

***NEW TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR ISTANBUL AND ITS IMPACT ON THE
HISTORIC CITY***

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The archaeological excavations conducted at three different parts of the Historic Peninsula of Istanbul before the implementation of a new transportation system not only revealed very interesting remains dating from the late Neolithic to late Ottoman periods but also initiated a debate on the planification of public transportation in historic cities. “The Marmaray Rail Tube Tunnel and Commuter Rail Mass Transit System” that envisages railway tracks in both sides of the Bosphorus, connected to each other through a railway tunnel under the sea is launched as the upgrading of approximately 76 kilometers of commuter rail but it also includes new underground and surface stations. On the other hand, the upgrading process of the existing railway results in the degradation of a rich heritage. Besides this project, the extension of the underground line to the Historic Peninsula causes many disturbances for the heritage and creates problems threatening conservation.

In this presentation, the aim is to expose the risks under which the historic urban landscape of Istanbul is and to focus on the impact of this contemporary development on the rich cultural heritage of an old city.