

Test Drive and Safety Audit in SSSDR (26 April 2017)

BACKGROUND

RAP3 has worked in Kalikot since October 2013 on two roads, the 18km Sannighat-Syuna-Shipkhana District Road and the 6km Jarkot-Ramnakot District road. Funded by UK aid, RAP uses the construction of such roads as an entry point for improving the lives of the poorest and most marginalized people in the areas in which we work such as the Syuna, Shipkhana, Phukot and Ramnakot VDCs of Kalikot district.

RAP's implementation has involved construction of tracks, trails and roads using labour-intensive, environmentally sound and climate resilient methods; alongside complementary socio-economic interventions. Besides the evident benefits of improved access, RAP has generated significant employment in rural areas, especially for women.

As RAP3 roads move towards substantial completion they are first tested by drive overs using two wheeled and four wheeled vehicles and then surveyed for construction quality, climate change resilience and road safety. This series of tests was begun on the Sannighat-Syuna-Shipkhana district road in April 2017.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAMME

- To test drive four-wheeler in SSSDR, first RAP3 road.
- To carryout road safety audit for safe vehicle pliability for four-wheeler.
- To monitor construction quality, overall progress status and other engineering parameters.

PARTICIPANTS

The Test drive programme was attended by Mr Hari Chhetri, accounts officer for the District Co-ordination Committee, Chief of "KOLENIKA", Mr Kambar Bam of the DTO Kalikot, Mr Dilli Prakash Sitaula, Mr. Manoj Krishna Shrestha and Mr Mitra Shrestha from RAP3 TMO in Kathmandu. Similarly all DTA/SC and NGO staff also participated in the programme and actively facilitated the event.

TEST DRIVE THROUGH OUT THE ALIGNMENT OF SSSDR

DTA Kalikot carried out the four wheeler drive as well as safety audit in Sannighat-Syuna-Shipkhana district road (SSDR) corridor on April 26, 2017. Early in the morning, representatives of TMO and the Road Safety Audit team met the DTA team, SC and guests from DCC, DTO, and District Treasury Controller Officer and drove to Sannighat which is the zero point of SSSDR corridor. RAP3 DTA had hired two local vehicles of Rara Karnali travel committee from Jitegaada bazar. One vehicle carried the DPM, DTL, representatives of DCC, DTO while the other vehicle was used for road safety audit purposes.

The team reached Zero point (Sannighat) about 9:30 AM and after having lunch team moved towards the purpose of programme. The team was greeted by LRUC members at zero point who expressed their joy and happiness. Throughout whole section of road RBGs/SBGs member

welcomed the test drive team by showing their traditional culture, tika & garland and were able to see four wheel vehicles for the first time in their villages on the newly constructed road built by their own efforts.

Some of the elders of nearby villages said that, they had never seen vehicle in their lifetime and were happy to see for the first time. One old man of 98 years, Mr Pradipe Mahatara of Phukot village was able to travel in a vehicle for the first time. The vehicle reached the end point of SSSDR at Shipkhana at 1 PM, where large crowd had gathered to welcome the team. An informal ceremony was organized for about 10 minutes in which DTL , DPM, DCC representative expressed their feelings and thanked all RBGs/SBGs and associated stakeholders who have contributed in for the programme. They requested all beneficiaries and stakeholders to preserve this community asset in the future. The test drive and safety audit team left for Manma around 3 PM after the finish of the closing ceremony.

ROAD SAFETY AUDIT

The safety audit team consisted of TMO LRN Asset Management Specialist Mr Manoj Krishna Shrestha, TMO LRN Engineer Mr Mitra Shrestha and EO/RE/loW/STS from the district team. The team carried out safety audit from Sannighat (zero-point) to Shipkhana (end-point) to identify potential road safety issues. The team focused on hairpin bends and their radius and gradient. The team checked road width, grade, sight distance, horizontal curves, cross-slope etc through the road alignment and noted down critical spots of road. The Team also tracked the design speed of the road and found all to be within allocated parameters for hill roads. The Safety Audit team asked for drivers' views which were that the road is comfortable for smooth driving and better than other roads in the district. The team drew attention to an outward projecting boulder in one section and suggested the construction of confidence blocks on sharp bends needed. Regarding stability and sustainability of the road, the team recommended that discharging of water flow should be considered and assign appropriate drain size, water crossing structures etc. The team further recommended bio-engineering at appropriate location for reducing future risk. The whole road alignment was video-graphed (go pro) for further investigation.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- The first four-wheeler test of the alignment of Sannighat-Syuna-Shipkhana (SSDR) road was completed successfully.
- Road Safety Audit had been carryout by Mr Manoj Krishna Shrestha's team along with district team assistance.
- Sannighat-Syuna-Shipkhana (SSDR) was fully monitored for overall quality and progress.

Some Glimpses of the Programme



Starting point of SSDR.



Vehicle moving on SSDR



Group Photo with RBGs/SBGs



Elder citizen traveling few section of road



End point of SSDR.



Closing ceremony at end point.



Vehicles arriving at Shipkhana and 15km point.



Vehicle at Loop No 7.



Vehicle between Loops 3 and 4