

## Background Note and Tentative Agenda

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### Stakeholder Consultation for Policy Advocacy in Road Safety: Issues, Challenges and Key Policy Recommendations and Next Steps in Karnataka

#### Introduction

This Background Note serves as a background for a proposed Consultation meeting that the Public Affairs Foundation ([PAF](#)) and Consumer Unity and Trust Society ([CUTS](#)) is organising in November 2023. The title of the Consultation is "Stakeholder Consultation for Policy Advocacy in Road Safety: Issues, Challenges and Next Steps for Karnataka".

#### Background

The State of Karnataka accounts for 5.05% of India's population and 5.83% of its land area and contributes 8.21% (2021) to the GDP of India. The socio-developmental indicators of Karnataka are improving with time. Karnataka stands at 3rd position in the ranking of economy in India. It has around 69.5 years of life expectancy which is slightly higher than the national average of 69.4 years.

Karnataka has been able to improve its position to 72 from 66 last year and is ranked third in the SDG India Index 2020-2021. But the State is seriously lagging in the SDG Goal No. 11.2 related to access to safe transport, Goal No. 9.1 related to quality and reliable roads and SDG Goal No. 3.6 related to reducing the road accident deaths up to 50 percent by 2030.

#### Road Network, Road Accidents & deaths in Karnataka: An overview

Karnataka has a road network (Year 2021) of around 3,31,099 KMs and contributes 4.5 % to the national road network. It has 14 National highways and 114 State highways. It includes around 7,652 KMs of National Highways (2.3 % State share), 28,985 KMs of State Highways (8.7 % State share in road network) and remaining others is around 2,94,462 KMs (89% share in State roads network).

The total registered vehicles in the State are 3,05,28,518 with an annual increase of 5.62%. in which registered two wheelers are around 2,16,14,652 (71%) in the year 2023. At India level it is 73.5% with 10% annual growth (2019: MoRTH).

Karnataka has registered around 34,647 accidents (with a national rank at 4th and national share of 8.4%), 40,754 injuries (with a national rank at 3th and national share of 10.6%) and 10,038 deaths (with a national rank at 6th and national share of 6.5%) in 2021. In Karnataka 95 road accidents and 27.5 accident deaths happen every day and 4 accidents and 1 death in every one hour. The annual increase in the rate of accidents was 1.5%, in injuries; 3.1% and in deaths; 3.57%.

## Background Note and Tentative Agenda

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On national highways, the reported accidents were 11,462 (33%), deaths; 3487 (35%) and injuries were 13229 (32%). Whereas the accidents on State highways were 8,820 (25%), injuries were 11,507 (28%) and deaths were 2,777 (28%) of the total State deaths. Accidents on other roads were 41%, deaths were 37% and injuries were 39% of the State total. In Karnataka the accident severity is 9 in comparison to 37 at national level.

If one sees the number of road fatalities of two-wheeler users, it is very high. Around 4,938 (49% of State total) two-wheeler users died in 2021. Similarly, the number of youths (between 18 to 45 years) who died due to accidents was 7,147 (71% of State total).

Poor compliance of laws related to wearing helmets in Karnataka has also resulted in death of 2661 (27% of total State deaths) two-wheeler riders and resulting in around injuries to 8,540 (21% of total injuries) two-wheeler riders in the State. Therefore, strict compliance of helmet rules is need of the hour in the State.

Speeding is a major cause of road deaths in Karnataka. Out of total road deaths, 9,101 (91% of State total) deaths, accidents 31,485 (91%), Injuries 36, 516 (90%) happened only because of over speed. Therefore, there is a strong need of formation of speed management guidelines in Karnataka like West Bengal.

The objectives of the Consultation meeting are to:

- Notify the Speed Management Policy or Guidelines
- Enhance the overall Role of Traffic Police in the age of AI Cameras and other sophisticated & Realtime Traffic Management or Road Safety technologies
- Equip Karnataka Traffic police with AI cameras for smart policing
- Frame rules and framework for faulty road design under Section 210D of the MVAA Act, 2019.

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### Tentative Agenda

Day and Date: Thursday, November 23, 2023

Venue: IAS Officer's Association, Infantry Road, Bengaluru

Time	Description	Resource Person
9.30-10.00 a.m.	Registration and Coffee/Tea	NA
<b>Inaugural Session</b>		
10.00-10.10 a.m.	Welcome and Introduction	Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander, ED, Public Affairs Foundation
10.10-10.20 a.m.	Brief Introduction to the Consultation Meeting	Shri Madhu Sudan Sharma Senior Program Officer, CUTS International, Jaipur, Rajasthan
10.20-10.30 a.m.	Inaugural Address	Yogeesh, A.M I.A.S Transport Commissioner
10.30-10.40 a.m.	Key Note Address- Road Safety initiatives from the government	Shri. J Purushotham, Additional Commissioner and Member Secretary, Karnataka State Road Safety Authority
10.40-10.50 a.m.	Special Address	Ms M. Shobha JCT, Bangalore, Urban Joint Commissioners for Transport
10.50-11.10 a.m.	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>	
11.10 a.m.-1.00 p.m.	Theme Policy Advocacy in Road Safety: Issues, Challenges and Next Steps for Karnataka	
15 minutes	Road Crashes are Public Health Issues and Preventable	Dr. Gautham Melur Sukumar, Additional Professor, NIMHANS
15 minutes	Safer mobility and importance of design in improving road safety for all	Srinivas Alavalli, Fellow, WRI and co-founder of Citizens for Bengaluru and Bengaluru and Chetan Sodaye, Senior Program Associate – Transport, WRI,
15 minutes	Enforcement and awareness: Enforcement of road safety laws is a preventive approach to crashes	Shri M N Anucheth, IPS Joint Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru Traffic Police
15 minutes	Designing streets for all	Pratiksha Surpuriya Program Associate, Global Designing Cities Initiative (GDCI)
15 minutes	Final Thoughts	Shri Satya Shankaran, Bicycle Mayor, Citizens for Sustainability
10 minutes	Q & A	Participants
5 minutes	Vote of Thanks	Ashwini V, Senior Executive, PAF
<b>Lunch and Wind Up</b>		