



Knowledge Demand Assessment for the Transport and Rural Infrastructure Services Project

A Literature Review Annotated Websites



John Young & Ana Maria Urwin
Overseas Development Institute,
111 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JD
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World Bank (WB) – Transport Group

www.worldbank.org/transport



The WB Transport Group's web site describes the Bank's policy for the transport sector. Its main objective is to provide a framework for the transport policy-planning process. It is divided in sub-sectors covering a range of topics with a "knowledge base" for each of them. The main issue is the relationship between transport interventions and poverty reduction. It includes a brief analysis of key elements and links to documents, web sites and references. Topics covered include: transport economics and policy; rural transport; urban transport; roads and highways; railways, ports and logistics; railways, transport and poverty; sustainable transport; and gender and transport.

In the case of rural transport, the web site includes guidelines (documents) for the design, appraisal, implementation, management and financing of projects. It includes links to models for evaluation of low traffic roads (software), case studies and TORs. In general the information is addressed to policymakers in developing countries.

In this web site, the role of information is emphasised but is not addressed as an issue itself. For instance, there is analysis of data related problems in undertaking economic appraisals in transport projects. ([Economic Analyses in Transport Project and Program Appraisal](#))

Additionally, there are links to World Bank's regional programmes web sites that cover transport-related activities. They include overview, goals, thematic priorities, active projects, publications and relevant links. These programmes are:

[Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy Program \(SSATP\)](#)

[East Asia & Pacific Regional Web page](#)

[Vietnam Country Web Site: Transport Sector](#)

[The LAC Transport Web page](#) (Latin America and the Caribbean)

[The MENA Infrastructure Development Group, Transport Sector Web page](#) (Middle East and North Africa)

[The SAR Regional Web page](#) (South Asia)

Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy Programme (SSATP)

www.worldbank.org/afr/ssatp



SSATP is a joint initiative of WB and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), to improve transport sector performance by promoting policy reform and institutional changes in Sub-Saharan Africa. This programme includes five components: [Road Management Initiative \(RMI\)](#), [Rural Travel and Transport Program \(RTTP\)](#), [Urban Mobility \(UM\)](#), [Trade and Transport \(T&T\)](#) and [Railway Restructuring \(RR\)](#). The programme and its components sponsor transport research, publications, seminars and conferences. The web site is the main method of dissemination of the programme information. Although it is not stated, the web site seems to be addressed to policymakers in developing countries, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. It includes description of the programmes, general policy information and related documents. The information provided focuses on the issues that must be considered in the planning and implementation of transport programmes in developing countries. Some of the information is available in French.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) -Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Division

www.unescap.org/tctd/index.htm



ESCAP is the regional arm of the United Nations Secretariat for the Asian and Pacific region. Its Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Division focuses on assisting ESCAP member countries in improving the development, management, operation, maintenance, and pricing of environmentally sound, efficient, and safe transport and communications facilities and services. In the area of land and inland water transport in particular, the Division acts as the principal agency for establishing regional policies, standards and requirements. The main objective of the web site is to inform about the activities and specific projects undertaken by the Commission. The information provided in the web site is not addressed to any audience in particular. Nevertheless, Government officials of Asia and the Pacific countries may be the primary users of it.

The information provided emphasises transport as a regional issue. It covers topics such as aviation, land transport, multimodal transport, road transport, rail transport, sustainable transport, ports, urban transport and transport economics and policy. Includes policy documents, project descriptions, research reports, publications, statistics, links and information on general activities of ESCAP.

ESCAP is currently developing the project “Experience Sharing among Training and Research Institutes in Integrated **Urban Transport** Policy and Planning”. The objective of this project is to establish a network of centres of excellence in urban transport planning as a powerful tool for sharing the knowledge and experiences of institutions in the region and disseminating ESCAP’s work as well as their own work in this area. There is no information available about the current development of this project.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) – Transport Unit

www.eclac.cl/transporte/



ECLAC is one of the five UN's regional commissions. The Transport Unit supports the formulation and implementation of transport policies in the region. Its work focuses on the analysis of the processes that are restructuring and modernising the transport sector in Latin America and the Caribbean countries, so that they may better serve the needs of users and facilitate the region's international trade. Its web site includes a monthly newsletter, research reports and publications. Transport is addressed as a regional integration issue. It covers topics such as land and maritime freight transport, urban transport and private investment processes. The role of transport in economic development is emphasised.

The web site is part of the Commission's information strategy. In transport, they have an specialised collection of over 7,600 documents. This information is available to external users through their library, publications and internet site. They work with regional transport ministries in updating and organising their information services. They have identified the following as their transport information services users: Governments and embassies; regional and international organisations; transport companies; libraries; external consultants; local governments; transport police; and researchers.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) – Transport Section

<http://www.escwa.org.lb/divisions/sectoral/transport.html>



ESCWA's Transport Section promotes the formulation of sustainable regional transport policies. For this, ESCWA carries out analytical studies, research and surveys, conferences, expert group meetings, training workshops, symposia and seminars, and development assistance activities. The information is addressed to governmental agencies, non-governmental agencies and the general public. The web site includes information about these activities and relevant links.

European Union – Transport Sector

<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/development/transport/en/entc.htm>



The EU's transport web site holds the Union's transport sector guidelines. This is a document for the formulation, implementation and evaluation of transport projects.

These guidelines have been prepared for desk officers and other professionals working in various capacities in the European Commission and its Delegations. Additionally, they are addressed to staff of ministries and organisations in recipient countries, and consultants. (A summary of the document has been included.)

Department for International Development (DFID) – Infrastructure and Urban Development Department – Transport

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/>



DFID provides assistance in the formulation and implementation of transport policies and programmes. Its work is focused on land based movement with particular emphasis on road travel, whether it be by foot, by intermediate means of transport or by motorised transport, mainly in the poorest countries of Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Throughout the Engineer Knowledge and Research Programme (KaR), DFID addresses the generation, dissemination, adoption and impact of knowledge. For the transport sector, this information is consolidated in the Transport Newsletter commissioned to the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) ([Transport Newsletter: Transport Research Laboratory](#)). These newsletters give details of KaR transport projects, report on progress and summarise the final results achieved. They are issued on a six-monthly basis and can be obtained from TRL's web site. Additionally, DFID is currently developing a web site for the dissemination of DFID transport research (www.transport-links.org). DFID's general web site is mainly a source of institutional information about this Government department. Therefore, this web site is addressed to anyone who is interested in its activities.

DFID - Transport Links

www.transport-links.org/



This web site is a DFID initiative to raise awareness of the importance of transport for development, within the context of developing countries. It has been set up through the Infrastructure and Urban Development Department (IUDD) of DFID under the Engineering Knowledge and Research Programme. The focus is on transport research (mainly roads) carried out under DFID's transport sector research programme for developing countries and emerging nations, and applications of this research. This web site is specifically addressed to engineers and development professionals throughout the world, in order to improve the effectiveness of transport research in furthering progress in development. The web site is currently under construction. It contains pages on news, events, research programmes (in particular, the DFID Knowledge and Research programme), publications, issues arising out of transport implementation and links to other organisations.

It specifically addresses the issue of rural transport, through the "[Rural Transport Knowledge Base](#)". This is a set of reference and training material on the latest thinking and practice in the field of rural transport. This project is being undertaken by RTTP, a component of the multi-donor Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy Program (SSATP) managed by the World Bank with financial support from the Department for International Development (DFID). Its purpose is to facilitate the dissemination of information to policy makers, planners and practitioners in the developed and developing world. It is structured in five modules, including the policy, planning, management and financing of rural transport infrastructure, transport provision and related non-transport interventions. It includes documents and case studies for each of the topics and is available in English, French and Spanish.

Transport Research Laboratory (TRL)

<http://www.trl.co.uk/>



TRL is a private research institution. It provides advice to governments, aid institutions and private companies on land transport issues. TRL's work covers different aspects of road transport from infrastructure development and transport planning to road safety, environmental matters and institutional strengthening. TRL work with all major international organisations in the development of aid-funding transport projects. The web site includes information on TRL's activities and projects, publications, government funded projects and the DFID Transport Newsletter. This web site is mainly a way for advertising the activities of the company. TRL is currently undertaking the project "Rural Transport Policy Toolkit". The objective of this project is to take a comprehensive and systematic approach to analysing the transport needs and constraints of the rural poor.

International Forum for Rural Transport and Development (IFRTD)

<http://www.ifrtd.gn.apc.org/>



IFRTD is a global network of individuals and representatives from government, academia, multilateral and bilateral donor agencies, consultancies and technical institutions, national and international NGOs and groups of community organisations in 83 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and North and South America. The Forum's mission is to facilitate and promote successful applications of policies and practices that will result in the development of rural transport systems that satisfy the accessibility and mobility needs of rural women, men and children. Its efforts are concentrated on sharing and using information through networks of actors from all levels of the rural transport sector and beyond the traditional geographic, cultural and historical barriers faced by many of its members.

IFRTD's web site is under construction. The information available includes a description of the activities, projects and events undertaken by this organisation. It contains a contact list of the members of its global network by region ([Africa](#) , [Asia](#) and [Latin America](#)). The Forum publishes a quarterly newsletter including analysis of rural transport issues and sectoral information. This publication can be accessed on this site. Additionally, it includes a database of the documents available at the IFRTD's library. The aim of this web site seems to be to inform about the activities of the Forum to a "global network" of users.

Planning Rural Roads

<http://www.ruralroads.org/>



This is an independent web site run by David Tighe. He is a consultant specialised in the planning, appraisal and evaluation of projects in developing countries with a particular interest in rural accessibility issues. He is USA based. The web site has been set up to help planners and managers of rural roads in developing countries in the planning process of rural roads projects. It is based on the identification of the main questions that should be asked in planning a road programme. The information provided is centred on a review of these main questions, grouped within five themes: (i) need for a road; (ii) road selection; (iii) appropriate design; (iv) choice of technology; and (v) funding issues. Additionally, it includes short analyses of related topics such as environmental impacts and poverty reduction. This web site is defined as an interactive process of information exchange. The information is available in English, Spanish and French.

Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG) - Transport

www.itdg.org



ITDG is a charity that works with poor communities in developing countries to develop appropriate technologies. In transport, ITDG's objective is to achieve greater adoption of transport technologies, services and policy frameworks which benefit poor communities. Its web site presents ITDG's philosophy for transport interventions and describes its programme's main actions. It includes information on specific projects, publications and relevant links. ITDG's disseminates the information about its experience through consultancy services, publishing activities, education, policy and research and an international technical enquiries service. ITDG has identified a limitation in the understanding about how transport interventions can contribute most effectively to reducing poverty and to developing sustainable livelihoods for the poor. Therefore, they have oriented their research approach towards the identification of this relationship.

Rural Transport and Development Mailing List / National Academic Mailing List Service (Jiscmail)

<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/rural-transport-development.html>



JISCmail is a service that allows UK academics and support staff to join, create and manage electronic discussion lists. Electronic discussion lists enable members of the UK higher and further education and research communities to communicate rapidly with national and international communities of scholars with a common interest. List members can share ideas, collaborate on projects, announce events, seek advice and generally keep up-to-date with new ideas. The rural transport and development mailing list is administered by I.T. Transport Ltd. The electronic mails are classified by month and subject. It is used mainly to share information about forthcoming events in the sector. There is no information about its size or its members. This list could be used as a platform for dissemination of information.

Rural and Agricultural Transportation: Data and Information Resources

<http://199.79.179.78/ruraltransport/index.html>



This web site supports the collaborative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to address rural and agricultural transportation issues that support and enhance rural economic development, rural life and mobility; ensure the efficient movement of agricultural products on the nation's highways, rail systems, waterways, and air in national and global trade; and maintain the global competitiveness of American agriculture.

The objective of the web site is to provide a vehicle for information sharing activities. It is divided into six main sections: freight; passengers; safety; impacts; infrastructure; and other topics. In each of them, links are provided to information and data produced by USDA and DOT units as well as other Federal and State agencies, and academic institutions. Included are web sites, reports (or abstracts), statistical reports and data resources, technical models, bibliographic databases and directories. This web site is directed at those working in agricultural and transportation issues in the United States or those interested in the American experience.

Sustainable Transport Action Network for Asia and the Pacific – SUSTRAN

<http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/Canopy/2853/index.htm>



SUSTRAN is an information sharing network. It promotes people-centred, equitable and sustainable transport with a focus on Asia and the Pacific. SUSTRAN was launched in 1995 and has active participants in Malaysia, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Korea, Japan, Australia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand. It also has partner organisations in North America, Europe, Latin America and Africa. The Secretariat is hosted by [Pelangi Indonesia](#) in Jakarta. The scope of the Network activities has begun to expand beyond information sharing to include campaigning and advocacy work, aimed at improving the transport policies of international institutions and around the region. SUSTRAN has identified “information” as one of the [ten steps towards more sustainable and people-centred urban transport](#). They argue that communities need information in order to influence the decisions that are affecting them.

Its web site includes access to SUSTRAN publications and a list of written resources in related topics. In addition, SUSTRAN has an electronic newsletter and an electronic discussion list. These information sources cover sustainable transport issues with emphasis on urban transport. This web site is addressed to those interested in raising awareness about sustainable transport in their countries.

Institute for Transportation and Development Policy - ITDP

www.itdp.org



ITDP is a New York based non-profit organisation that focuses on promoting environmentally sustainable and equitable transportation policies and projects world-wide. Its work is divided in three programmatic areas: (i) improving transport and land use governance; (ii) strengthening human powered vehicle industry; and (iii) improving non-motorised safety and planning. One of its main activities has been working towards [building regional sustainable transport advocacy coalitions](#), as a way to promote information sharing between regional institutions. ITDP played an active role in the creation of SUSTRAN and is now promoting a regional network in Latin America.

ITDP's web site describes its policy, programmes and activities. Additionally, it includes ITDP's publications, some documents on sustainable transport and related links. This web site mainly contains institutional information and general issues on sustainable transport. Although it is not stated, the web site is addressed to people with a particular interest in sustainable transport and to potential donors.

Advisory Support, Information Services and Training for Employment-Intensive Infrastructure Development (ASIST)

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/recon/eiip/asist/index.htm>



ASIST is a programme of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) seeking to contribute towards the alleviation of poverty through the use of local-level planning methodologies and employment-intensive strategies in the provision of rural and urban infrastructure. ASIST provides advisory support, information services and training to policy makers, planners, practitioners, consultants, communities, training institutions, universities, funding and development agencies, and others involved in accessibility planning and the provision of rural and urban infrastructure.

Its web site describes ASIST sectoral and regional programmes. ASIST is currently undertaking programmes in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America. Its work covers the [road sector](#), [rural access infrastructure](#), urban livelihoods improvements and water and soil conservation. Additionally, the web site includes a description of ASIST main strategies: local level planning; labour-based technology; and small scale contracting. A description of ASIST's work on [Rural Accessibility Planning](#) and the [Integrated Rural Accessibility Planning \(IRAP\) tool](#) is also included under these web pages.

ASIST activities are focused on the dissemination of information for those working in the rural and urban infrastructure sector. Therefore, one of its main activities is the ASIST Information Service. This service gathers, synthesises and disseminates relevant published and unpublished information on and related to rural and urban labour-based technology, and access and rural employment. This information is disseminated through document centres, a technical enquiry service, publishing, networking and research activities. In the web site there is access to a document database, bulletins, publications, seminars proceedings and programme documents and reports.

World Road Association (PIARC)

www.piarc.org



PIARC was established in 1909 as a non-profit organisation to promote international co-operation on issues related to roads infrastructure and transport. Its aim is to be the world leader in providing information on roads and road transport policy and practices within an integrated sustainable transport context. PIARC's most important activity is operating technical committees. Their work is focused on producing reports on best practice and recommendations in their respective fields in order to assist decision makers, road engineers and research engineers. These committees cover five topics: (i) road technology; (ii) road transport, liveability and sustainable development; (iii) roads and road transport operations; (iv) management and administration of the road system; and (v) appropriate levels of road and road transport development. These committees arrange seminars and meet frequently in order to promote technology transfer among member countries. PIARC also organise the World Road Congress which takes place every four years.

Its web site contains information about PIARC institutional structure, programme projects and activities. It includes a list and contact details of members. Additionally, it includes information on the activities of each technical committee, technical reports and documents on each specialised topic. PIARC produces a quarterly news and information magazine on the latest developments in the highways field along with news of interest to the road community that can be accessed on-line. PIARC has also set up a network of road-related information and knowledge transfer centres, the World Interchange Network (WIN). Finally, the web site includes a link to the Highway Development and Management System project (HDM-4). This is a software system for investigating choices in investing in road transport infrastructure. This project is co-ordinated by PIARC.

World Interchange Network (WIN)

<http://www.piarc.org/rme/index.html>



WIN is a service that facilitates contact between people and experts. It consists of a network of road-related information and knowledge transfer centres (nodes). These nodes are organisations involved in road transport issues around the world. WIN nodes can provide contact details of an appropriate expert who can answer questions about road technology and other issues related to road transport. WIN is coordinated by PIARC. The internet and, in particular this web site, forms part of WIN's means of communication. The web site includes a list and contact details of the organisations and experts that conform the network ([directory of nodes](#)). It also allows users to transmit their request to the nodes that seem most qualified to answer it. The web site is available in French, Spanish and English. This site is therefore intended for those [requesting expertise](#) as well as for those who can provide answers, and those who themselves form WIN.

Animal Traction Network for Eastern and Southern Africa (ATNESA)

<http://www.atnesa.org/>



ATNESA was formed in 1990 to improve information exchange and regional co-operation relating to animal draft power. This network aims to unite researchers, manufacturers, development workers, institutions and the users of animal traction in the region. Membership of the network is open to all individuals and organisations interested in this subject. ATNESA's Secretariat is based in Zimbabwe. ATNESA encourages the formation and operation of national animal traction networks, whether formal or informal. Responsibility for implementing ATNESA activities is delegated to these national networks and to ATNESA members in different countries.

The web site has information about ATNESA's international workshops, publications, and documents relating animal traction analysis by country. Additionally, there are links to the national networks and national animal traction programmes web sites. They describe the activities of every network at the country level, contact details and related documents. ATNESA's national programmes are:

- Animal Power Network for Zimbabwe - [APNEZ](#)
- Ethiopian Network for Animal Power - [ENAP](#)
- Kenyan Network for Draft Animal Technology - [KENDAT](#)
- South African Network for Animal Traction - [SANAT](#)
- Tanzania Association for Draught Animal Power - [TADAP](#)
- [TADAP Tanzania Association for Draught Animal Power](#)
- [Uganda Network for Animal Traction and conservation agriculture](#)

Finally, the web site includes links to related organisations and an e-mail discussion list on animal traction.

Transportation Research Board (TRB)

<http://www.nas.edu/trb/>



TRB is a unit of the U.S. National Research Council, a private, non-profit institution. The Board's mission is to promote innovation and progress in transportation by stimulating and conducting research, facilitating the dissemination of information, and encouraging the implementation of research results. TRB fulfils this mission through the work of its standing technical committees and task forces addressing all modes and aspects of transportation; publication and dissemination of reports and peer-reviewed technical papers on research findings; administration of two contract research programs; conduct of special studies on transportation policy issues at the request of the U.S. Congress and government agencies; operation of an on-line computerised file of transportation research information; and the hosting of an annual meeting that typically attracts 8,000 transportation professionals from throughout the United States and abroad.

Its web site describes TRB's activities and institutional information. These are organised under five divisions:

- [Division A](#) - Technical Activities
- [Division B](#) - Studies and Information Services
- [Division C](#) - Administration and Finance
- [Division D](#) - Co-operative Research Programs
- [Division E](#) - Special Programs
- [Marine Board](#)

One of the most important activities of TRB is the dissemination of current research results. The books, reports and miscellaneous publications cover nine general subject categories: planning, administration and environment; design; materials, construction and maintenance; operations and safety; aviation; public transit; rail; freight transportation (multimodal); and marine transportation. Through its Transportation Research Information Services (TRIS), TRB maintains a computer-based storage and retrieval system that contains over 450,000 abstracts of published transportation research articles and reports, and summaries of ongoing research projects. This web site is aimed at administrators, engineers, operators, researchers and other members of the transportation community. Mainly the information provided focuses on technical issues on transport and transport infrastructure in developed countries.

Journal of World Transport Policy and Practice

http://ecoplan.org/wtpp/wt_index.htm



This journal is a quarterly publication covering transport issues around the world. It was founded in 1995, in an attempt to provide scholars, researchers, policy makers and ordinary people concerned with the sustainability of the world's current transport systems, with a medium for the presentation of original and creative ideas in world transport. International experts in transport, the environment, economics and ecology contribute probing papers dealing, in an informed manner, with key issues in transport, case studies and reports of trials, and assessments of the difficulties of balancing economic and ecological considerations.

Since January 2000, this journal is only available in an electronic publication format through this web site, with printed exceptions for special editions. The web site allows (free of charge) downloading of the journal issues in pdf format. Previous editions are being made available in electronic format. The web site includes a list and contact details of the articles' authors, abstracts of documents and a search function.