



Sustainable Transport

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ADB is helping countries change their transport investment patterns and secure a low-carbon, sustainable transport future

- Challenge** Transport provides many benefits and plays a significant role in development, but is also responsible for a range of negative impacts, from producing about a quarter of energy-related carbon dioxide emissions to traffic congestion, road accidents, premature deaths, and ill health from pollution.
- Strategy** ADB will support sustainable transport initiatives in Asia and the Pacific to facilitate economic development and energy security while mitigating transport’s negative impacts.
- Response** ADB’s Sustainable Transport Initiative promotes investments in low-carbon, safe, accessible, and affordable transport systems. The initiative is helping develop inclusive, clean, and energy-efficient transport projects in developing member countries (DMCs) and provides ongoing assistance to develop sustainable transport policies.

“ADB has accorded high priority to the provision of improved transport services across Asia and the Pacific as an important underpinning to poverty reduction and economic development. Transport will remain a major part of ADB’s infrastructure operations. But the emphasis of our transport investments will need to change if we are to assist with the shift to low-carbon growth across Asia and the Pacific. ADB is already in transition.”

—Haruhiko Kuroda, President and Chairman, Board of Directors, Asian Development Bank
Opening Remarks at the Transport and Climate Change Seminar, Copenhagen, 13 December 2009

ADB’s Strategy 2020 meeting the needs of Asia and the Pacific

Strategic Direction

- Inclusive Economic Growth
- Environmentally Sustainable Growth
- Regional Integration

Drivers of Change

- Private Sector
- Good Governance
- Gender Equity
- Knowledge Solutions
- Partnerships

Read more at www.adb.org/Strategy2020/

Effective and sustainable transport systems are prerequisites for sustainable economic growth. Developing these systems requires systematic initiatives that prioritize movement of people and goods to meet economic, social, and developmental requirements. Creating such initiatives will require more holistic and systematic approaches that put greater focus on environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

Making sustainable transport a top priority

Over the decades, ADB has fully supported the role of transport and will continue to do so. For instance, to support sustainability in the road sector, ADB will continue to include road asset management in its road sector policy dialogue and operational support, and will help DMCs reduce accumulated road maintenance backlogs. ADB has implemented many successful lending and nonlending technical assistance programs in transport.

More recently, ADB’s agenda is giving increasing attention to emerging issues such as climate change, increases in traffic congestion, and the need for transport access for all. Solving these problems will be key to promoting the economic opportunity and good governance necessary for achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals in a sustainable manner.

The significant extent of ADB’s support is reflected in ADB’s transport operations, which comprise nearly 24% of total ADB lending. ADB’s pipeline lending in transport is equally noteworthy—an average of \$3.4 billion per year identified for 2011–2013.

Providing solutions through the Sustainable Transport Initiative

ADB established the initiative to align its transport operations with Strategy 2020. The initiative specifically addresses the sector’s emerging challenges. Its existence and ADB’s reason for

ADB Transport Forum

On 25–27 May 2010, the second ADB Transport Forum was held at ADB headquarters in Manila. The forum’s theme is Changing Course: Pathways to Sustainable Transport. The program covered the four areas of initial focus of the Sustainable Transport Initiative: urban transport, mainstreaming climate change in transport, cross-border transport and logistics, and road safety and social sustainability. Over 300 delegates attended the event.

engaging in more sustainable transport projects are based on the analysis of Asia’s current transport patterns and what would happen if “business-as-usual” patterns continued in the future.

As the per capita income of urban dwellers in Asia increases in real terms, vehicle ownership and use will dramatically increase. Without a systematic approach to deal with such growth, severe problems will emerge.

The initiative calls for a fundamental shift in transport policy to manage demand for travel to the available supply, advocating the “avoid-shift-improve” approach. The initiative supports integrating land use developments with mobility needs, thus avoiding the need for excessive travel; promotes the shift to energy-efficient modes of transport; and seeks to improve vehicle and fuel technologies.

The initiative aims to develop a strategic framework that links sustainable transport to effective environmental management, poverty reduction, and inclusive social development. The initiative will promote sustainable infrastructure to support inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable development, and energy security. The initiative will greatly help countries and cities identify and implement needed policy updates and institutional capacity building, while assisting with financial structures of transport infrastructure and public transport systems.

Forging partnerships

Within the scope of the initiative, ADB is working with partners to help developing countries integrate sustainable, low-carbon transport approaches in their transport strategies. Notable achievements include the multistakeholder Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport, the signing of The Bellagio Declaration on Transportation and Climate Change, Inter-American Development Bank and the Korea Transport Institute Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport, International Road Assessment Programme, and the FIA Foundation for the Automobile and Society Memorandum of Understanding for joint programs and activities for promoting safe and sustainable transport in DMCs. ADB is also taking part in a joint initiative by multilateral development banks (MDBs) to develop a harmonized approach for road infrastructure safety, of which a joint MDB statement on managing road safety was launched during the Moscow Ministerial Conference on Road Safety in November 2009.

Identifying new opportunities

The Sustainable Transport Initiative Operational Plan identifies how ADB can adapt its transport operations to serve the changing needs of its DMCs. The initiative seeks to retain and build upon the strengths of ADB’s existing transport operations, while introducing effective models of support for new and emerging fields of sustainable transport.

The plan identifies four opportunities for new and enhanced lending operations to scale up support for sustainable transport.

Urban transport

The scope of ADB urban transport operations will depend on DMCs’ needs. ADB’s work will take into account good practice and lessons learned and focus on public transport systems, nonmotorized transport, integrated urban transport planning, and demand and traffic management.

Climate change in transport

ADB is committed to help its DMCs tackle climate change and energy efficiency in the transport sector. This will be done by expanding operations to shift traffic to modes with lower emissions and energy consumption, as well as improve transport efficiency in existing modes. ADB will also mainstream climate adaptation measures into its transport operations by making climate adaptation adjustments to engineering specifications and master planning, and incorporating associated environmental measures in its assistance interventions.

Cross-border transport and logistics

Transport plays a critical role in enabling growth in trade. ADB’s regional transport operations will incorporate improved approaches to help DMCs facilitate transport and remove bottlenecks in freight mobility. Landlocked countries’ special needs will be given attention.

Road safety and social sustainability

Through the initiative, ADB will develop comprehensive road safety operations in selected DMCs. These operations will support engineering and behavioral approaches to the safe design, construction, and operation and maintenance of road infrastructure; use of intelligent transport systems for road safety; development of road safety management capacity; road safety performance

measurement; and resource mobilization. To support social sustainability, ADB will expand its work on pro-poor dimensions of transport, including improving rural bus services and nonmotorized transport, and on other social dimensions of transport, including gender mainstreaming, participation, HIV/AIDS and human trafficking, core labor standards, and use of tariff and subsidy options to optimize the balance between accessibility and affordability.

Sustainable Transport Partnership Facility

ADB is establishing a Sustainable Transport Partnership Facility to offer dedicated support for innovative approaches to sustainable transport. The partnership window will enable development partners, research institutes, and nongovernment

organizations to provide financing, expertise, and in-kind contributions to help enhance and scale-up ADB's sustainable transport operations. The innovative window will provide grants to finance innovative forms of support in key areas—policy advisory work, pre-feasibility and feasibility studies for sustainable transport projects, and finance “add-on” components to existing projects to enhance sustainability.

Going forward

Sustainable transport will play a vital role in the region's future. Thanks to the initiative, ADB is uniquely positioned to drive the future of transport forward to a low-carbon path that ensures inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

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