

The Review Meeting of the Road Safety scenario in Gujarat

(Date: 31.07.2021)

The Review Meeting of the road safety scenario in the State was held under the Chairmanship of Shri M K Das, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Ports and Transport Department at 03.30 hours on July 31, 2021, in the Conference room of the Ports and Transport department. The list of members who participated in the meeting is attached as Annexure-A.

At the outset, all the officers present were welcomed by the Commissioner, Gujarat Road Safety Authority and then commenced the proceeding of the meeting.

On inquiring, the Chairman came to know that the member from NHAI was absent in the meeting. As such, the Chair expressed displeasure at NHAI Official not attending such important meetings even after being intimated by Email, letter and telephone call. He observed that NHAI Official has not cared to be present in as many as last three Executive Committee meetings, Review meetings and the last five Nodal Officers meetings held at Gujarat Road Safety Authority's office. The Chair noted that this could be seen as gross negligence towards important tasks relating to road safety by NHAI and instructed the Chief General Manager (NHAI) telephonically to ensure that the member remains present in future meetings without fail in the interest of road safety for the road users in the State. Later on, a non-member representative of NHAI was sent. However, the Chairman insisted that the member Nodal Officer himself must attend all the meetings of EC and review meetings regularly.

The Following decisions were made in the meeting after the Chair instructed the Road Safety Commissioner to discuss the point-wise compliance of Strategic Action Plan 2020-21.

Home Department and Transport Department:

1. S.P. (STB) presented that because of Covid 19 pandemic scenario, the achievement of the target set for the enforcement in 2020 could not be achieved. The Chair instructed the State Traffic Branch to ensure strict enforcement in case of violation of traffic rules and achieve different targets of enforcement in this year.
2. The Road Safety Commissioner informed the Committee that the majority of the accident fatalities comprised non-wearing of helmets and seat belts. The Chair asked the Enforcement departments to strengthen enforcement for compliance of wearing helmets/seat-belts. He remarked to ensure safety gears were worn by pillion riders and other passengers in four wheelers as well.
3. The Chair asked the State Traffic Branch and Road Safety Commissioner to organise a meeting with the DGP of Gujarat to discuss road safety issues.
4. Having been informed about the allocation of 48 Interceptor vans to the districts, the Chair asked the State Traffic Branch to write a D.O. letter to all the districts regarding the effective utilization of the vehicles at strategic locations.
5. The Chair was informed that most of the enforcement equipment had been purchased by the Home Department. The Chair instructed to ensure capacity building and effective training to field level staff to utilize equipments for maximum impact.

6. The Chair had instructed to carry out rigorous enforcement drives around the year to curb overspeeding, wrong lane/side driving, encroachment on the road, underage driving and irresponsible driving.
7. To make CCTV based enforcement more effective, the Chair suggested to check possibility of integrating Traffic Police Challan system with that of RTO.
8. The Chair asked to formulate a scheme to curb traffic violations by introducing a Demerit Point System.
9. The Chair asked the Commissionerate of Transport to start utilizing TEAM vans for road safety awareness activities.
10. The Chair instructed to ensure suspension/cancellation of Driving Licence is done in cases of fatal accidents as per the MV Act by the RTOs.

R&B, UDD and NHAI

1. The Road Safety Commissioner informed the Committee about the identification of Black Spots by DRSCs in coordination with the Road Safety Authority. He further informed that detailed instructions with district wise details of black spots were sent to the concerned DRSCs/CRSCs and stakeholder departments for immediate short term rectification and long term planning for corrective measures.
2. The Chair asked the stakeholder departments to take required Short Term Measures immediately and plan for Long Term Measures. He further instructed the departments to be present with the Black Spot wise rectification report with photographs in the next meeting.

3. Having been informed by the NHA representative about the completion of Short Term Measures on all the Black Spots, the Chair asked NHA to submit an Action Taken Report of corrective measures taken with photographs within two days.
4. The Chair instructed to take Joint Visit of accident spot seriously to identify the possible cause of accidents on roads and on that basis, appropriate corrective action can be taken by the concerned CRSCs/DRSCs and stakeholder departments. The Chair also instructed to ensure that corrective measures were taken on time after each such joint visit.
5. The Chief Engineer (R&B) presented that sometimes suggestions in Joint Accident Report is made by the officers of enforcement departments in purely technical matters like road widening. After deliberating on this representation, the Chair observed that enforcement departments should refrain from making purely technical recommendations like road design/widening that may need technical expertise. However, he instructed that normal observations on the spot like lack of or faulty signage, requirement of speed breakers, crash barriers on bridges/water bodies and other traffic calming measures, road furniture etc. can be mentioned by all the investigating officers so that Short Term Measures can be taken immediately by stake holder departments to prevent such accidents.
6. It is very important to place street lights on both sides of the road on National Highways, State highways, major district roads, rural areas and other roads, where Educational Institutions/residences are located. The Chair instructed the road owning departments to survey all such locations and make a plan for installation of lights considering human

lives at stake. He instructed that the installation of street lights at such vulnerable stretches should be done by the road owning departments as per the directions of the SCoRS.

7. The Chair instructed road owning departments to ensure recommendations of the Road/Bridge Safety Audits are implemented in a time-bound manner. He instructed the departments to submit an Action Taken Report of such audit recommendations with photographs to the Authority.
8. Road owning departments were instructed to take necessary corrective measures and traffic calming measures to prevent accidents on junctions/intersections where the approach road meets the highway on National Highways/State Highway/MDRs/other roads.
9. The Chair directed that the concerned departments in co-operation of police should take appropriate actions to immediately close the unauthorised gap-in-medians and come up with the compliance report with photographs in the next meeting.

Health Department

1. SCoRS has stated that Trauma Care Centres should be set up to ensure timely treatment for the injured victims after the accidents. The Chair instructed the Health Department to expedite the up-gradation process of existing district civil hospitals with Trauma Care facilities.
2. Health Nodal Officer informed the Committee that having procured 158 ambulances recently, there were about 800 existing *108 ambulances* available. Out of these 800 ambulances, 446 ambulances are put near National/State highways. The Chair instructed the Nodal Officer to allocate newly acquired ambulances in consultation with the

Road Safety Commissioner prioritizing black spots and vulnerable stretches.

Other directions by the Chair

1. The Chair instructed road owning departments to install Speed Limit signage on each road so that enforcement of curbing over speeding can be done properly.
2. The Chair instructed all the stakeholder departments to verify and send correct data to the Authority as the Authority considers the data given to it for policy-making and scheme framing.
3. The Chair instructed to send sample agenda to DRSCs/CRSCs for their meetings. The Road Safety Commissioner informed that a detailed common agenda list had already been sent to them in July, 2020. The Chair instructed to ensure the Action Taken Report of the last DRSC/CRSC meeting is put and reviewed in such meetings.
4. The Chair instructed that district level officers of each department must remain present in DRSC/CRSC meetings and carry out the instructions given in the meeting immediately. (Implementation: All Departments)
5. The Chair observed that the Work Zone Traffic Management Plan was not being implemented properly on some of the ongoing road widening works in the State and instructed the road owning departments to take strict actions for such non-compliance as this matter was directly concerned with road safety.

Finally, the Chair concluded the meeting after instructing all the stakeholder departments to submit issue wise Compliance Report to the instructions given in this meeting before 31.08.2021. He also insisted that the member himself must be present and not to send a representative without prior permission of the Chair henceforth.



(L.P. Padalia)

**Road Safety Commissioner
Gujarat Road Safety Authority
Gandhinagar**



(M.K. Das)

**Additional Chief Secretary
Ports & Transport Department
Gujarat State**

ANNEXURE-A

Members Present in Review Meeting, dt. 31/07/2021

Name	Designation	Department
Shri L. P. Padalia, IAS (Rt)	Commissioner	Road Safety Authority
Shri Rajesh Manjhu, IAS	Vice Chairman & Commissioner	Commissioner of Transport
Shri Mayanksinh Chavda, IPS	JCP Traffic	Police
Shri R.K. Mehta, IAS	Dy. Municipal Commissioner, Ahmedabad	A.M.C.
Shri K.F. Baloliya, IPS	S.P.	State Traffic Branch
Shri N.K.Patel	Chief Engineer	Road & Building
Shri P. B. Patani	Joint Secretary	Urban Development
Shri R.V. Bhatt	Deputy Secretary	Transport
Shri H.M. Vora	Officer on Special Duty	Commissionerate of Transport
Shri A.N.Mistry	Officer on Special Duty	R&B
Dr. Hitesh Brahmhatt	Officer on Special Duty	Commissionerate of Health
Shri R.S. Desai	R.T.O. Ahmedabad	R.T.O. Ahmedabad
Shri C.R. Patel	C.E.O.	Gujarat Road Safety Authority
Shri S.C. Pandya	Motor Vehicle Prosecutor	Commissionerate of Transport
Shri D.D. Patel	S.S.	Primary Education
Shri Ajaykumar Swami	DGM (T)	NHAI
Shri Satyen Kulabkar	Road Safety Expert	Executive Committee member