

## ROAD CONSTRUCTION IS THE KEY FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT

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### ABSTRACT

Road construction encourages development in urban centers and rural areas of any society. Construction of good reliable road network and pedestrian walkways provides the general public, access to economic activities. Businesses always locate wherever a road is constructed because the road is the means that makes it possible for people to have access to the business activities. Road network brings positive development in urban or rural area. Provision of street cape with pedestrian walkways that are equipped with pedestrian light poles, seating places, trash receptacles, trees to provide shade and pedestrian cross-walk will create pleasant environment for the inhabitants. Improvement, with such amenities, will not only create positive psychological effect on the people, it will also give positive image and positive picture of good urban development. It will encourage economic activities as well. For example, Walmart, a major retail store in the United States of America, whenever, it opens a new store at any particular location, several other businesses locates around Walmart. This is because there is always a good access road leading to the mega Walmart store. It is the good road that makes it possible for the general public to gain access to the Walmart store, the same road also gives access to the other businesses that locate around Walmart. It is also, true from my practical experience in the United States of America, whenever a major retail Mall is located at any place, several other

businesses are opened around the Mall because of the good access road provided to the Mall. For example, Gwinnett Place Mall and Mall of Georgia, located in the City of Lawrenceville, Gwinnet County, a suburban area of Atlanta, Georgia, in the United States of America. Because of the excellent road network around these malls, several businesses have located around these malls.

**Keywords:** Road Construction, Development, Urban and Rural, Good Roads, Access Roads, Retail Mall, Goods and services, Economic growth, Effective reliable road infrastructure, Urban growth, Urban centers and market place.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Road construction enables the movement of goods and services from one location to another location. There are several modes of transportation, these inclusive of road transportation, air transportation, railway transportation. In this essay, focus will be on road construction as the enabler of movement of goods and services. In this respect, road transportation includes the roads and the vehicles that carry the goods and people (services) from one place to the other. Road transportation is the act or process of moving people or things from one place to another place, a system for moving passengers. Urban transit is an important dimension of mobility, notably in high density areas. Road transportation means transportation of goods and personnel from one place to the other on road. Bennett Coleman. (2018).

### **Urban Road Transportation**

Considering the trend, urban transportation issues are foremost important to support the passenger and freight mobility requirements

of large urban road transportation in the urban areas is high complex. Circella and Mokhtarian (2017). When a good road network is provided in a city, the traffic situation in the city normally gets better and the city will be well connected to inter- state road networks, it will allow the traffic to avoid traversing through the city. With less traffic congestion within the city, collision due to traffic congestion will be drastically reduced. Pedestrian can easily cross the road at crossing point with safety. Urban authorities should have a vision to participate in the overall development of the area by creating good roads and bridge systems. Provision of good infrastructural roads and bridge systems should be the main pre -requisite for the growth and development of the urban area. Without expansion of good road transportation infrastructure in any city or urban area, it will be lagged behind economic growth and spread of other activities. Economic opportunities are most likely to arise in any community with good and reliable road transportation infrastructures. Improving Accessibility means the provision of decent and reliable infrastructure such as roads, toll roads and bridges. Triono Junoasmono (2015).

International regional and local transportation systems alike have become fundamental components of economic activities. Growing share of the wealth is thus linked to trade and distribution. However even if transportation has positive impacts on socio economic system, there are also negative consequences such as congestion, accidents and mobility gaps. Good roads and bridges are required for faster industrial development and improving the living standard of the people.

We work with our agencies and partners to support the transport network that helps UK's businesses and gets people and goods

travelling around the country. We plan to invest in transport infrastructure to keep the UK on the move. Bernadette Kelly. (2017)

The objectives of the strategic Urban Roads Infrastructure Project are to: 1) reduce traffic bottlenecks on the national roads in selected urban areas.

2) Address the environmental and social issues associated with the increase usage of the national road network in these urban areas.

3) Assist the government of Indonesia (GOL) in the process of decentralizing responsibility for planning, design, construction, maintenance, management and regulation of urban transport from central to local. Muhammad al-arief. (2017).

### **Strategic Urban Roads Infrastructure**

The urban inhabitants will travel from their houses to the market place, that is, the central business district, and they will also go to their place of work and go back to their respective homes with convenient. When the urban inhabitants buy goods at the market place, it will in turn, boost the economy of the urban center. When people drive to work, they will earn money, with the income, they will purchase goods at the market place; again, it will support the economic base of the urban center, positively. Therefore, the central business district has to be conveniently accessible to the urban inhabitants. Development of a world – class infrastructure, especially a good road network has been recognized as a key priority and necessary condition for sustaining the growth momentum of any state's economy. Provision of adequate infrastructure is a prerequisite for sustained growth of economy and inherent to such growth is the need to ensure cost-effective movement of people and goods. An efficient road infrastructure is therefore an

essential requirement. Over the successive five year plans, investment in road infrastructure has been increasing progressively in the state. Kerala has developed an extensive road network which provides connectivity to all settlements. Sri. T. Baburaj. (2017)

Productivity is a crucial factor in production performance of firms and nations. Increasing national productivity can raise living standards because more real income improves people's ability to purchase goods and services, enjoy leisure, improve housing, education and contribute to social and environmental programs. This paper provides an update of the survey focusing on estimating the contribution of transport infrastructure to productivity and economic growth. The central questions addressed are possible reasons behind the conflicting results reported in the literature on the elasticity of economic output with respect to transport infrastructure investment. After providing a systematic review of recent empirical studies on effects of transport infrastructure on productivity and economic growth, the paper notes controversial results.

- (1) Related to different contexts: research period, geographical scales, and country's capability in enabling economic development;
- (2) Related to different phenomena that are being measured: different economic sectors, different types of transport infrastructure, and different quality levels of transport infrastructure. Taotao Deng. (2013).

When workers spent several hours on the road due to traffic congestion, several hours of work are lost, thereby; productivity is lost in relation to the work time lost. This is the loss of time for workers to produce goods; consequently, it affects the economic base of the city

negatively. What is needed is productive increase because it improves economic gains, and thereby, improves the standard of living of the people. The more time people spent on the road due to traffic congestion, the more fuel they will waste, that is negative economics, because that money wasted for fuel could have been used to buy other goods at the market place, that encourage positive economics for the city. Also, when vehicles sit on the road for long time due to traffic holdup, the vehicles will emit carbon dioxide into the air, and when the urban inhabitants inhale the smock from the vehicles, it may result to hazardous effect which may require medical attention, and therefore, it is negative economics.

Community development is always a welcome idea when it is done with adequate preparation. These developments include road, bridge, market, boreholes and others. These automatically make the area a desirable area to leave. But when the reconstruction of roads and bridges are done without adequate preparation or alternative roots, the area and its residence tend to suffer under the weight especially when the project is delayed or halted.

Road transportation enhances the growth of business and profitability of urban center. Whenever a new road is constructed in urban center, it brings unprecedented business opportunities, new markets will be created because of the accessibility to the area. If road transportation system is made efficient and reliable, it will bring economic growth, because, it is economic growth enabler. Road infrastructural development stimulates economy as it creates employment from construction engagement. Road construction is a job creating machine, therefore, it is good for urban economy. No country can achieve

economic growth without investing money on road transportation systems. In the United States of America, for example, the government spends heavily on road transportation programs because it creates jobs and it stimulates the economy. Elected politicians from the Senate and House of Representatives, in the United States, they always request funding for road construction in their urban centers and rural communities for the reason that road investment creates jobs and stimulate the economy in their constituencies. The United States of America has invested effective and reliable massive road infrastructure system that amplifies growth of the American economy which other nations should emulate.

Infrastructure investments are prescribed to stimulate the economy in short term by creating construction employment, and to foster longer – term economic growth by making the road transportation system more efficient and reliable. High – productivity road transportation investments increases connectivity and reduce congestion; by doing so they improve economic well– being. To achieve a productive economy, by any Country, State or Urban Center, they must invest on effective and reliable road infrastructural system. Nigeria urgently needs to invest on effective and reliable urban and regional road transportation infrastructure system as a means of addressing the present economic problems facing the country. The roads in the country are deteriorating very fast and are at very low quality. There is no maintenance and repairing road program, vehicles can not engage on comfortable average driving speeds because of the overwhelming pot holes on the roads. The pot holes, some of them are very large, they course much damage on the vehicles, as a result, cost of maintaining the vehicles is very high. In addition to the wearing and tearing road

conditions, there are so many roadblocks and checkpoints that create unacceptable traffic congestions. Nigeria is way behind in this regard, effective and reliable road infrastructure that is needed to grow the economy of the country. It was of recent that the Government began to repair the Nigeria neglected road transportation network.

## CONCLUSION

No country, state, urban center or any region can achieve progressive economy without investing on efficient and reliable road infrastructural transportation system. To operate a modern, competitive and productive economy, there must be substantial road infrastructural transportation investment. As stated earlier in this essay, United States of America is operating a productive economy that is backed up with robust effective and reliable road transportation system. The road transportation system in the country encourages economic growth.

African countries are lacking proper road transportation investment, these needs to be addressed by every country in Africa. They must pay attention to maintenance of their roads by awarding contracts to competent construction companies that can deliver quality, reliable road infrastructure but not to construction firms through the back door. This will enable drivers to go on comfortable average driving speeds. If African countries can invest on proper road infrastructural transportation system that is effective and reliable, it will go a long way to facilitate the needed economic growth of the continent. This will increase income levels and poverty in the continent.



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