



News

**gTKP Newsletter 30
January 2008**

Welcome

Welcome to Edition 30 of the gTKP Newsletter, a monthly bulletin in which we aim to pull together news from the community of transport practitioners. We welcome your contributions to this newsletter.

Changes to website announced...

We are pleased to report that the next month will see a refreshed version of the gTKP website coming online. In particular, this will make it much easier and faster to use with slow internet connections. It will also host improved discussion groups and updated content.

Seeking “theme champions”...

We are still seeking “Theme Champions” for the new theme areas of Climate Change, Finance and Economics, and Social Development (including health). If you are interested, please email us on info@gtkp.com. The cross-cutting theme of gender and transport will be addressed in all themes.

Steering Group to meet...

January marks the first meeting of the newly-formed gTKP Steering Group. News of the meeting will be reported in the next newsletter. We look forward to a new year of strengthening gTKP and contributing to excellence in the transport sector.

Please send details of news, events and reports to info@gtkp.com or post details directly on our website at <http://www.gtkp.com>.

Governance in Transport

gTKP website – Governance in Transport

The gTKP website theme on Governance in transport is an excellent resource that is updated regularly. This is a brief guide to what can be found there.

[What is “governance”?](#) provides some background about the common concept of good governance found in every culture, language and society.

[Why is governance important?](#) highlights the importance of good governance in transport to the well being of both the people and the economy of every country.

Where there are good examples, there are also the opposite: poor governance can be seen in many aspects of the provision of transport infrastructure and services. [Examples of poor governance](#) illustrates some of the failings that are likely to be observed. [Controlling corruption](#) explains more about the corruption often associated with poor governance, explores how and why corruption occurs, and what can be done to prevent it.

Governance roundtables identify knowledge gaps

GTKP’s Governance in Transport theme recently facilitated round table discussions in Asia, Africa and Washington to identify “knowledge gaps” and assist in the preparation of plans for future gTKP activities in governance. These roundtables sought to include a broad range of interests.

Some key issues emerged from the roundtable discussions, one of which includes the on-going need for practical, recent and real-life experiences in the transport and governance sector from around the world. High-level theories and principles abound but well-documented “on the ground” observations of the realities of managing political ambitions, measuring improvements, and making facts and figures available to the public (“transparency”) are limited.

Governance case studies: GTKP wants to hear your experiences

GTKP will be working hard to find and publicise examples of governance in transport from around the world. We are now actively looking for people with stories to tell about improving governance, and their success, failures and lessons learned. We are interested in local experience as well as more significant regional initiatives. We want to hear about anything which might support and inspire others to achieve similar changes or benefits, or learn from less successful examples.

We may be able to provide assistance, in particular to help writers new to preparing articles or technical papers.

Stephen Vincent, the governance theme champion, would like to hear both personal stories, and general suggestions for topics or initiatives that could be written about by others.

Some possibilities include examples of stakeholder involvement in the management of transport (see [Stakeholders - business & civil society](#) on the gTKP website); media involvement in improving transparency (see [Communications - the media](#)) and anything that may contribute to encouraging good political decision-making (see [Positive politics](#)).



If you have a story to contribute, please e-mail your suggestions to governance@gtkp.com

Road Safety

New Best Practice Guides launched

The UN Road Safety Collaboration led by gTKP partner WHO is publishing a series of good practice guides for decision makers and road safety practitioners: the first two (addressing Drinking & Driving and Helmets) are now available from:



<http://www.grsproadsafety.org/?pageid=36#Joint%20publications>

The Drinking and Driving guide will be officially launched by GRSP India with a workshop in Bangalore on 22/23 February see: <http://www.grsproadsafety.org/?pageid=27> for details

A Speed Management guide will be launched in collaboration with gTKP next month.

World Injury Prevention Conference + Report projects doubling in road deaths by 2020

GTKP will be sponsoring two papers at the **World Injury Prevention Conference** in Mexico City in March 2008.

Globally, the problem of road safety is projected to worsen over the next 20 years as motorisation increases rapidly in developing countries. The World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention estimated that in 2002 1.2 million people died in road crashes. Unless action is taken, this number is expected to double.

Kate McMahon, gTKP road safety advisor, will present a paper explaining why a new safety management system is needed. She will outline how, in order to achieve ambitious safety performance targets, reforms will be required enabling effective institutional management functions and a comprehensive set of appropriate interventions. This is supported by the gTKP through our knowledge transfer activities.

GRSP adviser José Cardita will present a paper on road safety partnership

strategy in Brazil covering the roll out of the good practice manuals being produced by the UN Road Safety Collaboration led by the WHO. See www.safety2008mx.info for details of the conference.

Nigerian Federal Road Safety Commission to celebrate 20th anniversary with international conference

GTKP partner, The Nigerian Federal Road Safety Commission celebrates its 20th Anniversary from 15 to 21 February 2008.

As part of the celebrations, a two day international conference with the theme: *“Road Safety Management in Africa: Vision 2020”*, is being organized on 18 and 19 February. The Conference will have two plenary sessions: *Vision 2020: Economic Growth in Africa and Challenges for Road Safety*; and *Policy Framework for Sustainable Road Safety in Africa*. A series of workshops will also be held on specific special interest topics.

GTKP Road Safety Theme Champion Adrian Walsh will be leading a gTKP delegation.

Further details can be obtained from The Assistant Corps Marshal oyeyemi@skannet.com or babayemi@hotmail.com

Rural Transport

In the last Newsletter ([Number 29](#)) we looked at the topic of rural road surface options.

This month we start to look at the issue of [Road Maintenance](#) – some consider this to now be the greatest challenge in the sector. In particular, we discuss:

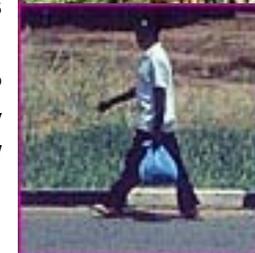
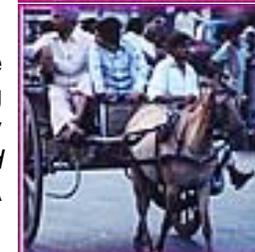
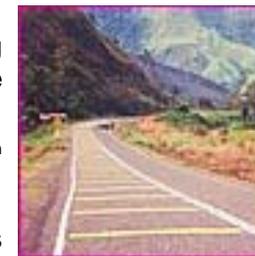
- a general road maintenance retrospective;
- technical issues, and;
- introduce the rural road perspective.

We are very grateful for the valuable input of Dr. Richard Robinson in this section.



Short summaries feature here, with links to the website for the rest of the articles.

The Rural Roads section of the gTKP website has recently been extensively updated and features numerous new features, news items and resources.



General Road Maintenance Retrospective

The past thirty years has seen an enormous change in our understanding of road maintenance in developing countries. The sector has moved from being viewed as a routine 'low-tech' activity to being the main occupation of many engineers and managers, in part due to increased the availability of computer-based tools for planning and management. Beginning in the 1970s, particularly in the World Bank, there was something of a revolution in understanding of the key importance of maintenance in the road sector. This retrospective outlines why this happened and what it means.

[Read More...](#)

Road Maintenance – Technical Issues

In general, the main road maintenance challenges tend to be financial, political and numerous other reasons, rather than technical. However there are certainly technical issues which require certain technical solutions. This section is a resource of important technical handbooks, guidelines and other documents.



[Read More...](#)

The Rural Road Perspective – an introduction

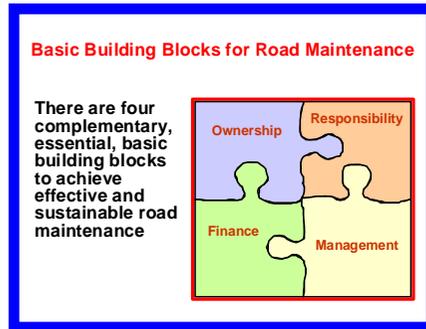
Tertiary rural and access roads require the essential foundations of **ownership, responsibility, finance and management**, but they also face their own specific challenges such as constrained finances, low traffic flows, physical and organisational issues. Innovative and local-resource-based approaches are needed to achieve adequate levels of basic access and affordable, sustainable levels of rural road maintenance. The particular issues facing rural roads maintenance is explored in this section.

[Read More...](#)

Future Newsletter Focus

Next month we will be exploring the subject of **rural road maintenance** in more detail and focusing on **community participation and maintenance**.

Later newsletters will cover **basic access** (March), and **Gender and vulnerable people** issues in the Rural Transport theme.



We welcome your experiences, contributions, comments and thoughts on any of these topics to: rob.petts@gtkp.com

Transport specialist Dr Richard Robinson retires

Dick Robinson, gTKP contributor and veteran of the international transport sector has announced his retirement. We can't let him go without acknowledging his significant achievements.

Dick's world-wide contributions to the transport sector, roads and highways in particular, are extensive: in his forty-year career, he has worked in more than 50 countries, published over a hundred papers, made technical films and featured in BBC World programmes. His commitment to capacity building and training led to extensive lecturing, participation in workshops and the writing of two textbooks on roads and numerous operational manuals and policy papers. Recently Dick has been working as an independent consultant where his roads expertise has been called in by organisations such as the European Bank for Reconstructions & Development.

Although Dick's peers and students speak of a generous and knowledgeable colleague and teacher, his achievements have also been more formally recognised. He has been awarded numerous prizes from industry bodies including, most recently, the Institution of Civil Engineers' James Hill Prize (2001).

We wish Dick well in his retirement but hold out the hope that his concept of 'retirement' is perhaps a bit flexible, and that he might occasionally be convinced to lend his expertise to gTKP as we continue to develop.

Dick, we collectively appreciate your commitment, dedication and considerable positive impact on the sector and we hope to see you out enjoying the 'semi-retirees' circuit.

Dick can be contacted on: RobinsonUK@compuserve.com



Recommended website

Those interested in building or rehabilitating low cost structures in masonry without cement, using labour methods, visit the well illustrated US Drystone Conservancy website:

<http://www.drystone.org/>

