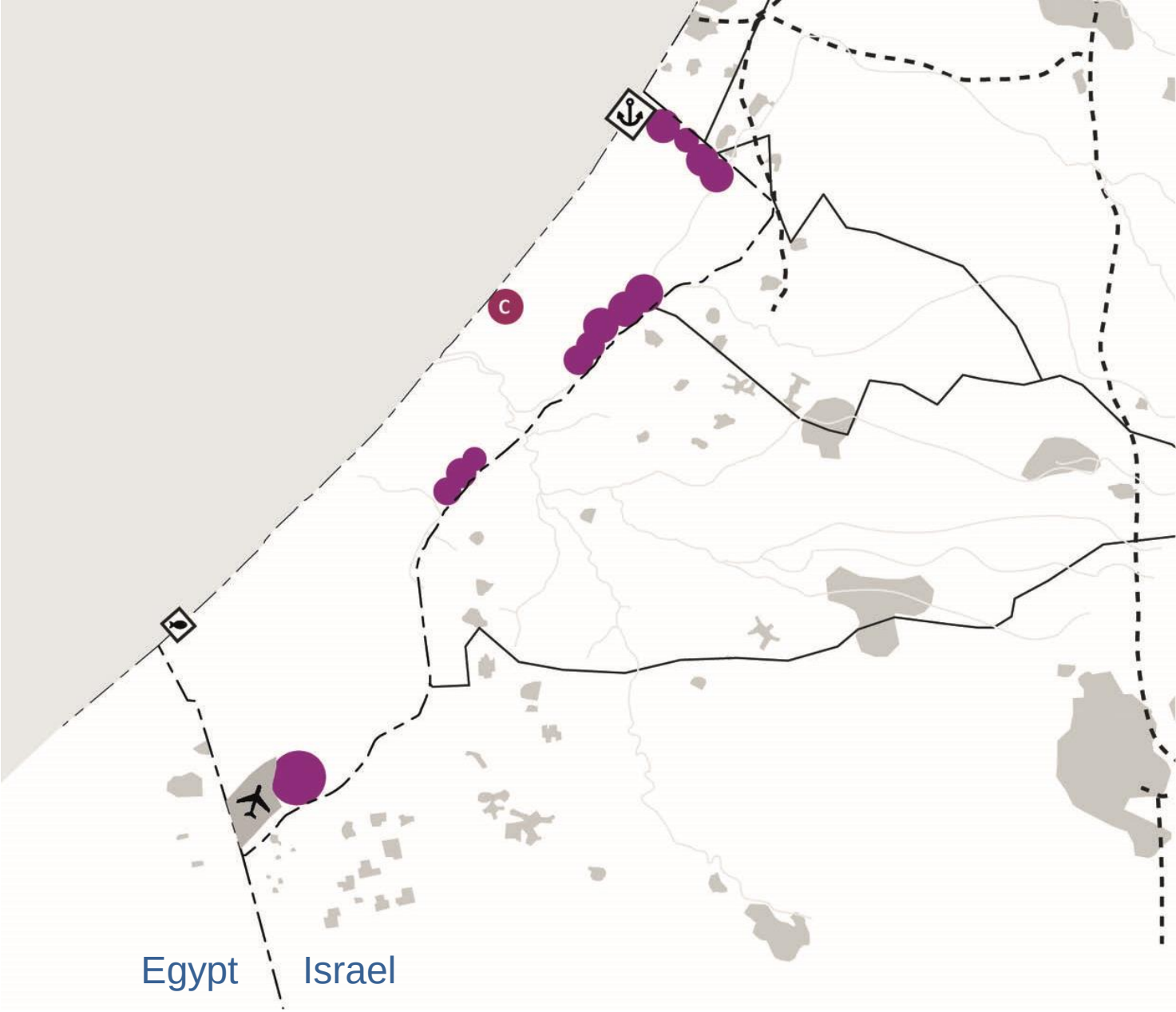
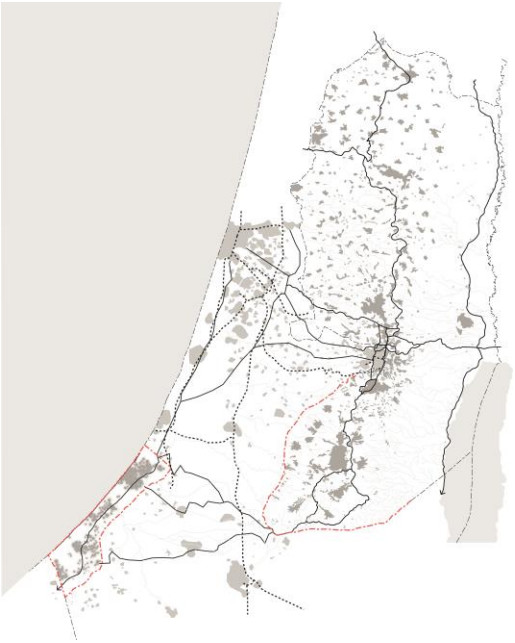
# Bicycle Network



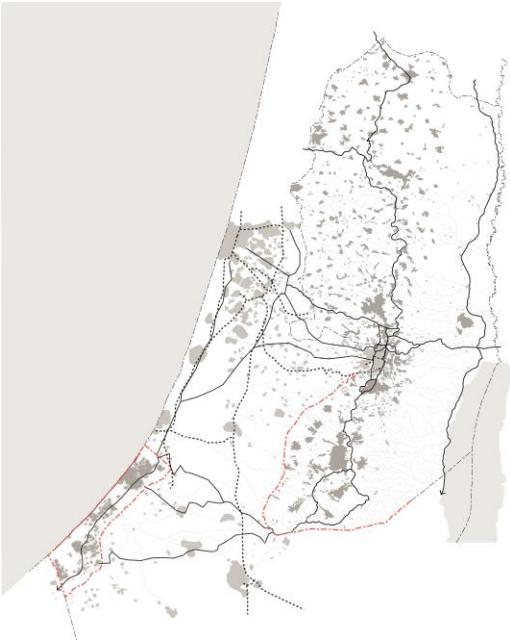
# Campus & Industrial Areas



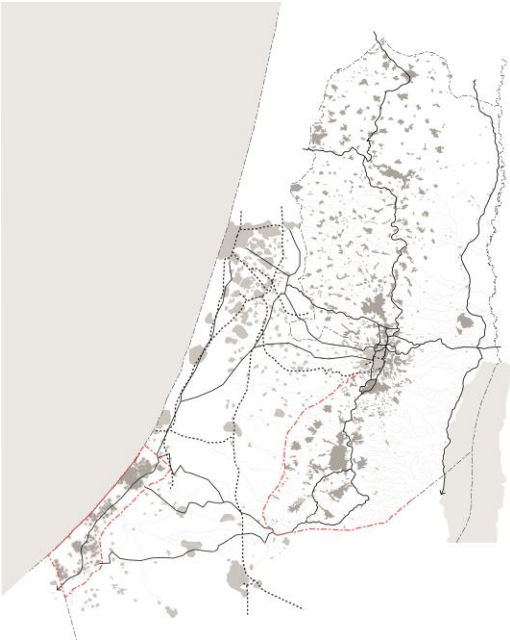
# Cultural Areas

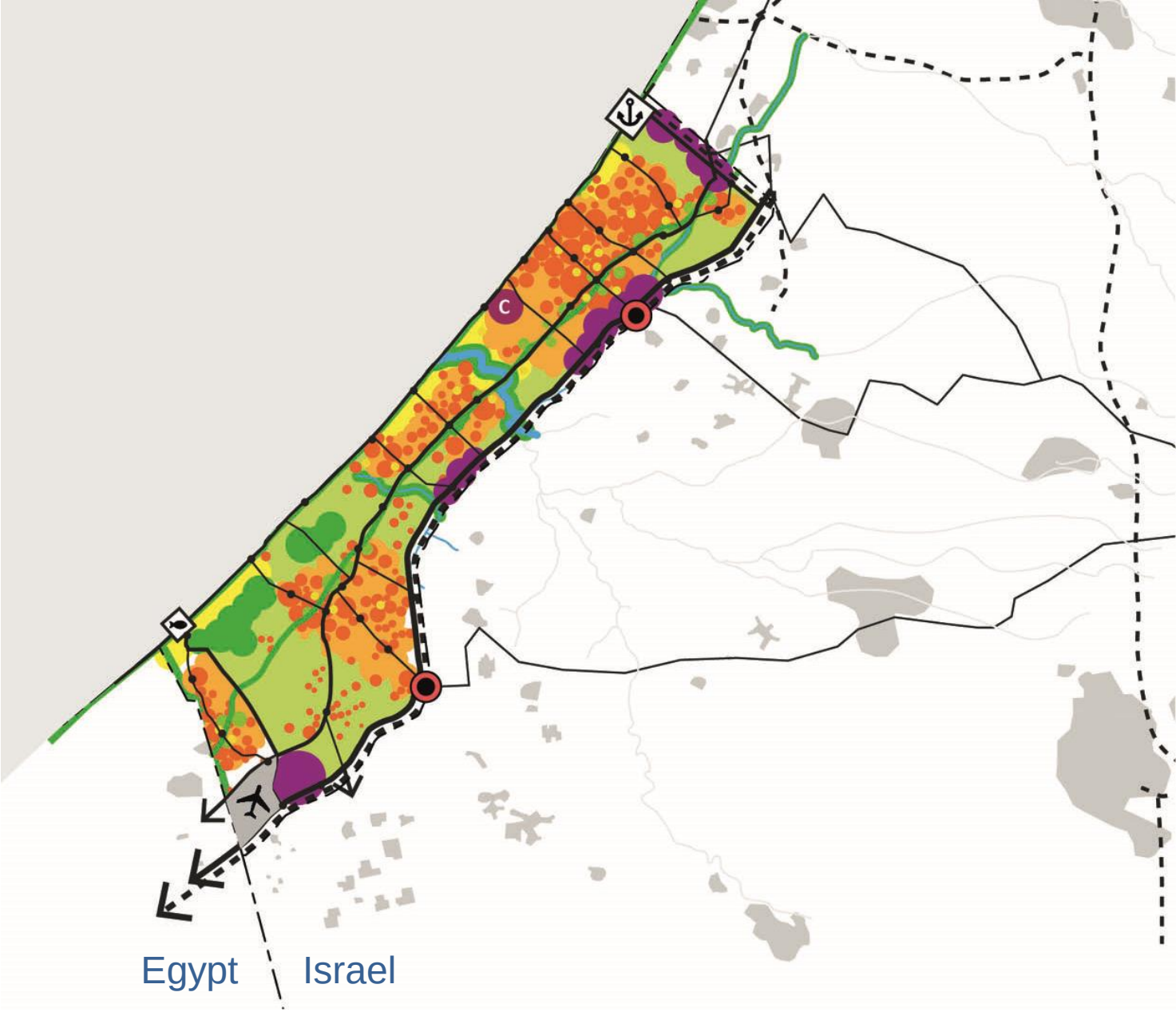


# Agricultural Areas



# Vision Gaza





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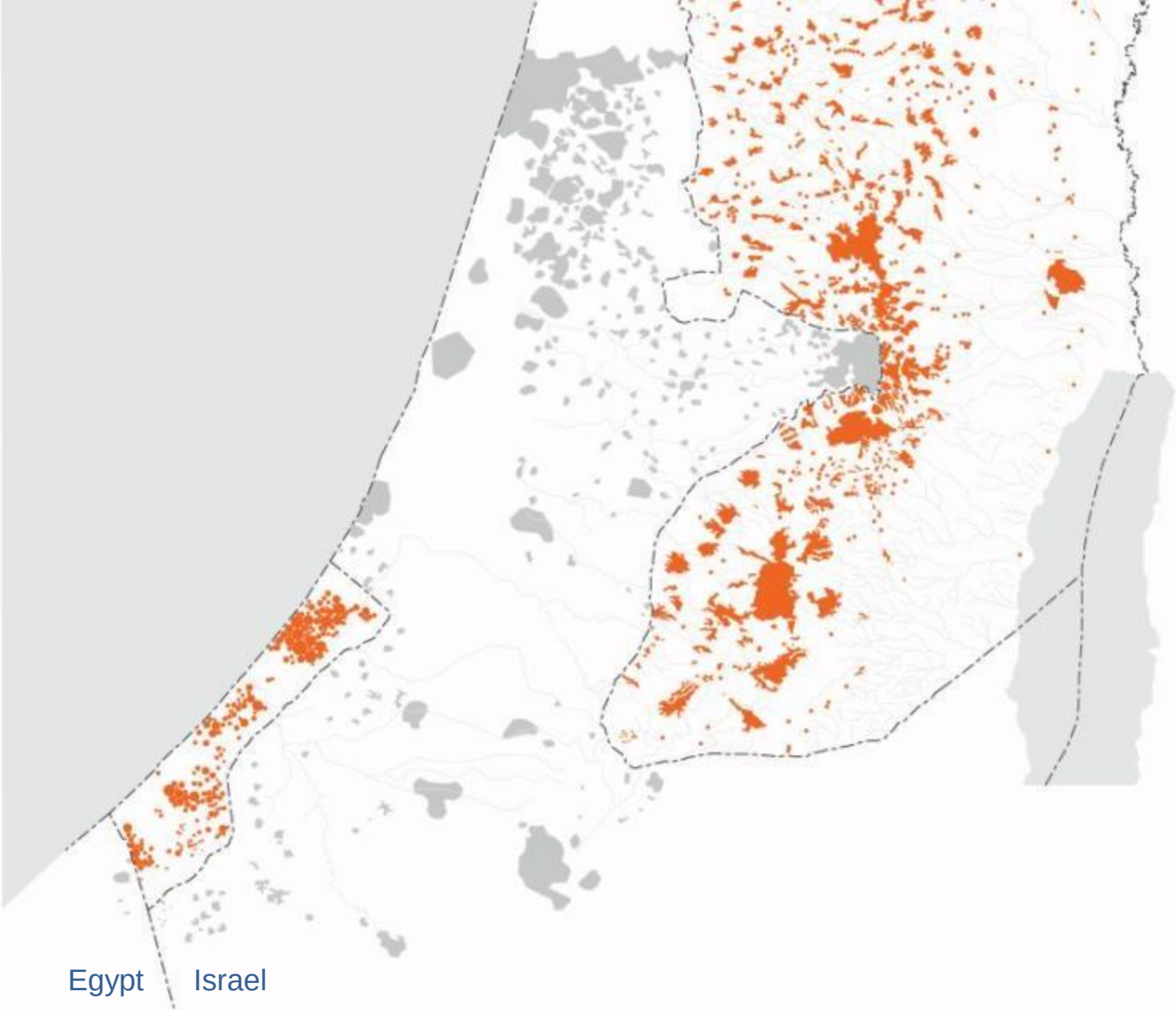
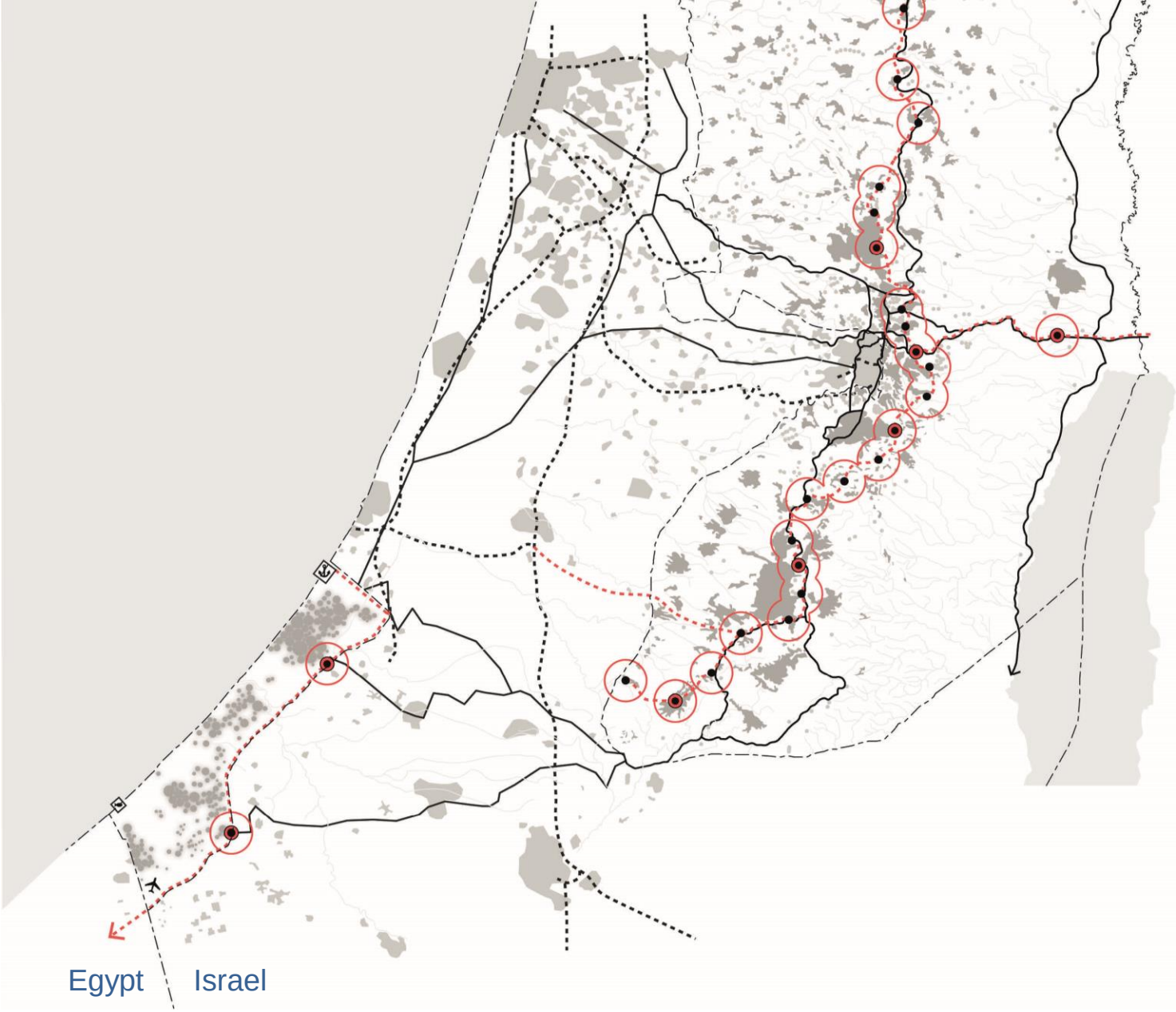
# Built up area



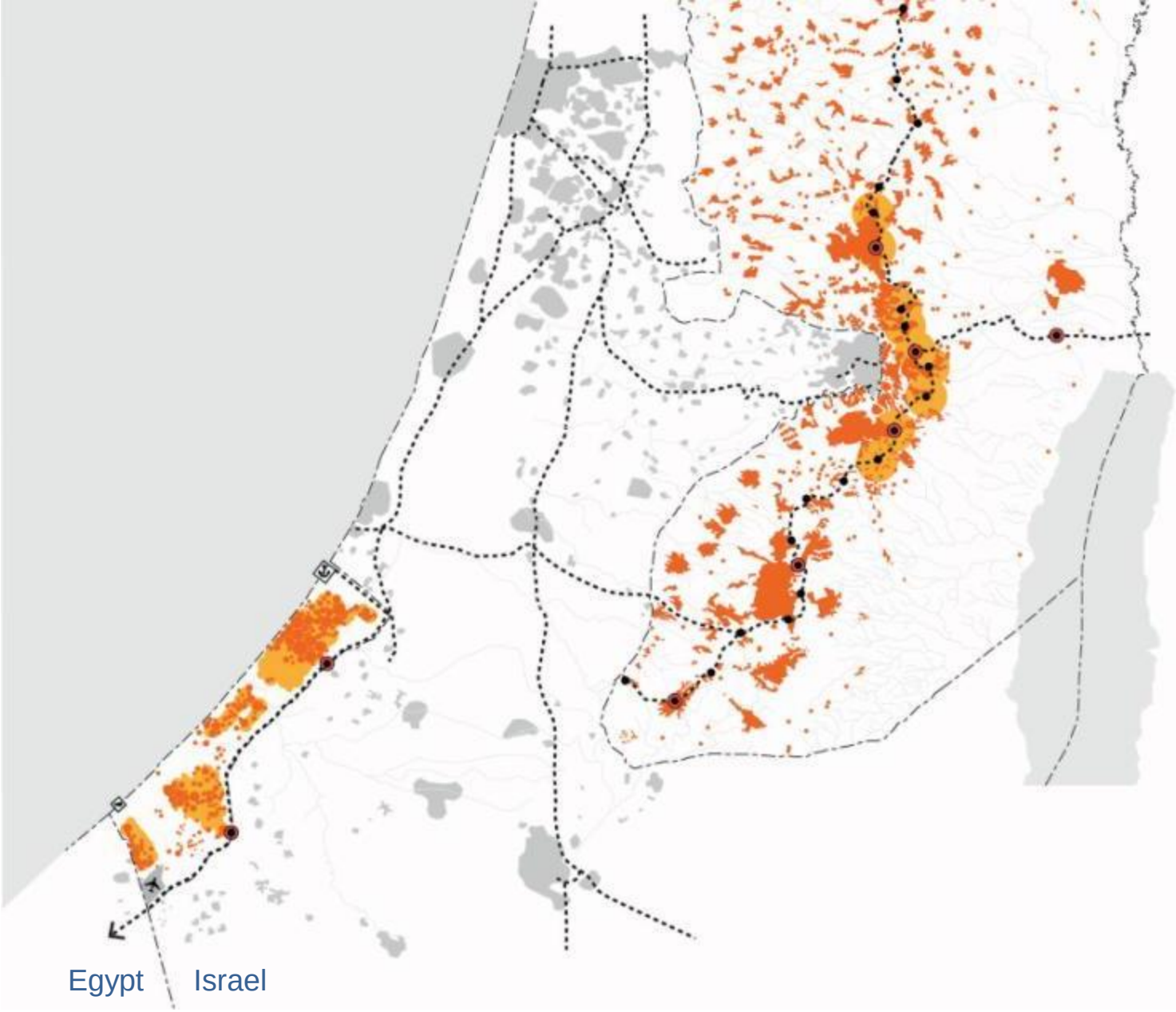
# Existing road network

# Existing railway network

# Proposed railway network



# Areas for development



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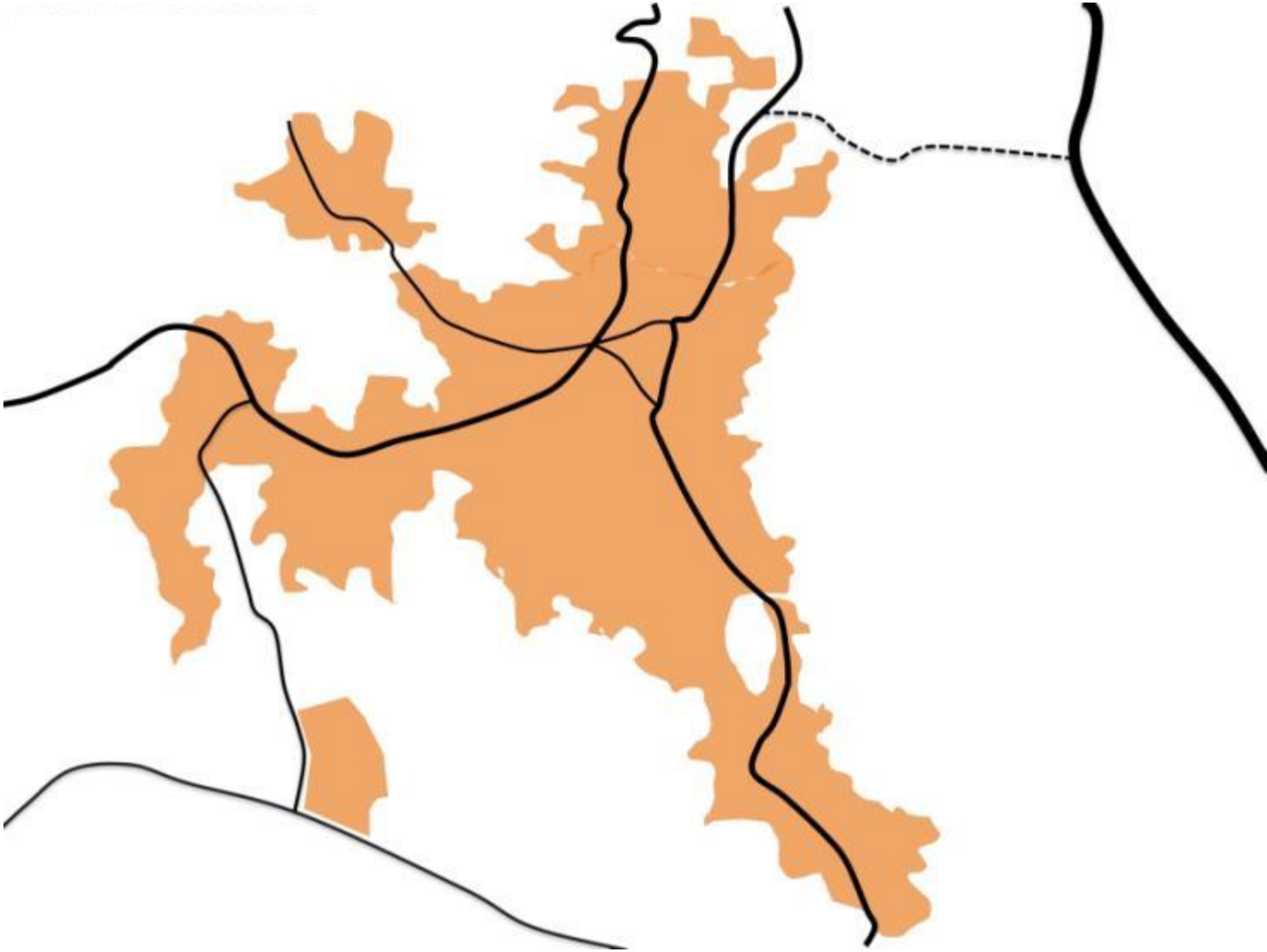
# Ramallah

Present Urban Area

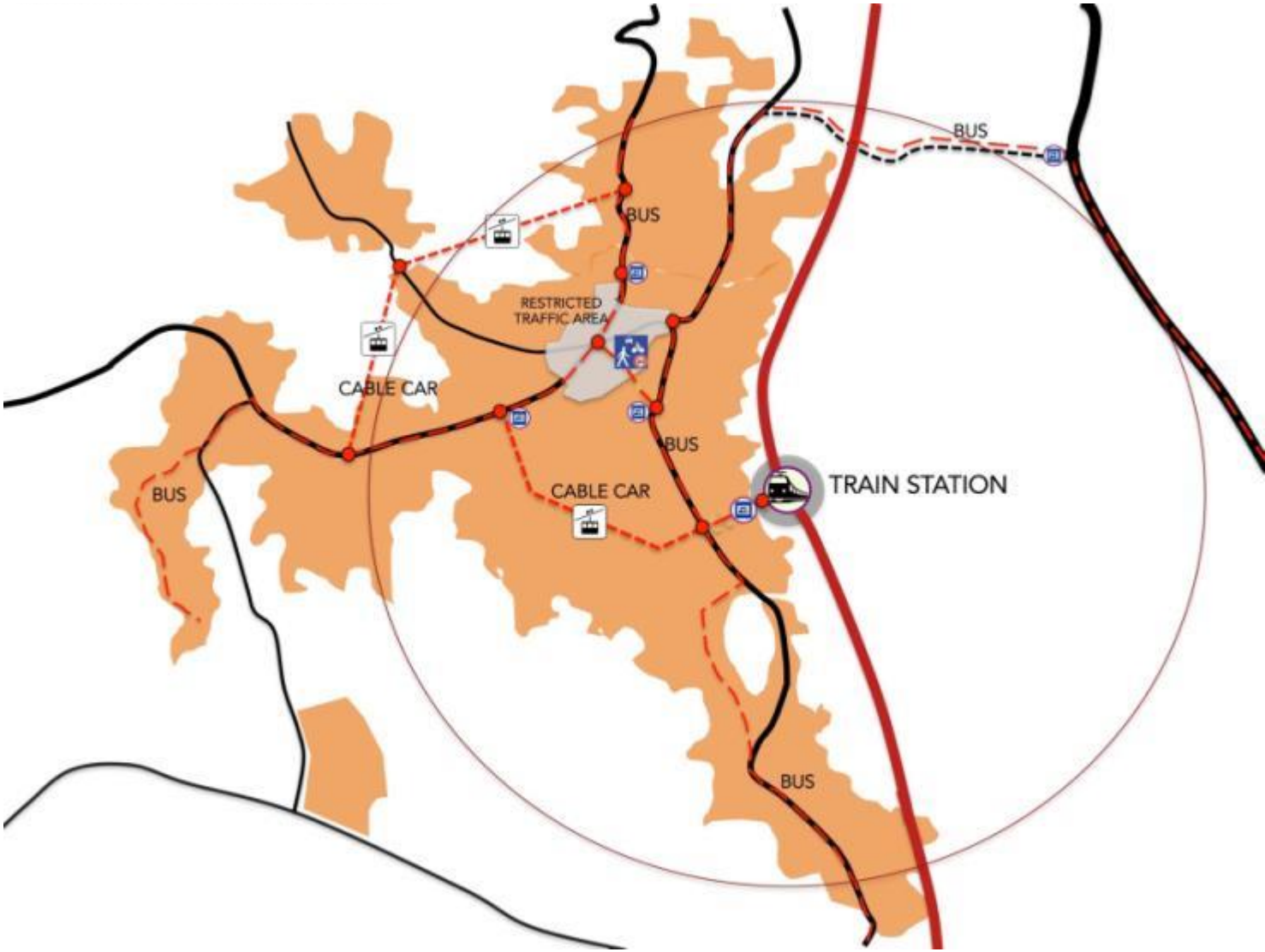
# Ramallah

Present Urban Area
+
Main Roads



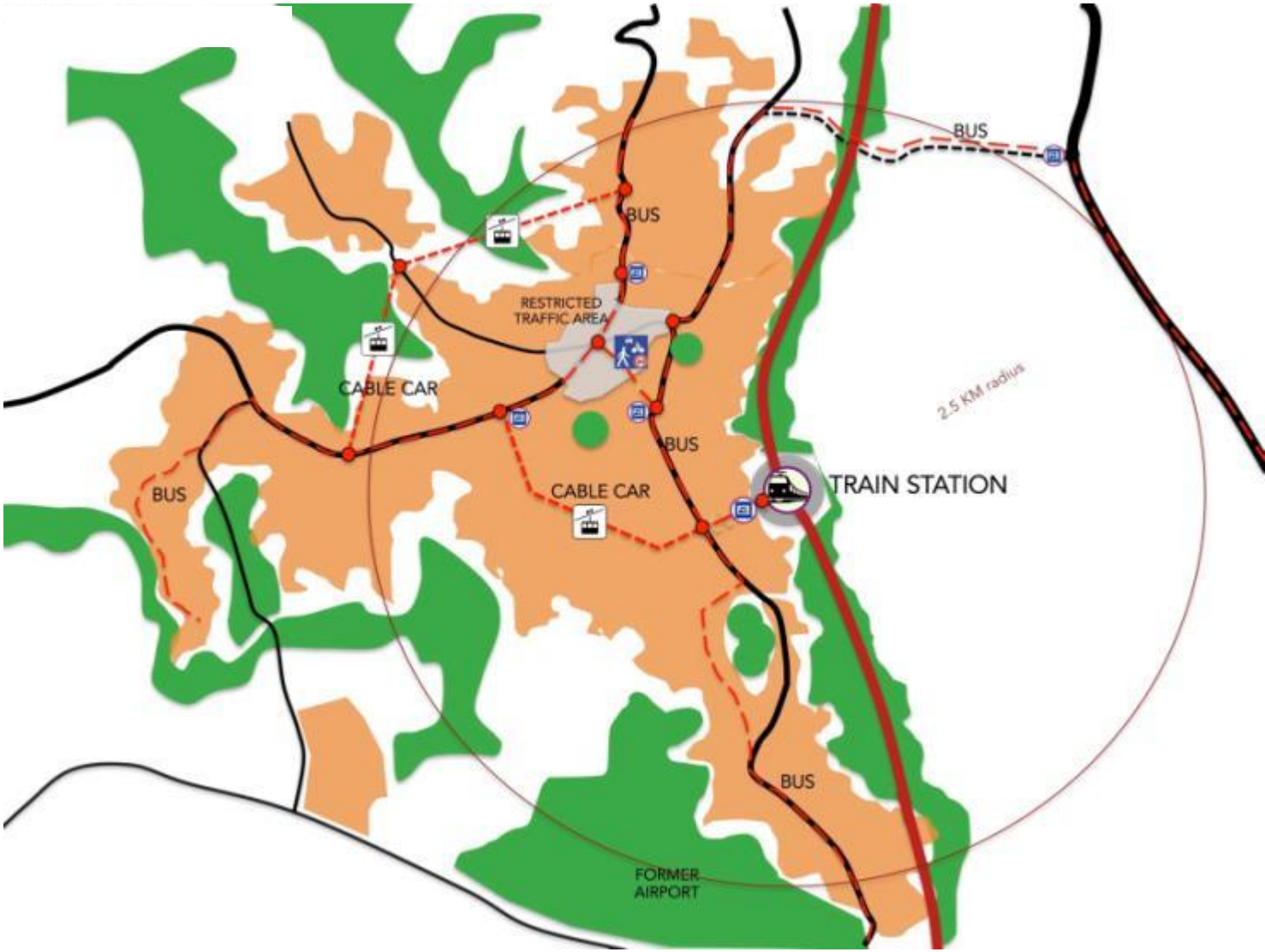
# Ramallah

Present Urban Area
+
Main Roads
+
Public Transport



# Ramallah

Present Urban Area
+
Main Roads
+
Public Transport
+
Green Structures

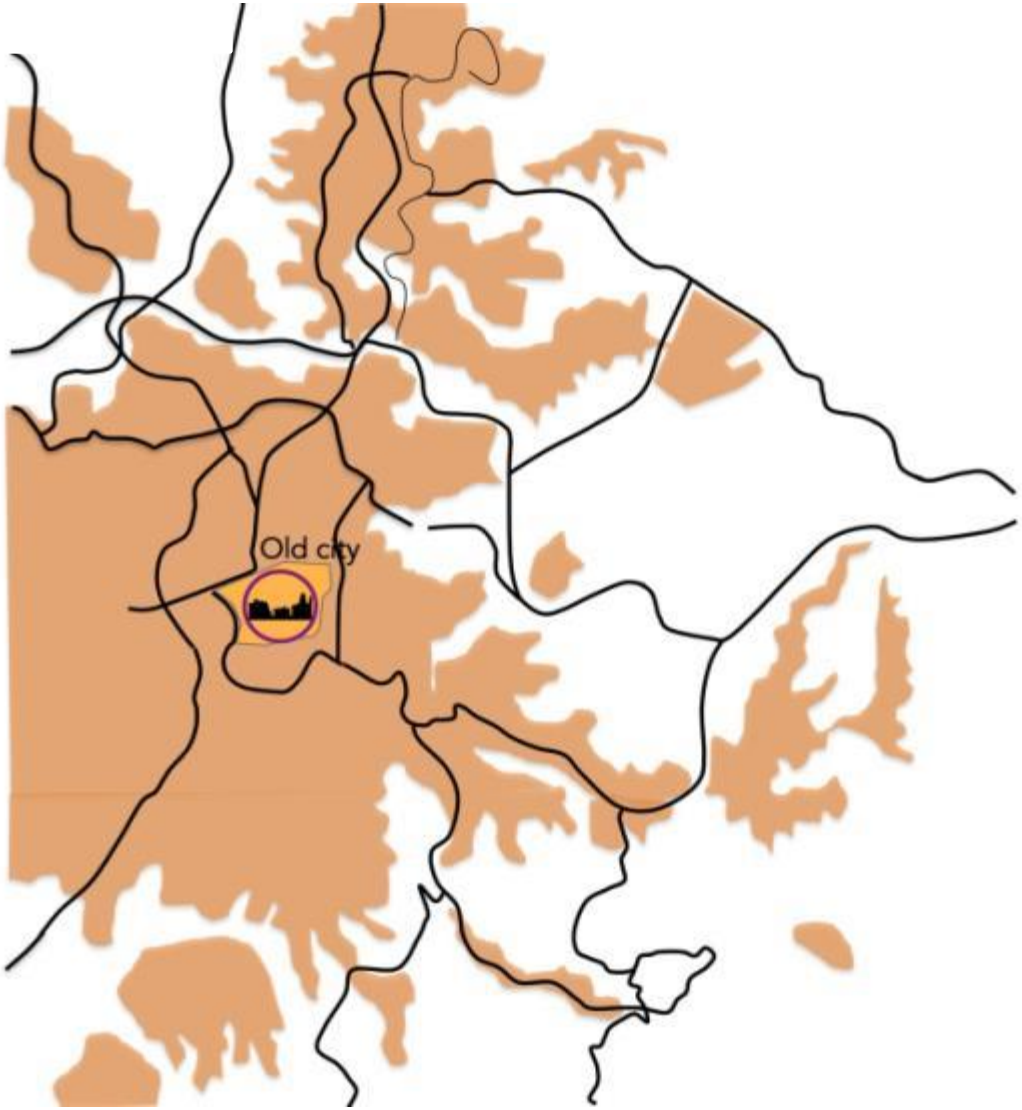


# Jerusalem

Present Urban Area

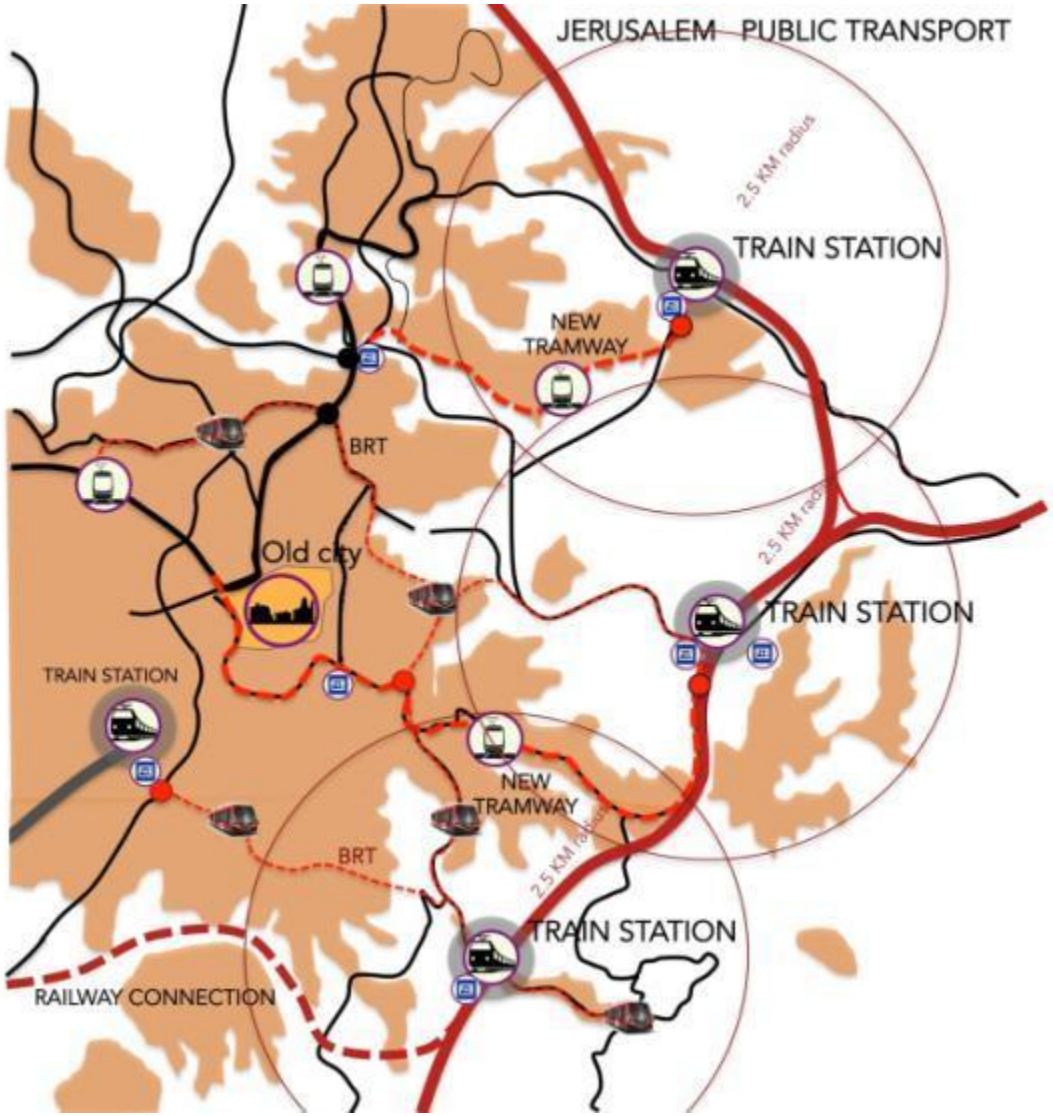
# Jerusalem

Present Urban Area
+
Main Roads



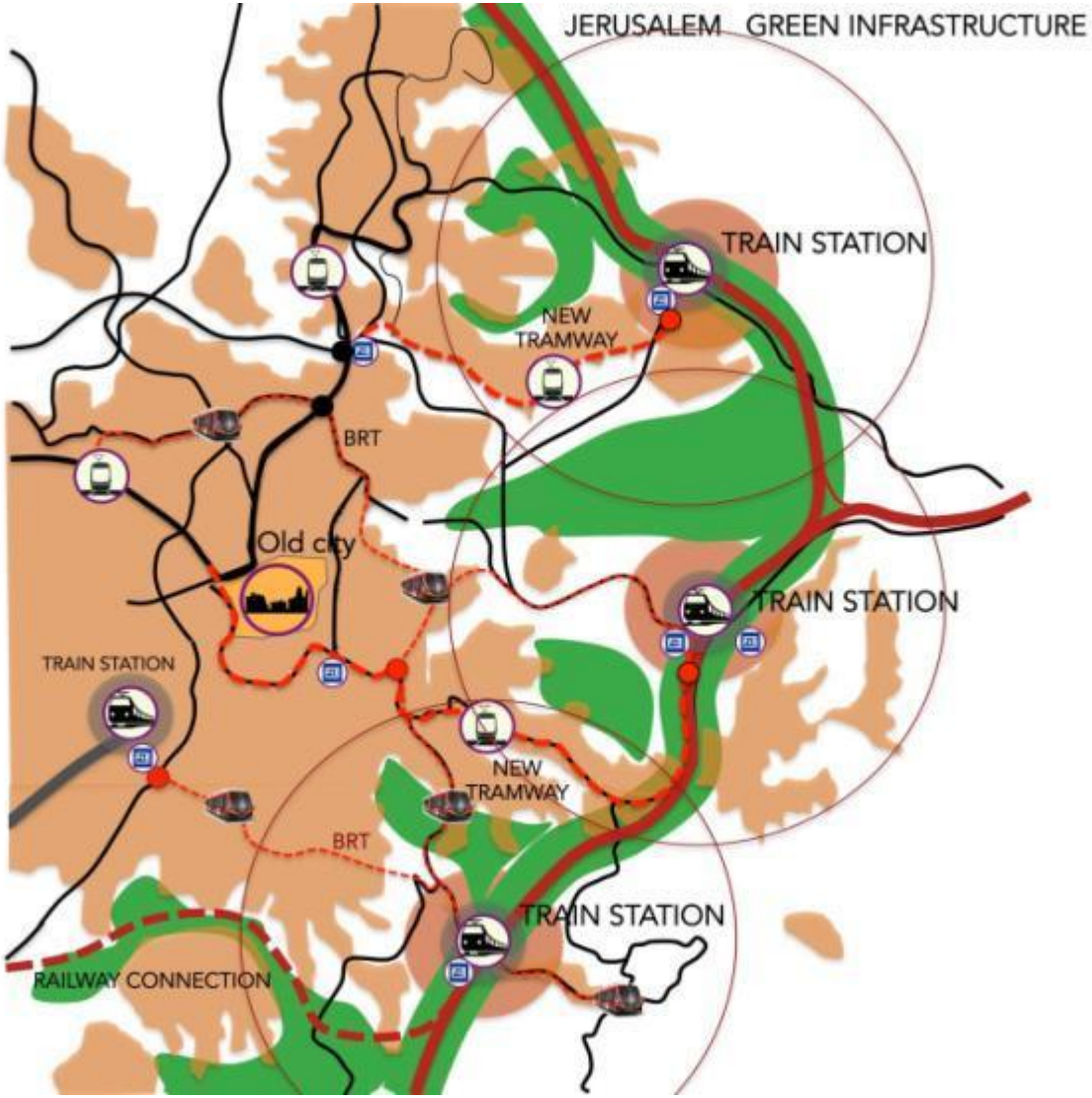
# Jerusalem

Present Urban Area
+
Main Roads
+
Public Transport



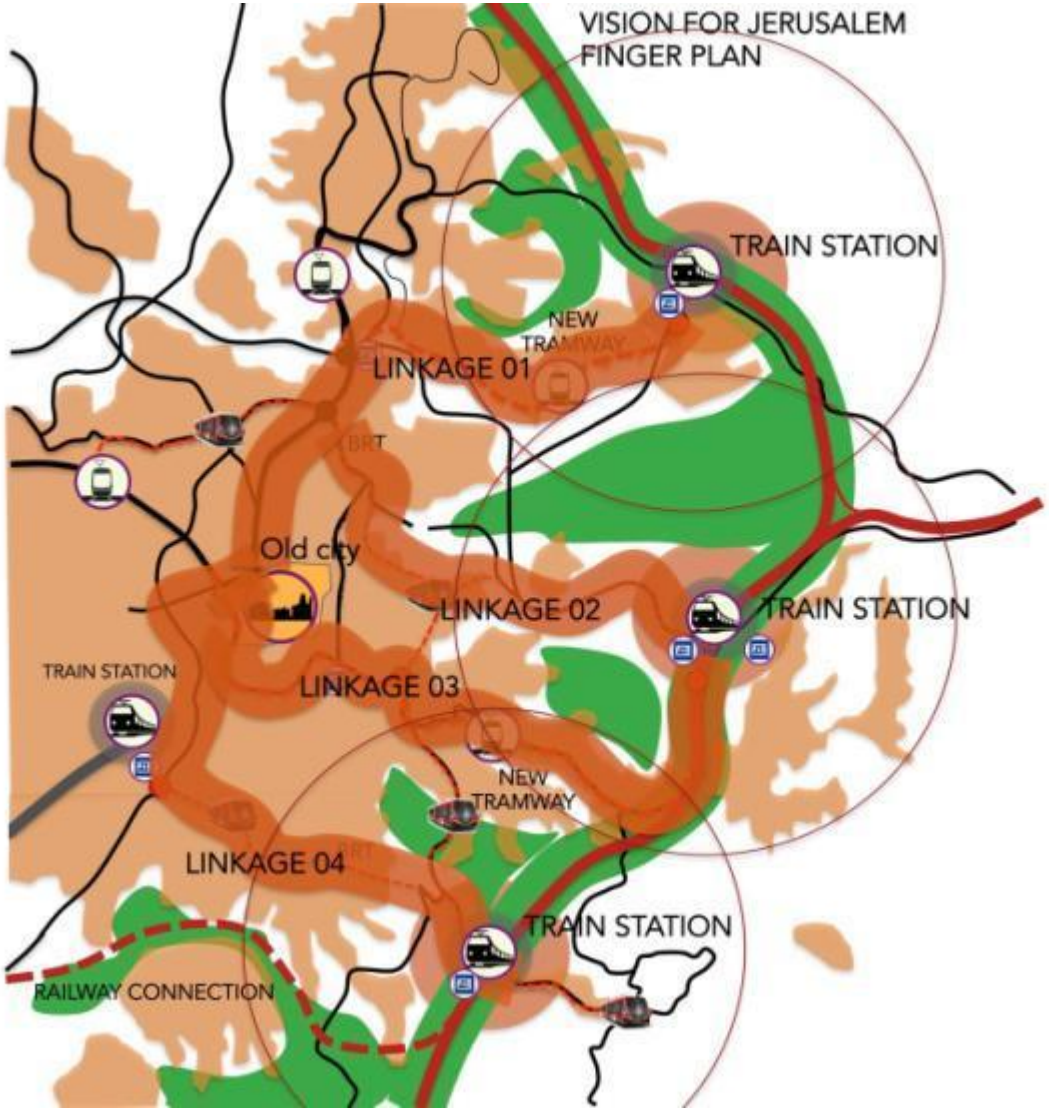
# Jerusalem

Present Urban Area
+
Main Roads
+
Public Transport
+
Green Structures



# Jerusalem

Present Urban Area
+
Main Roads
+
Public Transport
+
Green Structures
+
Urban Linkages



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*TWO METROPOLITAN REGIONS*

***IMPLICATIONS***

*WHAT WILL WE DO NEXT?*

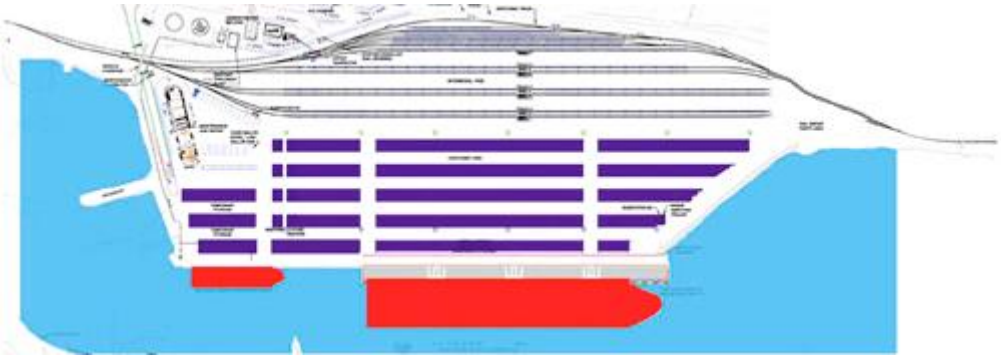
# Implications

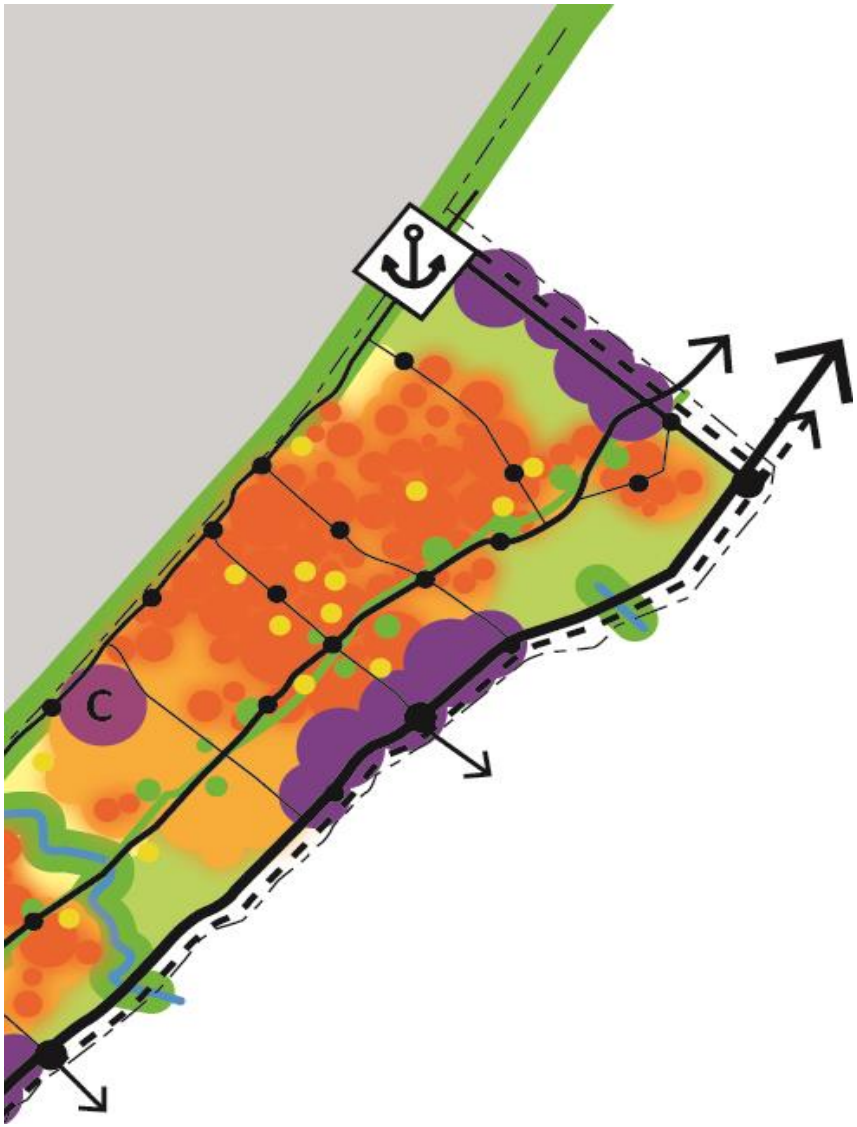
## Example 1: Protecting the port

Gaza Port requires extensive transport and industrial infrastructure on land.

A decision on its location affects

- major freight routes
- retaining land for freight, industry
- controls on interim uses



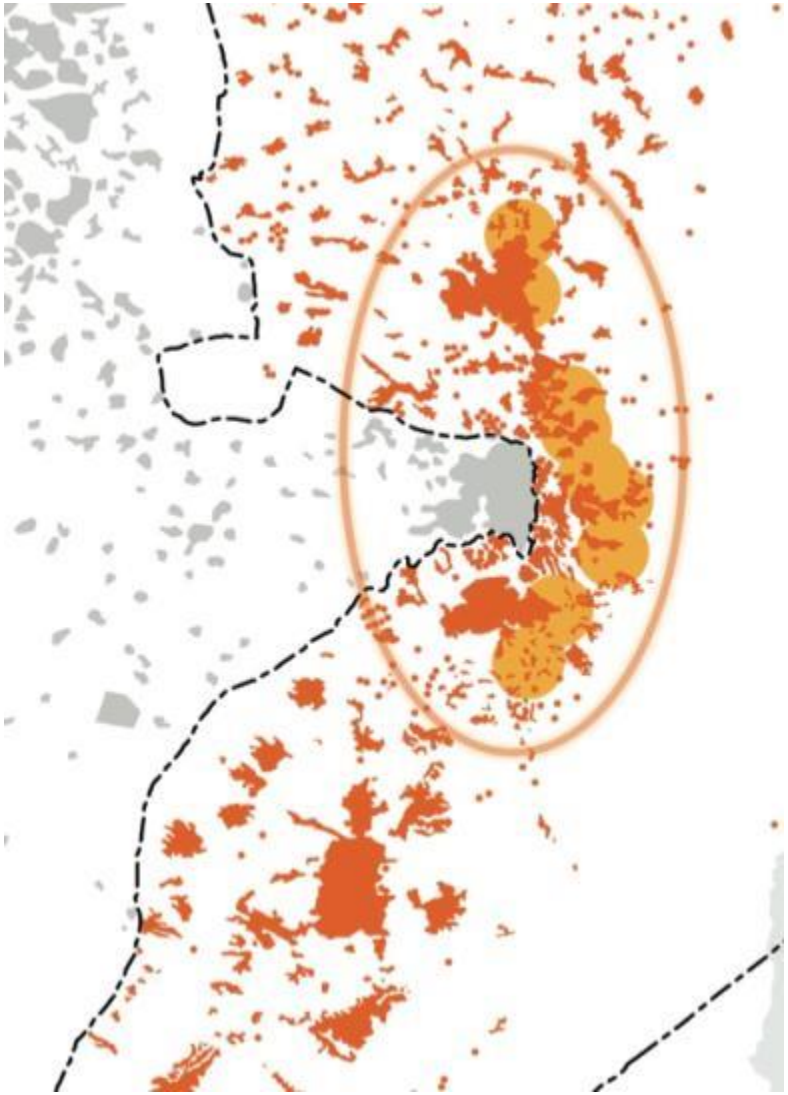


# Implications

## Example 2: Urban governance

To maximise the potential of the dynamic metropolitan areas of the State of Palestine, they are likely to be planned and managed as single socio-economic regions. The time to prepare for this is now.

Creating new integrated government structures is not easy -- but promoting existing institutions makes it harder.



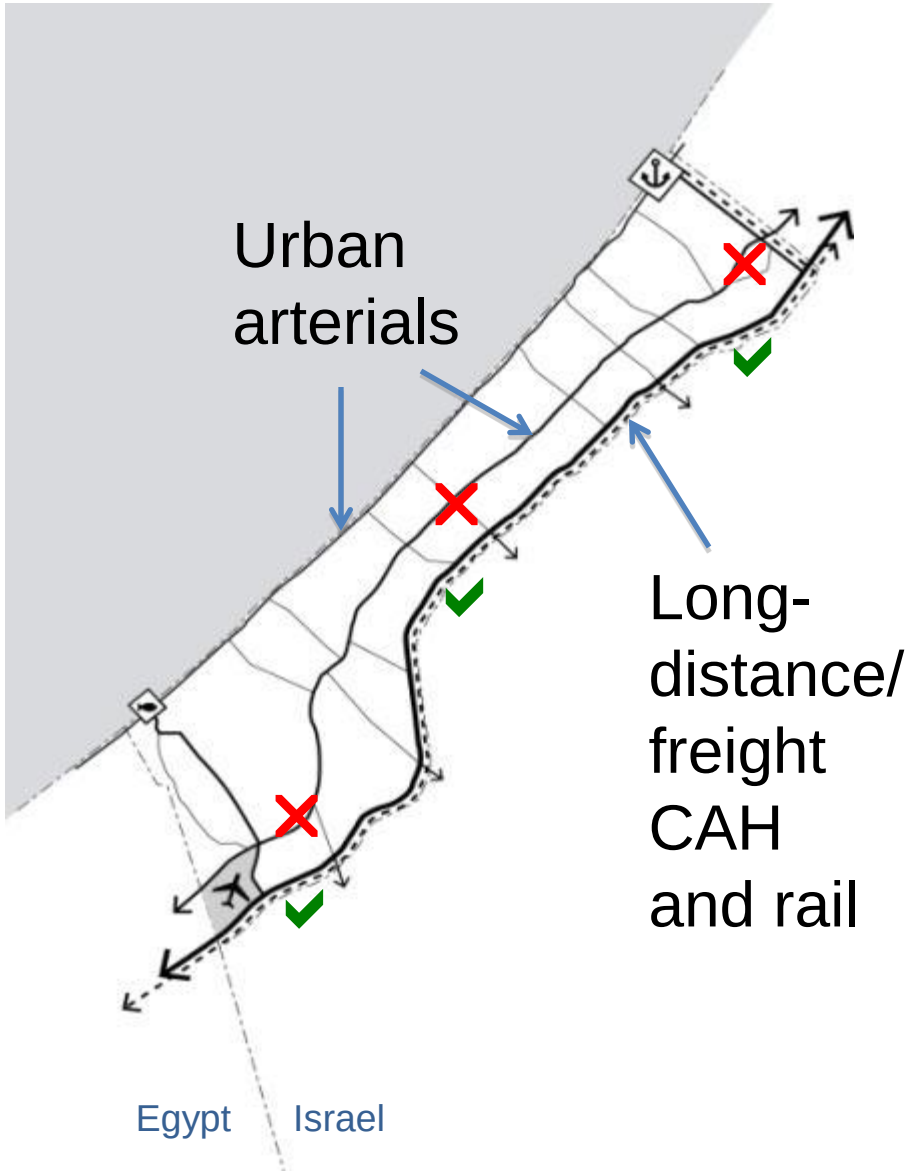
# Implications

## Example 3: Transport spine

The alignment for the main fast long-distance **highway and rail line** is likely to be on Gaza's eastern border.

•During reconstruction -- avoid compromising proposed alignment.

•Today avoid dividing Gaza with big highways not needed in the long term.

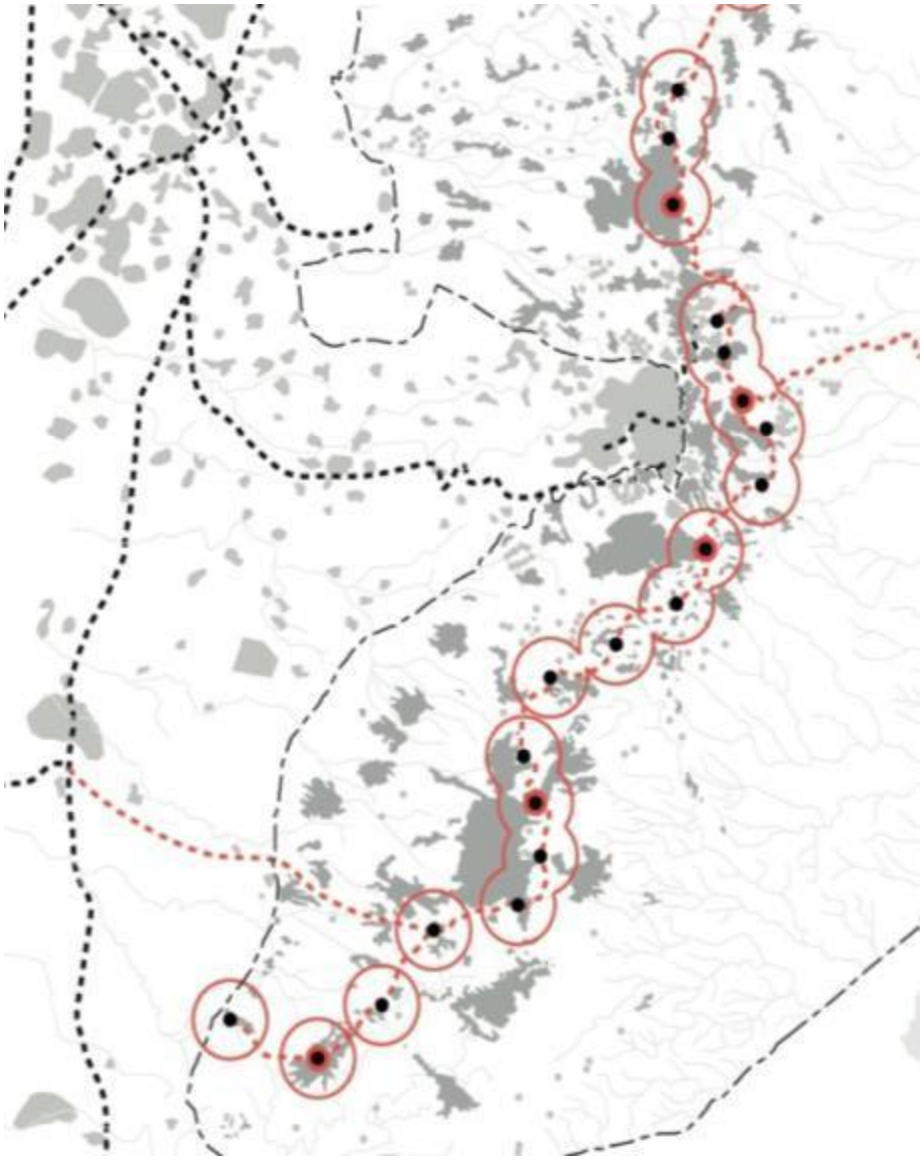


# Implications

## Example 4: Road or rail?

Large infrastructure projects compete for funding and priority – but an urban rail system is likely to deliver many more benefits in the long run.

Major investments in high volume roads will delay or displace integrated public transport projects.



# Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation !

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