



Welcome to Issue 39 of our eNewsletter October 2008

Welcome Message:

Welcome to the monthly newsletter of the [global Transport Knowledge Partnership](#) (gTKP) where you will find the latest news on **global road transport** in each of our seven themes: [governance](#), [road safety](#), [rural transport](#), [social development](#), [urban transport](#), [finance and economics](#) and [environment and climate change](#).

Celebrate International Days

October brought several international days to note, celebrate and reflect on how they relate to transport. October 1st is [International Day for Older Persons](#). gTKP addresses the transport needs of older people as part of the social development theme. A gTKP member from Cameroon alerted us of the fact that 15th October marks [World Rural Women's Day](#). She told us that Cameroon had organised some events to mark the day however they were all held in towns and rural women were neither included nor provided with transport to attend events supposed to focus on them. You can join a discussion about this and share your experiences on the [Discussion Forum](#). Finally, 24th October is [World Development Information Day](#), a day perhaps particularly important for gTKP given that our mandate is to provide our users with the best available and most current information and knowledge on road transport from around the world.

Free advice from technical experts

gTKP offers free expertise to transport practitioners and other interested people. You can contact us with a query by emailing info@gtkp.com or by finding the most relevant theme champion and contacting them directly. Email addresses of all our theme champions are in this newsletter under each theme.

Let us know what you think

As always we welcome your comments, questions and suggestions. You can contact us on info@gtkp.com or by joining our discussion groups on www.gtkp.com.

Governance

Improving communications for effective governance work

The last few months, with the gTKP governance workshops in Asia and Africa, and the governance session at the [gTKP-ADB Transport Forum](#) in Manila, have shown that many people from a wide range of backgrounds and organisations are actively interested in exchanging knowledge about their current activities in order to assist in improving governance in transport.

It is also clear that we need to find ways of involving more people in this exchange of knowledge. Funding limitations mean that only a small number of people can attend each event, although many more would like to do so. We also need to find ways of allowing better communication directly between interested people rather than through the Governance Theme Champion.

We need to move ahead rapidly with developing the gTKP governance community of interest,

and we hope that gTKP users will become actively involved over the next few weeks. Please let us know if you are interested in either of these two options:

1. subscribing to a governance listserv discussion group. To join, send an e-mail to governance@gtkp.com with 'join governance listserv' as the subject. Everyone who joins can post e-mails that are automatically distributed to everyone else on the list. Additional lists could be set up for groups with particular interests. Please let us know what interests you and we can start a discussion. Email your requests to the address above.
2. joining the governance discussions on the [gTKP website](#) discussion forum. You must register as a member gTKP (free and easy from [here](#)) and sign in to take part. You can start new discussions or add to existing ones.

As well as exchanging experiences and ideas, please also help us by making suggestions on current initiatives, including developing road benchmarks and capturing case studies.

Stephen Vincent is the theme champion for governance. You can contact him on stephen.vincent@gtkp.com.

Road Safety

ADB issues first loan for local road traffic safety in PRC

Following immediately on the recent [gTKP-ADB Transport Forum](#), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced a \$200 million loan for road development in Yunnan Province in the People's Republic of China (PRC) incorporating road traffic safety strategy at the local level. It is the first assistance of its kind in a country with a high number of road accidents. Read more [here](#).

Eliminating death and serious injury: The Safe System Approach

A new report, [Towards Zero: Ambitious Road Safety Targets and the Safe System Approach](#), was released in September at an OECD/ITF High Level Road Safety Seminar in Paris. The report shows that ambitious targets are a powerful stimulus to developing new approaches to preventing loss of life and serious injury on the roads. We are delighted that the report also promotes a 'Safe System' approach to casualty reduction. This approach is supported by gTKP. Among the speakers at the OECD conference were gTKP's Sanjivi Sundar and Kate McMahon. Click [here](#) for details. Additional briefing papers are available [here](#).

Advocacy for road safety

Advocacy is essential for raising the 'profile' of road safety to influence, inform and assist decision-makers and policy-makers. An effective case needs to be based on well-documented studies and sound statistics. Only with good information can good decisions be made. Sometimes advocacy targets media, sometimes the general public, but decision makers are normally the primary target. A new gTKP guide to advocacy is available [here](#).

New road safety advocacy film

The Make Roads Safe campaign has launched a new film featuring Malaysian actress Michelle Yeoh. 'Make Roads Safe - Demanding Action in 2009' is the first stage of the new phase of the campaign which will build activity and momentum between now and November 2009. The film can be downloaded [here](#).

Transaid launches driver training programme

HRH the Princess Royal, patron of the NGO [Transaid](#), has officially launched Transaid's Zambian Professional Driver Training Programme, designed to make commercial drivers safer and more

skilled, teaching them better understanding of risks and their effect on other road users, including pedestrians. Transaid's [new programme](#) aims to build the capacity of the Industrial Training Centre in Lusaka.

Adrian Walsh is the theme champion for road safety. You can contact him on adrian.walsh@gtkp.com.

Rural Transport

ADB-gTKP-SEACAP Transport Forum – presentations available

All of the presentations made at the [Rural Transport Sessions](#) of the September Transport Forum at ADB Manila are now available for downloading from the gTKP website. Many thanks are due to all the contributors, organisers and presenters who helped to raise the profile of rural transport in development in the region.

gTKP releases new 'Transport Power Point'

A number of Transport Power Points (TPP) – 10 minute PowerPoint briefings on key topics, have been prepared and posted on the gTKP Rural Transport web pages. The latest TPP is on the subject of [Rural Road Surface Options](#). This draws particularly on recent research and documentation from the South East Asia Community Access Partnership ([SEACAP](#)) and Southern Africa.

Rob Petts is the theme champion for rural transport. You can contact him on rob.petts@gtkp.com.

Social Development

Behaviour change communications ease negative impact of roads

Roads are often presented as a universal good in terms of social development. It is true that they can bring greater opportunities for education, access to healthcare and markets and social and cultural opportunities. There are, however numerous potentially negative impacts relating to road-building. The [spread of HIV/AIDS](#), for example, is widely acknowledged to be associated with new or improved roads and transport links (among other things as well).

One response to mitigating the negative impacts of roads is behaviour change communication (BCC) which seeks to promote and sustain positive behaviour changes. The process begins with participatory development of specific messages and approaches, and conveys the messages and approaches through a variety of communication media (posters, radio plays, etc.). BCC works to identify barriers and incentives to healthy behaviours, and to influence these. In this regard it is more comprehensive than simple awareness-raising initiatives.

BCC works well when it gets the message right and delivers it to the appropriate people in the most effective way. It is ineffective when the message is unclear, confusing or inappropriate. In the transport sector, BCC can be used to address issues such as human trafficking, drug trafficking, road safety and HIV/AIDS.

For more information and resources, click [here](#).

Xochitl Benjamin is the theme champion for social development. You can contact her on xochitl.benjamin@gtkp.com.

'Travolution' software to streamline urban traffic flows

Frustrating, fuel-sapping stops at red traffic lights could soon be the exception rather than the rule thanks to a new initiative being championed by Audi aimed at streamlining urban traffic flow and reducing CO2 emissions.

The experimental 'Travolution' system, developed with Audi support by traffic management experts in Ingolstadt, Germany will improve synchronisation and phasing of traffic light networks to reduce stop times and could also dramatically reduce the number of stops needed by creating a communications link between cars and the traffic light network. Communications modules built into each traffic light sends messages to nearby cars, alerting them to the time remaining until the next green phase. The car's onboard system then calculates the speed the driver must maintain to pass through a green light. Reducing stop times also reduces fuel consumption and pollution.

The system is now being tested in Ingolstadt, with plans to expand as the project evolves.

India provides rapid transit funds for cities

India's federal government is encouraging several cities to take up bus rapid transport systems by granting them funds under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). Dr M. Ramachandran, secretary of the Ministry of Urban Development, says that bus rapid transit systems provide a cheap and efficient form of public transport compared with Metro Rail schemes.

Bus rapid transit systems are being implemented in Delhi and Pune on a pilot basis, and several other cities including Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh have submitted proposals to introduce such systems. Dr Ramachandran claims that 11 Indian cities have come forward to implement BRTS in select corridors and seven more (including Bangalore) may join in the near future.

Humble rickshaw goes solar

The 'soleckshaw', unveiled this month in Delhi, is a motorised cycle rickshaw that can be pedalled normally or run on a solar battery. Developed by the state-run Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), prototypes are being road-tested in Delhi's Chandni Chowk area.

'The most important achievement will be improving the lot of rickshaw drivers,' said Mr Pradip Kumar Sarmah, head of the non-profit Centre for Rural Development. 'It will dignify the job and reduce the labour of pedalling.' Mr Sarmah said. India has an estimated eight million cycle-rickshaws.

The 'soleckshaw,' which has a top speed of 15 kilometres per hour, has a sturdy frame and seats three people. The makeover includes FM radios and powerpoints for charging mobile phones. A fully-charged solar battery will power the rickshaw for 50 to 70 kilometres. Batteries can be recharged at a solar-powered charging station for a nominal fee.

Initial public reaction to the soleckshaw has been generally favourable, and rickshaw pullers have few doubts about its benefits. Indian authorities have big dreams for the soleckshaw. Science and Technology Minister Kapil Sibal praised the invention for its 'zero carbon foot print' and said it should be used beyond Delhi. The CSIR hopes an advanced version with a car-like body could become a viable alternative to the 'small car' favoured by Indian middle class families.

Peter Midgley is the theme champion for urban transport. You can contact him on peter.midgley@gtkp.com.

New World Bank PPP guide seeks to attract investors to Africa

The World Bank has just produced a project preparation guide, *Attracting Investors to African Public-Private Partnerships*, commissioned by the [Infrastructure Consortium for Africa](#) and funded by the [Public Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility](#). This guide will be useful for national governments seeking to increase the capital available for infrastructure projects and to successfully attract private sector investors to infrastructure development and operations. The guide explores development of several types of PPPs, including:

- "concession PPPs", where governments grant a private party the right to design, build, finance and operate a government infrastructure asset for a fixed period of time. The private party assumes the risk of whether there will be sufficient demand to recover its investment and operations and whether they will make a reasonable profit through user fees. In some contracts, the private risk is offset by a partial government guarantee or subsidy.
- "availability-based contracts" where the private party also designs, finances, builds or rebuilds, and operates, but payment for the product or service comes from the government for availability. An example is a power purchase agreement. Many African infrastructure projects are transnational and require particular attention to issues of ownership, alignment of national policies and regulations, and appropriate joint governance.

Turning a desirable concept into a realisable PPP requires considerable resources and is an iterative process. The guide is designed to provide governments with an understanding of the full process of developing a PPP. It can be read for comprehending the entire process and/or used intermittently as a reference manual. Sections provide insights on how to effectively engage the private sector, an assessment of project selection issues, steps in preparing projects for the market, the role of technical advisors, interaction with the private sector during project selection and preparation so that the project incorporates a realistic view of what the private sector can and will provide, interacting with the private sector during the tender and negotiation process and how to manage the PPP.

The guide provides the user with lists of considerations and charts to clarify issues, roles and implementation requirements. The text draws many of its examples from Africa. It concludes with summaries of five PPPs in Africa and a list of relevant websites and references.

Lynn Harmon is the theme champion for finance and economics. You can contact her on lynn.harmon@gtkp.com.

Join gTKP at pre-BAQ event in Bangkok

Sanjivi Sundar, gTKP Theme Champion for Environment and Climate Change is organising a day-long event on Environment and Climate change to precede the Better Air Quality Workshop 2008 (BAQ). The event will be held on the 10th November, followed by BAQ from 12 to 14th November in Bangkok, Thailand.

The pre-BAQ event will cover urban air quality and climate change mitigation in the transport sector. It will be attended by policy-makers and transport managers from developing member countries in Asia. Participants will: discuss air quality concerns including issues and challenges in setting standards for air quality and vehicular emissions in Asian cities; seek ways to put in place a proper monitoring mechanism for air quality and emission standards; discuss an inspection and certification regime to improve performance of in-use vehicles and share good practice in air

quality management through interventions in transport sector.

Climate change mitigation topics to be covered include understanding and projecting the contribution of transport sector in climate change; finding feasible and cost effective mitigation options and the role of adaptation to climate change in the transport sector.

The event will be an excellent opportunity for anyone with an interest in air quality and climate change issues in Asia to network and participate.

For more information about gTKP's pre-BAQ event (including the agenda) click [here](#).

For more information about the Better Air Quality 2008 Workshop, click [here](#).

Sanjivi Sundar is the theme champion for environment and climate change. You can contact him on sanjivi.sundar@gtkp.com.