



Bhutan: Master Plan for National Highways Connectivity

Project Name	Master Plan for National Highways Connectivity				
Project Number	56001-001				
Country / Economy	Bhutan				
Project Status	Approved				
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance				
Source of Funding / Amount	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>TA 6916-BHU: Master Plan for National Highways Connectivity</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Technical Assistance Special Fund</td> <td>US\$ 2.00 million</td> </tr> </table>	TA 6916-BHU: Master Plan for National Highways Connectivity		Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 2.00 million
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Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 2.00 million				
Strategic Agendas	Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth Regional integration				
Drivers of Change	Gender Equity and Mainstreaming Governance and capacity development				
Sector / Subsector	Transport / Road transport (non-urban)				
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Some gender elements				
Description	<p>The proposed knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will help enhance the planning capacity of the road transport sector in Bhutan, through the review of the connectivity of the existing road network and its maintenance plan; development of a master plan for national highways up to 2040; and support to the Department of Roads (DOR) of the Ministry of Works and Human Settlement (MoWHS) in strengthening its planning capacity.</p> <p>The TA is included in the indicative country pipeline and monitoring report and its objective is identified as one of the three pillars in the country partnership strategy, 2019-2023: improved connectivity to provide access to information and markets.</p>				
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>Bhutan is a landlocked nation with a small population of about 756,000 dispersed throughout its mostly mountainous terrain. Formidable geographic and weather conditions make it difficult and expensive to deliver services and to build and maintain vital infrastructure. Road transport is by far the dominant mode of transport, followed by air transport.</p> <p>The construction in 1968 of the country's first national road, the Thimphu-Phuentsholing Highway, expedited the expansion of the road network. As of 2020, Bhutan's road network has more than 18,000 kilometers (km), comprising primarily farm roads (more than 11,000 km or 61%), followed by national highways (about 2,840 km or 16%) and dzongkhag (district) roads (2,070 km or 11%). As of June 2020, almost 90% of the overall road network in Bhutan is single-lane carriageway. However, only 30% of this is blacktopped or sealed, of which about 80% are national highways and dzongkhag roads.</p> <p>The country relies heavily on its roads for domestic and international trade. About 95% of freight is transported by road to and from the border crossing points between Bhutan and India. The country's main border check post is in Phuentsholing and accounts for 76% of the total trade with India.</p> <p>The sector is mainly guided by the Comprehensive National Development Plan indicated the need to develop an efficient and reliable network to (i) provide alternative routes, (ii) address rural-to-urban migration and promote regionally balanced development, and (iii) reduce travel times for the north-south corridors to 8 hours and for the east-west corridor to 16 hours or less. The current thrusts of the road sector in the Twelfth Five-Year Plan are to (i) improve the road network through consolidation, enhance the national highway grid, and complete the missing road links; (ii) improve national highways using environment-friendly road construction and climate-proof technology; and (iii) reduce travel time with bypass roads and tunneling options. An updated master plan for the national highway network would help the DOR to budget and plan resources to achieve the long-term plan.</p>				
Impact	Road network connectivity in Bhutan improved				
Project Outcome					
Description of Outcome	Planning and programming of road transport sector managed by the DOR in Bhutan improved				
Progress Toward Outcome					
Implementation Progress					
Description of Project Outputs	Road maintenance plan up to 2040 developed Master plan for national highway up to 2040 developed Planning capacity of the DOR enhanced				
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)					
Geographical Location	Nation-wide				
Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects					
Environmental Aspects					
Involuntary Resettlement					
Indigenous Peoples					
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation					
During Project Design					

During Project Implementation

Business Opportunities	
Consulting Services	A firm will be recruited using quality- and cost-based selection with a 90:10 quality-cost ratio.
Procurement	ADB will engage the consultants and carry out procurement following the ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and its associated project administration instructions and/or staff instructions.
Responsible ADB Officer	Chong, Sin Wai
Responsible ADB Department	South Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Transport and Communications Division, SARD
Executing Agencies	Department of Roads Ministry of Communications Thimphu Bhutan

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	23 Feb 2022
Fact Finding	21 Mar 2022 to 23 Mar 2022
MRM	-
Approval	17 May 2022
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	17 May 2022

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Financing Plan/TA Utilization						Cumulative Disbursements		
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
2,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000,000.00	-	0.00

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/56001-001/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=56001-001
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