

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of Gujarat Road Safety Authority

The Meeting of the Executive Committee of Gujarat Road Safety Authority was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Kamal Dayani, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Port and Transport Department at 16.00 hours on February 04, 2021 in the Committee Hall of Transport Department. The list of members who participated in the meeting is attached as Annexure-A.

At the outset, Shri L.P. Padalia, IAS (Retd.), Road Safety Commissioner, welcomed the Chairperson and all the members of the Executive Committee, present in the meeting.

Agenda 1: Approval to the minutes of the meeting dated 01/12/2020

As there was no suggestion by the members, the minutes of the last meeting of Executive Committee held on 01.12.2020 was approved.

Agenda 2: SCoRS letter to the Hon. Chief Minister dated 07.01.2021

The Chair informed the Committee members that the Chairman of Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety had written to the Chief Minister of Gujarat regarding road safety situation in the State. The SCoRS Committee emphasized to focus on specific areas to yield good results in reducing the road accidents and fatalities.

These areas include:

- a) Urgent time bound installation of lamp posts, lights, physical traffic calming measures, speed guns and CCTV cameras at all black spots, important junctions and in congested areas, in order of priority depending upon the incidents of accidents and fatalities.
- b) Issue of all pending notifications regarding fines and penalties soon, in line with the latest amendments enacted by the Parliament in October 2019 in the Motor Vehicle Act.

- c) Strict enforcement of the provisions regarding the suspension of driving licenses for commission of repeat offences under the MV Act.
- d) There must be special focus on the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and two wheeler drivers and passengers because nearly 30% of the total numbers of fatalities occurred in 2-wheeler segment and in the younger (18-45) age group which were mostly due to negligence of non-wearing of helmets. Now that there is a very good example of strong enforcement by way of mandatory use of masks, it should be easier to extend it to wearing of the helmets, which is mandatory under the MV Act. (Section 129)
- e) As an exercise for informed public outreach and in addition to conducting various activities/programs for creating general awareness on Road Safety issues amongst public at large on regular basis by resorting to various measures of communication, it could also be considered to create a website dedicated to Road Safety, operated by the Lead Agency, containing therein all relevant information of Road Safety, minutes of periodic meetings of the State and District committees, reports and data etc. Road Safety Commissioner mentioned that IT committee had given approval to website development proposed which had been sent to the Government for necessary sanction.

The Chair instructed all the departments to implement SCoRS directions scrupulously and in time bound manner, and to submit the Action Taken Report without waiting for any further communication.

Agenda 3: Presentations by the Stake holder departments

Urban Development Department:

- On identification of Black spots, Urban Development and Urban Housing Department as well as Municipal Corporations take appropriate short term measures and Long term measures.

- To remove Black spots, Municipal Corporations build speed breakers, install warning signs, traffic signal, install cat eye, Go Slow signs, speed limit sign, lane marking and road marking, broadening of road curve at Junctions etc.
- As Long term measures, Municipal Corporations change the road designs in appropriate cases so that block Spots can be removed from the Road stretch.
- Urban Development Department has given instructions to all Municipal Corporations and road building agency under its jurisdiction to remove machineries, material and debris from the site of work zone after completion of works to eliminate accidents as per instructions given by Gujarat Road Safety Authority from time to time.
- Municipal Corporations have taken following traffic calming measures to minimize accidents in accident prone zone.
 - Installation of traffic signals
 - Installation of speed breaker and rumble strip
 - Lane marking
 - Traffic signs
- Municipal Corporations have established Road Safety Audit mechanism. Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation has appointed consultant for Road safety Audit. Surat Municipal Corporation has appointed Sardar Vallabhabhai National Institute of Technology (SVNIT), Surat for design/redesign of the important/Major intersections within Surat city for the purpose of pedestrians' safety.
- To minimize accidents at Junctions where at lower hierarchy roads meet higher hierarchy roads, Municipal Corporations have taken different steps and installed different traffic calming equipments like traffic signal, street light, rumble strips etc.
- Consultants from Municipal Corporations have done routine inspection of Bridges as per IRC Standard. Necessary steps have been taken by respective corporations to repair/strengthen these bridges as suggested by the consultant.

- To prevent accidents near water bodies, barricading and construction of wall on the banks of water bodies have been done by Municipal Corporation.
- To reduce road accidents and improve pedestrian safety, Municipal Corporations of the State have taken following steps in the period from of 2018 to 2020.

Constructed 15 cycle track

Installed 2752 speed breaker

Installed 37797 street lights

Constructed 153 parking facilities

Installed 104073 road signs

Installed 181 traffic signals

Removed 80868 dangerous hoardings from roads

Constructed 11 pedestrian bridges and 438.17 km footpath

- Under Swarnim Jyanti Mukhyamantri Shaheri Vikas Yojana, the State Government allocates a large amount of funds to the Municipal Corporations and Municipalities for infrastructure works.
- Another important scheme is the Mukhyamantri Shaheri Sadak Yojana which provides a large amount of funds for road resurfacing to the Urban Local Bodies.
- In the current year 2020-21, Rs. 1926/- crore has been allocated for infrastructure works, most of which are road construction work and Rs. 500 crore has been allocated for Mukhyamantri Sadak Yojana, mainly for road resurfacing and repairing, potholes repairing works. The works would help in reduction of road accidents.
- The State Government has also decided to build 75 flyovers in urban areas in three years to alleviate traffic congestion and facilitate vehicular traffic which would strengthen road safety.
- The chairman instructed Urban Development Department to continue to take all measures for road safety and report to the Lead Agency.

Transport Department

- In 2020, 12 Districts Road Safety Committees met 4 times or more, 16 DRSCs met 3 times, 4 DRSCs met twice and one DRSC met once.
- Commissionerate of Transport has issued a notification making joint visits by concerned officers of the stake holder departments mandatory in case of fatal accidents.
- Regular enforcement is carried out by the officers regarding Over dimension, over load, unauthorised driving, driving without license/third party insurance/helmet/seat belt, speed governor, under age driving, clandestine etc.
- Four episodes creating road safety awareness among public have been aired on Doordarshan.
- Road safety related video quickies have been telecast on 15 regional TV channels.
- Road safety jingles have been played on all the FM stations and Akash Vani.
- During Road Safety month celebration, all the Regional Transport Offices have conducted seminars, webinars, blood donation camps, walkathon, eye checkup camps, training for Government vehicles' drivers, radium reflectors distribution programmes, distribution of road safety masks, awareness through Social Media etc.
- SCoRS has directed to set up Automatic Driving Test track and Automated Vehicle Fitness centers. The department has invited tender to select an agency for Automatic Driving Test track. For Automated Vehicle Fitness centers, it can be run by the Government or on PPP mode. If it is to be run by the Government, co-ordination with Revenue Department, Road and Building Department etc. would be very necessary. The Commissionerate has sent a proposal to the Government regarding the same.
- The Chairman instructed to implement the directions of SCoRS in a time bound manner.

Police Department:

- State Traffic Police Office has submitted provisional black spots data for the period ending December, 2019 to the respective Member Secretaries of District Road Safety Committees, which would be finalised by the DRSCs in a short time. Road Safety Commissioner mentioned that the data would be sent to the stake holder departments for rectification measures in a time bound manner.
- 48 Interceptor vehicles have been allocated to the districts as per the recommendations given by the State level Traffic Management Committee.
- A process is underway for purchase of more 38 Interceptor vehicles.
- Additional 30 Interceptor vehicles and 93 Highway Patrol Vehicles would be purchased in the later part of the year.
- 49 Speed guns are being used currently in the State for enforcement regarding over-speeding. 212 more speed guns procurement process is underway.
- Regular enforcement drives are carried out to curb under age driving.
- A regular enforcement is carried out by the department regarding over speeding, unauthorised driving, wrong lane driving, driving without license//helmet/seat belt, traffic signal violation, drink and drive, usage of cell phone while driving etc.
- All the offices are directed to strengthen enforcement on State highways and National highways.
- To implement DIMTS reports recommendations rigorously, enforcement activities are being supervised at the IG (Traffic) level.
- The Chairman instructed State Traffic Police Office to tighten enforcement for violation of Traffic Laws to prevent road accidents and fatalities. Procurement of all necessary equipments should be completed soon and usage needed to be started immediately to ensure road safety.

Road and Building department

- R&B Department has made Road Safety Audit compulsory for works of more than Rs 10 crores or new road construction of the length of 5 km or more.

- R&B Department has issued a notification for identification, rectification and monitoring of Black spots. The chairman remarked that majority of black spots might be related to R&B Department, NHAI and Urban Development Department for taking remedial measures. Therefore, he instructed Chief Engineer to put in serious efforts to rectify black spots so that fatalities in road accidents would be reduced.
- The Department has developed a Road safety cell as per earlier directions of SCoRS. The Chairman has asked to provide the details regarding the works being done by the cell.
- The Department has decided to train all the Engineers regarding road safety within 3 years timeline.
- The Department has completed short term and long term measures on 33, 38, 35 and 6 black spots respectively in the years 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. The Chairman instructed that there would be more black spots required to be rectified on priority basis by the Department.
- The Department is planning to install crash barriers near 257 water body locations by December 2021. The Chairman asked to provide the report of such installation with photographs to be sent to the Authority.
- The Department has completed installation of crash barriers on 234 bridges and 154 hilly locations.
- If any engineering deficiency is observed during joint visits of the spot of accidents, short term measures are carried out as soon as possible.
- Pre-monsoon and post-monsoon inspection of all the major bridges is carried out and repairing work is carried out. A consultant would be employed for survey of about 900 bridges.
- As per the existing norms, on the roads passing through Corporation areas, Local Corporation installs and maintains street lights. Elsewhere, if the local body pays for the approx. 5 years electricity bill, and assures for maintenance and payment of bills, R&B installs street lights with the approval of the Government. The

Chairman asked the Chief Engineer to consider installation of Solar Lights in the areas of inhabitation alongside Highways/MDRs etc.

- Traffic Calming Measures on a total of 2488 junctions and on 2730 other locations have been carried out in 2020.
- It was planned to audit 3075 km of road length in 2020, out of which 1801 km of road length has been audited and 1174 km of road length would be audited by June 2021. Road Safety Commissioner emphasized on taking appropriate measures recommended by Road Safety Auditors.
- As per DIMTS recommendations, about 6000 road signages are changed annually.
- Work zone Traffic Management Plan is put forth and approved in District Road Safety Committee meetings by concerned Executive Engineers. Road Safety Commissioner remarked that R&B Department should sensitize their Engineers regarding preparation and approval of Work Zone Traffic Management Plan, and its strict implementation, otherwise lack of WZTMP would cause serious accidents. Authority's guidelines dated 27/11/2019 to take corrective measures to remove common causes of accidents also must be implemented scrupulously.
- Road Safety Commissioner insisted that the Department should also arrange to close unauthorized gap in medians as soon as possible.
- The Chairman instructed the Chief Engineer to carry out corrective/remedial measures in the time bound manner regarding black spots, work zone traffic management, barricading around water bodies parallel to Highways/MDRs/ Village roads, as well as instructions given by SCoRS from time to time.

NHAI

- Generally, deficiencies in infrastructure have high potential of frequent/repeated road accidents.
- The major hazards observed in the road network are:
 - a) Higher speed in mixed traffic conditions
 - b) Lack of visibility (major road/ minor road & median openings)

- c) Poor gradient of side roads
 - d) Sharp curves
 - e) Lack of delineation
 - f) Lack of facilities for pedestrians on high speed roads
 - g) Wrong location of median openings
 - h) Hazardous design of slip roads
 - i) Uncontrolled access from village roads to major highways
 - j) Poor road maintenance
- Short term measures applicable to Non-urban & Urban sections road are signs, Speed limits/Speed breakers(IRC 99:2018, Traffic Calming Measures, Pavement markings, Delineators, Pedestrian railings, Crash barriers, Studs/Cats eye, etc.
 - Short term measures applicable to only Urban Sections road are restriction of certain types of vehicles, One-way streets, Reversible lanes, Bus lanes, restriction on movement of different types of vehicles by time/ by lane, etc
 - Long term measures like provision of bypass, provision of service roads, provision of grade separated interchanges, provision of vehicular and pedestrian underpasses, foot over bridges, acquiring additional land wherever required etc are taken whenever required.
 - Out of 25 Black spots identified during 2011-14, long term measures on 18 black spots have been completed. Commissioner mentioned that the data was very old and Nodal Officer would come up with latest data.
 - Out of 215 Black spots identified during 2015-18, long term measures on 150 black spots have been completed. The Chairman instructed to Nodal Officer of NHAI that data was as old as six months and it was expected that all the black spots have been corrected. Nodal Officer was instructed to comply soon.
 - NHAI has contractual provision for repairing of potholes within 48 hours. All NHs constructed by NHAI are pothole free.
 - Crash Barrier, Guard Railing on bridges, culverts are installed on all the NHs under NHAI, Gujarat as per IRC standards.

- Deficiencies pointed out by DIMTS on NHs in Gujarat, were immediately rectified and compliance report has already been submitted to NHAI, HQ and the Supreme Court Committee. Road Safety Commissioner instructed to the Nodal Officer to keep sending compliance reports to the Authority also.
- Traffic Calming Measures are taken at all required locations on NHs under NHAI, Gujarat.
- NHAI has provided Pedestrian crossing wherever required and undertake sanctioning of new crossing facilities (FOB, Underpass, etc ;) as per requirement.
- All the National Highways with NHAI, Gujarat are audited by Safety Auditors at Design, Construction and O&M Phase.
- NHAI has deployed Ambulance, Crane and Patrolling Van at every 50 km on all the National Highways under NHAI and has 24x7 centralized Toll Free Emergency help line No: 1033 operational. However, Nodal Officer was instructed to arrange for proper lane driving and curbing wrong side overtaking in consultation with Traffic Police on Express Way.
- The Chairman instructed to the Nodal Officer to be regular in attending meetings, sending report in the required format to the Authority and to be very punctual to implement the directions of SCoRS.

Agenda 4: Instructions given by the Chair

- (1) With reference to the complaint received by the Authority regarding inferior material being used in construction of Deesa elevated corridor in the district of Banaskantha, the Chair instructed NHAI to take prompt and proper actions as per the rules and IRC standards so that chances of skidding of vehicles or collision with other vehicles can be eliminated and road safety be ensured. Failing to do so will be considered as deliberate negligence on part of NHAI and it might amount to fixing of responsibilities. Nodal Officer assured the committee that the road safety would be ensures without fail.
- (2) The Chair remarked that there was hardly any activity noticed being done by NHAI to create awareness during the celebration of National Road Safety

Month. Nodal Officer, NHAI replied that certain activities had been done. The Chair reiterated that NHAI must conduct various activities/programs not only during the Road Safety Month but on regular basis to reach out to people to disseminate awareness on road safety.

- (3) The Chair instructed NHAI to close all unauthorized gap in medians on National Highways.
- (4) The Chair observed that there was delay in the works of Chiloda-Shamlaji highway, over bridge etc. causing much hardship to the road users. Therefore, NHAI should expedite works and arrange for free flow of traffic to eliminate possibility of road accidents.
- (5) Work Zone Traffic Management Plan is not prepared and got approved by concerned DRSCs which might affect road safety adversely. As such, the chairman instructed to NHAI to ensure road safety by scrupulous implementation on all work zones. Nodal Officer was asked to comply soon.
- (6) Road Safety Commissioner had shown photos of two different fatal road accidents occurred on 'J' Road in Gandhinagar and another one at the water body near Panchot Village of Mehsana district. He asked Chief Engineer, R&B Department to take serious note of such fatal accidents and issue necessary instructions to all Engineers down the line to be more vigilant and responsible to take all necessary traffic calming measures at all vulnerable stretches in time to prevent or reduce fatal accidents. The chairman insisted that all stake holder departments must be proactive to take traffic calming measures to ensure road safety.
- (7) The Chair instructed the State Traffic Police Office to speed up the process of procuring vehicles for the purpose of ensuring road safety, and further instructed to make sure that such vehicles are deployed on priority basis at the vulnerable stretches and Black Spots strategically to maximize impact. **(Compliance: Police)**
- (8) The Chair instructed the concerned departments to keep the bridges and roads of the State safe, conduct regular safety audits/verification of roads and bridges,

and send the details of the compliance to the Authority in time. **(Compliance: R&B, NHAI, UDD)**

- (9) The Chair reiterated to complete the remaining Road Audits of the most accident-prone road segments, and send a detailed report mentioning timeline for the implementation of recommendations of the audit to the Authority. The recommendations should be implemented in a time bound manner. **(Compliance: R&B, NHAI, UDD)**

The Chair instructed all stakeholder departments to send compliance/reports to the Authority within the time frame without waiting for reminders.

The meeting then ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair and the members.



(Kamal Dayani)
Chairman, E.C. &
Additional Chief Secretary
Ports and Transport Department
Gujarat Government

ANNEXURE-1**Members Present in Executive Committee, dt. 04.02.2021**

No.	Name	Designation	Department
1	Shri L P Padalia, IAS (Rt)	Commissioner	Road Safety Authority
2	Shri Rajesh Manjhu, IAS	Vice Chairman & Commissioner	Transport
3	Shri Mayanksinh Chavda, IPS	JCP Traffic	Police
4	Shri K.F. Baloliya, IPS	SP	State Traffic Branch
5	Shri N.K.Patel	Chief Engineer	Road & Building
6	Shri P B Patani	Joint Secretary	Urban Development
7	Shri R.V. Bhatt	Deputy Secretary	Transport
8	Shri J.N. Vaghela	Officer on Special Duty	Transport
9	Shri A.N.Mistry	Officer on Special Duty	R&B
10	Ms. V.H. yadav	ARTO Ahmedabad	Transport
11	Shri S.C. Pandya	Motor Vehicle Prosecutor	Transport
12	Shri Sandeep Patidar	Senior Manager	NHAI
13	Shri J.V. Shah	Road Safety Expert	Road Safety Authority member
14	Shri B.M. Dabhi	ASI	STB
15	Shri Amit Khatri	Road Safety Expert	Executive Committee member