

InARoad Award Submission

Theme Category : Road Infrastructure Finance & Economics

THE RAJASTHAN MEGA HIGHWAYS PROJECT (INDIA)

A Model for Public Private Participation

{Implemented by Road Infrastructure Development Company of Rajasthan Ltd. (RIDCOR)}

Summary

(Project Scope & Content) – (500 words)

Background

1. The Government of Rajasthan is proactively improving State's infrastructure to boost industrial and economic growth, fully leveraging the State's locational advantage and enormous tourism and business potential by creating world-class infrastructure facilities with the aim of making it the most favoured investment and tourism destination in India.
(1+48 words)
2. As part of this vision, GoR conceptualized comprehensive road improvement programme titled 'Mega Highways Project' for important 4 North-South road corridors of total length 1053 Km to two-lane paved/hard shoulder configuration costing over INR 15 bn. (37 words)

Scope

3. For high level of service of these roads, 3 major bridges, 11 road over bridges and bypasses at 30 locations have been provided. The scope of work also included construction/repair of cross-drainage works, junction improvements, crash barriers, retro-reflective signages, cat's eye & delineators, road markings, toll plazas, bus-bays, passenger shelters & truck lay-byes, landscaping & arboriculture, besides rehabilitation and resettlement of project affected families. (1+65 words)

Implementation

4. Integrated improvement cum maintenance contract provides for normal, routine and periodic maintenance for 5 years after completion of improvement works complying with specified intervention levels and timelines for performance evaluation and payment purposes.
(1+34 words)
5. Operation involves user fee collection and other revenue generating activities like land banking. (14 words)
6. Value-added services have also been provided, such as: 24 hours accident relief & highway patrolling; emergency/SOS helplines @ 2 Km; vehicle breakdown and tow-away service on call; developing environmental, social and tourism initiatives along the right-of-way and in adjoining villages; etc. (42 words)

Framework

7. GoR implemented project through Public Private Partnership (PPP) framework in partnership with IL&FS and set up a 50:50 Joint Venture Company, namely, RIDCOR. GoR, IL&FS and RIDCOR entered into Partnership & Development Agreement (PDA) for implementation.
(1+37 words)

Cost-Effectiveness

8. PPP approach was adopted to attract private capital and efficiency, to make up for lack of budgetary resources and improve service delivery. Thereby, the public sector contribution was limited to financial gap funding and providing institutional commitment to project. This enabled attracting market investments for leveraging public finances, developing more projects on sustainable basis, reducing cost to public sector and improving service delivery and efficiency. (2+66 words)

Monitoring & Feedback

9. PDA provides for Independent Engineer to inspect project at regular intervals to determine progress of improvement works and subsequently operations and maintenance of the project facilities and the extent of compliance with technical requirements and standards etc. (3+38 words)
10. PDA also provides for Independent Auditor to certify costs, expenses and charges during project period and other activities incidental thereto. (21 words)
11. A Review Committee is provided to review progress of work and consultant's reports including compliance of comments provided by ITNL/RIDCOR. (21 words)
12. A Citizens' Committee is provided to obtain suggestions, feedback and /or inputs for further improving/enhancing quality of service on project facilities. (22 words)

Replicability

13. PPP approach adopted for the project is a model easily replicable anywhere in the road sector, particularly where viability is based mainly on diverted traffic. This approach has already been replicated for about 10 new projects taken up/being taken up by RIDCOR in Rajasthan. (1+45 words)

Total words = 10+490 = 500