

One day Consultative Workshop on Safety and Security of transportation and educational institutions with respect to Sindh Urban Transport Policy

Preamble

Transportation sector not only fulfills the basic need of the people to have access but it also serves as the backbone for the economic development of the country. On the other hand, transport sector is also perhaps the biggest consumer of energy resources of the country and a significant contributor to the noise and air pollution, especially in urban areas. To address the transport related problems in Pakistan, Pakistan Sustainable Transport Project (PAKSTRAN) is being implemented by Government of Pakistan. The objective of the project is to reduce energy consumption and related greenhouse gas emissions from Pakistan's transport sector, while simultaneously improving urban environmental conditions and enhancing Pakistan's competitiveness. PAKSTRAN is supported by Global Environment Facility (GEF) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and is being implemented by Government of Pakistan.

The foundation upon which the intended objectives of this project can be achieved is an effective and up-to-date transportation policy. The policy needs to clearly identify and state the roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders of this sector, in the private sector as well as public sector. Feedback and consultation of the relevant stakeholders is an important step for defining, refining and developing their roles and responsibilities towards transportation sector. This workshop was conducted as a continuation of previous workshops (02) for achieving the above goal. It is also planned to continue similar such activities in the future. The detailed proceedings and conclusions of this workshop are presented below.

Introduction

Consultative workshop for Pakistan Sustainable Transport Project (PAKSTRAN) was organized by Component Implementation Unit (CIU) Sindh on 21 February 2015 at 5th floor of IEP Building, Karachi. CIU is the implementing partner for PAKSTRAN project in the province of Sindh.

The objective of this consultative workshop was to impart the aims and objectives of PAKSTRAN project to the relevant stakeholders and to discuss safety and security of transportation and educational institutes with regard to Sindh Urban Transport Policy.

Proceedings

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The workshop commenced with the recitation of Holy Quran, It was followed by the welcome address of Mr. Fazal Karim Khatri Component Director of Sindh for PAKSTRAN Project. He welcomed all the participants and explained the importance safety and security aspect in the context of guidelines for Urban Transport Policy. This document is in the process of development and will be shared with the relevant stakeholders after completion. He also stated the aims and objectives of this consultative workshop. He ended his address by thanking all the participants.

Dr. Saleem Janjua, National Project Manager appreciated CIU-Sindh team for organizing this workshop and explained in detail about PAKSTRAN project in view of development of sustainable transport project and its implementation. He also emphasized on the role of this project which more on capacity building, planning and policies.

Mr. Yar Mohammed Component Manager of CIU Sindh highlighted the initiatives of Transport & Mass Transit Department in line with safety and security aspect. His presentation mainly consisted of laws/achievements/initiatives made by Transport & Mass Transit. He also mentioned that CIU Sindh has played an active role in legislation and regulation work of Transport Department, which will be continued in future as well. He further stated that, about 28 rules/laws were made by Transport & Mass Transit in consultation with CIU Sindh. He informed the forum about achievements in 2014 and targets of CIU Sindh for 2015. He further told that, this is the follow up of suggestions of the workshop on principle guidelines of Sindh Urban transport policy to focus on safety and security aspect of Educational institutes and transportation. He encouraged the participants to actively participate in the discussion session of this workshop and further said that the suggestions /recommendation of this forum will be reviewed and made a part of Urban Transport Policy (which is under process). His presentation came to an end with the conclusion that, by following the rules and by-laws the transportation safety and security for educational institutes can be improved in the prevailing scenario.

Prof Dr. Raza Mehdi of NED University delivered presentation on the current scenario/conditions keeping in view the recent incidents and threats to educational institutes. He showed a comparison of schools in Karachi with schools in urban areas of other countries. The main focus of his presentation was awareness about integrity of students and educational institutes. He presented his

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comparison by giving pictorial view in his presentation on how the institutions and students should be treated in Pakistan also. He stressed on the need of awareness amongst the students and school teachers and management.

The Additional DIG (Traffic Police) Syed Salman Haider told the participants about the efforts taken by Sindh Police keeping in view the incidents like Peshawar APS etc. He shared his experience and suggestions regarding safety and security of educational institutes. He also shaded light on participation of Home department in organizing awareness and capacity development program. He thanked PAKSTRAN team for organizing the event on safety and security of educational institutes. He showed a pictorial view of awareness raising programs and capacity development programs of Home Department. He then told the participants about the efforts taken by Home Department regarding safety and security of educational institutions.

The Director General of Schools Mr. Mansoob Hussain (Representative of Education Department GoS) appraised the efforts taken Transport & Mass Transit Department on the subject matter. He further said that, education department is working on war footing in line with safety and security of educational institutions. He also praised all the stakeholders for their support in this regard.

Prof. Dr. Noman, (Chairman, Department of Architecture & Town Planning, NED University) gave a presentation on Integration of road safety and security aspects in urban planning and design. He defined the basic aspects of planning and stressed upon the fact that these concepts were not applied while planning for a metropolitan city like Karachi. He listed down the key stakeholders in this regard and also pointed institutional issues relating to this urban planning. He concluded his presentation with the recommendation that a city planning agency should be established which will be responsible for the systematic planning for the development of this city.

Mr. Irfan Saleem, who is an accident investigator in Road Traffic Injury & Prevention Center (RTIR&PC), also presented his experiences as an NGO representative. He highlighted the efforts put forward by NGOs to create and improve awareness among public, in general, and students, in particular, regarding road safety. He also mentioned various programs/projects which are carried out in coordination with local public agencies in this regard.

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His presentation led to an open discussion session which was aimed to have participant's feedback and queries. The feedback and queries were answered by the panel of experts which consisted of all the above speakers and Dr. Khalil Ur Rehman Sheikh (Secretary GA). Most of the speakers in this session praised efforts of organizers of this workshop for providing this opportunity to give their point-of-views on the situation of transportation sector. They also emphasized to continue such efforts in the future and encourage other stakeholders to participate in such forums.

This session was concluded by Dr. Khalil Ur Rehman Sheikh (Secretary GA) on behalf of Chief Secretary Sindh and Government of Sindh. He acknowledged and appreciated the efforts of CIU Sindh PAKSTRAN and appraised the role of Transport & Mass Transit department and their efforts.

The workshop ended with the vote of thanks from Yar Mohammed Component Manager. They thanked all the participants for their support and showing interests in such activities and also acknowledged the efforts of PAKSTRAN and NED University of Engineering and Technology for organizing and participating in the event. He thanked the efforts of all Government departments and institutions and international organizations for playing their part in the progress of PAKSTRAN. After the workshop, shields were distributed among respected speakers and guests of the workshop.

Discussion and Feedback by Participants:

The following points were raised in the discussion session by the participants:

- Regulations of CNG and LPG installation and operations should be developed separately
- Schools' management should coordinate with law enforcing and other local security agencies to improve transportation safety for their respective schools
- The emphasis should not be on developing laws and regulations, instead of that, community should be made aware of their responsibilities and duties with regards to transportation.

Conclusions of Workshop:

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Based upon the recommendations of PAKSTRAN team, the following conclusions are drawn:

- All the stakeholders, including politicians, should be encouraged to increase their commitment to the improvement of transport sector. This can be achieved by highlighting the benefits to other sectors and community as whole through effective marketing of transport projects. This can also be helped by media campaigns regarding the public awareness for traffic related issues.
- Transportation projects should be continued irrespective of the political changes in the country.
- Coordination among school management and law enforcing agencies should be increased and appropriate mechanisms should be developed for it.
- Workshops and other forums such as this one should be organized on continual basis and all the stakeholders should participate in such activities.
- The school management and local communities should also play their part in improving road safety and security in their respective schools and neighborhoods.



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