



NEWSLETTER

Society of Transport Engineers Nepal

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT



It gives me great pleasure to announce the publication of the third SOTEN newsletter. This publication is an initiative of the fifth executive committee of the Society of Transport Engineers of Nepal (SOTEN). Since SOTEN's establishment in 2009, we have grown to include approximately 376 dedicated members who are actively contributing to our shared mission of advancing transport engineering in Nepal.

This newsletter is intended to be a valuable resource, showcasing important developments within Nepal's transportation community. The encouraging feedback we received on the first two issues has inspired us to make this third issue even better. We strongly encourage you to continue sharing your accomplishments, expertise, and experiences within the transportation sector. By working together, we can make significant progress toward a more efficient, sustainable, and interconnected transportation system for Nepal.

In addition to highlighting the achievements and advancements within the transportation sector, this third issue of the SOTEN newsletter also aims to foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing among professionals, researchers, and policymakers. We have included insightful articles, case studies, and expert opinions that address emerging challenges and opportunities in transport engineering, such as the integration of smart technologies, sustainable urban mobility solutions, and climate-resilient infrastructure. By promoting dialogue and innovation, we hope to inspire new ideas and partnerships that will drive the transformation of Nepal's transportation landscape. Your active participation and engagement are crucial as we strive to create a transport system that meets the needs of our growing nation.

I offer my sincere thanks to the newsletter committee for their hard work in publishing this issue, under the guidance of our General Secretary. We hope you find this issue informative and useful.

Warm Regards

Rajendra Raj Sharma

President

Society of Transport Engineers Nepal



About SOTEN

The Society of Transportation Engineers Nepal (SOTEN), established in 2009, is dedicated to advancing the transportation sector through knowledge sharing, professional development, and capacity-building initiatives. It promotes research, innovation, and expertise within the field, contributing to sustainable and efficient transportation systems in Nepal. SOTEN is also a member of prestigious international organizations such as the Eastern Asia Society of Transport Studies (EASTS) and the International Road Federation (IRF), reflecting its commitment to global collaboration and excellence in transportation engineering.

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Fifth Executive Committee (2024-26)



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President



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Vice-President



Er. Hemant Tiwari
General Secretary



Er. Shrawan Kumar Thapa
Secretary



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Member



Er. Binayak Bhattarai
Member



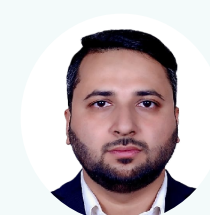
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2009-14



Er. Lal Krishna KC
Second Executive Committee
2014-19



Er. Padam Badhadur Shahi, Ph.D
Third and Fourth Executive Committee
2019-21; 2021-23



SOTEN Activities

LEC Conference 2024

Together with Lalitpur Engineering College (LEC) and Safe and Sustainable Travel Nepal (SSTN), we successfully concluded the LEC Conference held on December 8, 2024. The event featured two keynote presentations, including one by our President, Rajendra Raj Sharma, along with insightful knowledge-sharing sessions during each technical session, which were a highlight of the conference.

The conference hosted three parallel technical sessions, including one on "Traffic and Transportation", led by our General Secretary, Hemant Tiwari, and moderated by Ranjeeta Acharya. This session included professional presentations by Saujanya Nepal on Major Transport Infrastructure Development in Nepal and Shyam Mani Kafle on Performance-Based Maintenance of Rural Roads in Nepal, along with five additional presentations on related topics. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the speakers, guests, and participants for making this event a grand success under the leadership of Surendra Tamrakar and the LEC team. A special thanks to the SSTN team for their invaluable contributions. Moving forward, we aim to focus on the continuity of such programs to foster knowledge-sharing and collaboration in the field of transportation.



Knowledge Sharing Series

As a part of SoTEN knowledge sharing series, the tenth episode titled "Managing Traffic using Traffic Signal Control" concluded on December 1, 2024 in collaboration with Department of Roads, Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport. Dr. Birendra Shrestha, Principal Transport Modeller, MCIHT, FHEA, London UK presented on the episode, highlighting the Traffic management using traffic signal controls.

Society of Transport Engineers Nepal (SOTEN)
KNOWLEDGE SHARING SERIES
An initiative of capacity building in transport sector.
Episode #10
"Managing Traffic using Traffic Signal Control"
1st December, Sunday 2024
Venue : DoR Hall, First Floor, Babarmahal
Time : 03:00-04:30 p.m
Dr Birendra Shrestha
 MCIHT, FHEA
 Principle Transport Modeller,
 London UK

Collaborators : नेपाल सरकार
 भौतिक पूर्वाधार तथा यातायात मन्त्रालय
 सडक विभाग

Road Safety Awareness as a Part of Low Value Grant from UNDP

The successful implementation of the road safety awareness program, titled "Road Safety Education and Training to Road Users (School Teachers, Students, Public Vehicle Drivers, First Responders, and Rescue Workers)", was conducted in three key locations across Nepal: Damauli (Gandaki Province), Butwal (Lumbini Province), and Attariya (Sudurpaschim Province). Supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), National Road Safety Council (NRSC) and executed by the Society of Transport Engineers Nepal (SOTEN), the program focused on improving road safety behaviors, enhancing emergency response capabilities, and fostering community-level advocacy. The program's primary objectives were to promote safe road practices through different training sessions, build capacity among key road user groups, and equip first responders and rescue workers with critical post-crash management skills.



These initiatives were executed in coordination with municipal authorities, traffic police, district police, local youth clubs, APF, transport unions, and district administration office. The program trained a total of 1,035 participants, exceeding targets and ensuring diverse representation. The participants included 408 students, 107 teachers, 158 drivers, 238 first responders, and 124 rescue workers. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) principles were incorporated, with 29% of the participants being female. The program successfully engaged local stakeholders and distributed educational materials, such as leaflets and banners, to reinforce the training's objectives. The program marks a significant step toward reducing road traffic fatalities and fostering a culture of road safety in Nepal. Continued efforts, broader stakeholder engagement, and expanded training initiatives are essential to sustain and scale its impact.

Road Safety Training in Vyas Municipality.

Among three locations, the first or pilot activity on "Road Safety Education and Training to Road Users (School Teachers, Students and Public Vehicle Drivers) and Road Safety and Crash Response Training to First Responders and Rescue Workers" was conducted by SOTEN in Damauli, Tanahau district, Gandaki province from 14th September 2024 to 18th September 2024.

Road Safety Training in Butwal

Following that the second activity was held in Butwal, Rupendehi district, Lumbini province on November 14, 2024. The first three trainings; Teachers, Students, and

Drivers were held 14th November onwards whereas the training for First Responder and Rescue Workers was held on 25th and 26th November. The formal inauguration of the event was carried out by Mr. Shiva Rana, Spokesperson of Butwal Sub-Metropolitan City, on behalf of the mayor. SOTEN Secretary Er. Shrawan Kumar Thapa extended a warm welcome to all participants and expressed gratitude. He underscored the pivotal role teachers can play in shaping the lives of children, referring to them as "second parents."

Road Safety Education and Training to Teachers in Butwal

A total of 33 teachers from various government schools in Butwal Sub-Metropolitan City participated in the training for teachers. Er. Vibek Gupta and Er. Niraj Bohara led the training, among the participants, 26 were female and seven were male, showcasing a diverse group of educators dedicated to promoting road safety awareness. The program aims to equip teachers with essential knowledge and practical strategies to effectively teach road safety to their students. To further support the teachers, each participant received a pen drive with comprehensive training materials, resources, and multimedia content that they could easily reference and utilize in their classrooms. Group work was given to engage people on road safety related activities and to ensure that they come up with new innovative ideas they could implement at the school level to improve road safety in their locality.





Road Safety Education and Training to Students in Butwal

Er. Vibek Gupta and Er. Niraj Bohara led the training with assistance of Er. Sanjay Luitel. The program engaged 86 students from Grades 8 and 9, including 49 female and 37 male participants, ensuring GESI (Gender Equality and Social Inclusion) compliance. Pre- and post-assessments were conducted, and all participants received stationery items. The event commenced with remarks from Mr. Khem Tiwari, Class 8 in-charge, who emphasized the importance of such awareness programs in addressing traffic-related challenges in Butwal.



Road Safety Education and Training to Drivers in Butwal

A specialized training program titled "Road Safety Education and Training for Drivers" was successfully conducted in Butwal Sub-Metropolitan City, with 83 male drivers in attendance. The program was organized with the valuable support of Paschim Nepal Bus Byabasaik Sangh, an organization that regularly conducts road safety awareness classes for drivers. The pre and post-training evaluation was also done to evaluate the effectiveness of the training.

Er. Vibek Gupta and Er. Niraj Bohara led the training with assistance of Er. Sanjay Luitel.



Road Safety and Crash Response Training for First Responders in Butwal

The program was formally inaugurated by opening remarks by the mayor of Butwal Sub-Metropolitan City, Mr. Khel Raj Pandey in presence of Deputy mayor, Sabitra Devi Aryal. 86 first responders from the Armed Police Force (APF), Nepal Police, Butwal Sub-Metropolitan City, and local clubs attended the comprehensive training. Lead Trainer Heera Lal Tamrakar made sure the participants engaged in various sessions covering topics such as assessing accident scenes, providing immediate medical assistance, and understanding traffic regulations. The interactive format included practical exercises, role-playing scenarios, and group discussions, enabling attendees to apply their learning in real-world situations.





Road Safety and Crash Response Training for Rescue Worker in Butwal

39 participants who had attended training for rescue workers under lead trainer Arun Sainju. The participation represents Armed Police Force (APF), Nepal Police, Nepal Army, Representative from Butwal Sub-Metropolitan City attended a comprehensive training program. Participants were selected based on their involvement in a related program of the previous day, and they all have roles related to road traffic crash rescue efforts.



Road Safety Training in Attariya, Kailali

The final location for the project was Attariya, Kailali district, Sudurpaschim Province. The training was carried out starting from 20th November to 24th November. The teacher training, driver's training, and rescue worker training session took place in the hall of the Godawari municipality office. For the student training, the hall of Durga Laxmi Model Secondary School, Attariya and the hall of National Academy of Science and Technology, Dhangadhi were utilized. The training for first responders took place in the hall of Hotel Namaste, Attariya. The event was started informally by Dr. Padma

Bahadur Shahi. He extended a warm welcome to all the participants. He highlighted the importance of road safety, road safety awareness and the roles of teachers in promoting safe road culture.

Road Safety Education and Training to Teachers in Attariya

Lead Trainer Dr. Padma Bahadur Shahi addressed total thirty-four teachers, higher than the target, from various government schools. Among them, twenty-one were female and thirteen were male, showcasing a diverse group of educators dedicated to promoting road safety awareness. Along with the awareness training, the training shed light on various aspects of road safety around schools. Teachers highlighted concerns like lack of pedestrian crossings, sidewalk for students, lack of traffic signs and signals in the locality. They added that though road safety is included in the school curriculum, the contents need to be more exhaustive.



Road Safety Education and Training to Drivers in Attariya

37 male drivers and one female driver, majority being in their 30's and 40's, attended the program. The program was organized with the valuable support of transportation entrepreneurs of Dhangadhi and led by Dr. Padma Bahadur Shahi under assistance from Er. Ashim Gautam. The program aimed to deepen drivers'



understanding of road safety principles and equip them with the skills necessary to adopt safe driving practices. The training covered key topics, including traffic regulations, defensive driving techniques, risky behavior in traffic, and the importance of vehicle maintenance.



Road Safety Education and Training to Students in Attariya

Initially planned for one school, SOTEN conducted two additional training programs based on received requests. The first session at Durga Laxmi Model Secondary School, Attariya, was held on 22nd November 2024 for grade 9 and 10 students. On request from the vice principal, an additional session was conducted on 24th November for grades 11 and 12. Another program took place on 22nd November at the National Academy of Science and Technology, Dhangadhi. Led by Er. Hemant Tiwari, the school selection was based on discussions with the municipality and traffic police, considering factors like accident risk, traffic volume, road conditions, and student numbers.



Road Safety and Crash Response Training for First Responders in Attariya

61 first responders from the Armed Police Force (APF), Nepal Police, Godawari Municipality Police, Fire Fighters, School Teachers, and local clubs attended a comprehensive training program titled "Road Safety Education and Training for First Responders". Most of the participants were male. Trainer Heera Lal Tamrakar and Sheela Gurung made sure the participants engaged in various sessions covering topics such as assessing accident scenes, providing immediate medical assistance, and understanding traffic regulations. The session was new for some participants while acting as a refresher course for others. The interactive format included practical exercises and role-playing scenarios. Including but not limited, attending crash victim, CPR, crash victims with injuries on head, broken hands, legs enabling attendees to apply their learning in real-world situations.



Road Safety and Crash Response Training for Rescue Workers in Attariya

40 participants who had attended training for first responders attended the training for rescue workers. The participation represents Armed Police Force (APF), Nepal Police, Godawari Municipality Police, fire fighters. Participants were selected based on their involvement in a related program the previous day, and they all have roles related to road traffic crash rescue efforts.



The training included theory as well as practical sessions. Trainers demonstrated the use of equipment such as ramp, spreader, and cutter followed the use of the equipment by participants. A formal closing ceremony was organized in presence of Sharada Devi Rokaya (Deputy Mayor of Godawari Municipality), Mr. Shankar Singh Dhami (Focal Person of National Road Safety Council, Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport) and Mr. Subas Badu (Head of Vehicle Fitness Testing Center, Kailali).



Handover of Road Safety Awareness Material to Director General, DoR

SOTEN successfully handed over road safety awareness materials to the Director General of the Department of Roads and the concerned officers on December 7, 2024. These materials were developed as part of the National Road Safety Council's road safety project, supported by UNDP Nepal and implemented by SOTEN. The Director General's commitment to promoting road safety and utilizing these materials is highly appreciated. This initiative marks an important step toward creating safer roads and raising awareness about road safety in Nepal. We extend our gratitude to all partners and stakeholders for their support and collaboration in this effort.



Handover of Road Safety Awareness Material to Road Safety Experts

SOTEN successfully handed over road safety awareness materials to dedicated road safety experts and individuals working continuously for the betterment of road safety in Nepal. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Padma Bahadur Shahi, Subhash Dhunghel, Anil Marsani, Prakash Upadhaya, Vibek Gupta, Dilman Singh Basnyat, Smriti Khatiwada, and all other experts for their commitment to utilizing these materials in ongoing road safety awareness activities. These materials were developed as part of the National Road Safety Council's road safety project, supported by UNDP Nepal and implemented by SOTEN.



Distribution of Road Safety Materials to Provincial-Level Teachers

SOTEN successfully distributed road safety awareness materials to provincial-level teacher representatives from all seven provinces of Nepal. The materials were handed over to Gobinda Karki (Koshi Province), Ramsagar Yadav (Madhesh-



-Province), Nawaraj Puri (Bagmati Province), Subash Chandra Ranabhat (Gandaki Province), Radha Belbase (Lumbini Province), Bajra Bd. Thapa (Karnali Province), and Hari Prasad Soti (Sudurpaschim Province). These representatives have committed to utilizing the materials in their school-level road safety campaigns. This initiative emphasizes our collective effort to promote safer roads and communities through education and awareness.



Distribution of Road Safety Materials to Academic Institutions

Recognizing the pivotal role of academic institutions in shaping future engineers and professionals, road safety awareness materials were distributed to various educational institutions across Nepal. The materials were received by Prof. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Shrestha on behalf of Pulchowk Campus, and by Prof. Dr. Thusitha Shahi on behalf of Nepal Engineering College. Kathford International College of Engineering and Management received the materials through Er. Jeewan Gwachha. Additionally, materials were handed over to Lalitpur Engineering College represented by principal Dr. Surendra Tamrakar, Acme Engineering College represented by the Head of Civil Engineering Department, Er. Mahadev Singh Saud, Aryan College of Engineering

represented by Principal Er. Dev Raj Joshi, Shramik Shanti Secondary School represented by Diploma Coordinator Er. Nirmal Babu Khadka, and Universal Engineering and Science College represented by Vice Principal Gajen Jha. To further extend the reach, materials were also provided to Capital College and Research Center represented by Rajendra Pokhrel, Balbatika School represented by the High School In-charge, Gateway Academy represented by Principal RD Bhatta, and Gandhi Aadarsha School represented by Social Studies Teacher Indu Dhungel. This initiative ensures that students and faculty members have access to essential road safety resources, fostering a culture of safety and awareness among future professionals.



Call for Papers Successfully Completed for the Inaugural Issue of the SoTEN Journal

As part of our ongoing efforts to promote research and innovation in transportation systems, SOTEN has completed the call for papers for the inaugural issue of the Journal of Transportation System and Engineering (JoTSE). This milestone marks a significant step forward in our mission to provide a platform for researchers, academicians, and practitioners to share their work and contribute to the advancement of transportation engineering.



The overwhelming response to the call for papers reflects the growing interest and engagement in this field. A total of 23 papers were received and the editorial team is actively reviewing the submitted manuscripts to ensure the publication of a high-quality first issue. We are committed to delivering a journal that fosters knowledge exchange and addresses critical challenges in transportation systems. SOTEN remains dedicated to organizing more initiatives, including workshops, seminars, and future calls for papers, to further strengthen the transportation engineering community. We thank all our members, contributors, and supporters for their continued trust and collaboration.

Knowledge Dissemination Through Guest Lecture

Our General Secretary, Hemant Tiwari, delivered a special lecture on "Overview of the Scope of Transportation Engineering in Nepal", followed by insights into "Road Safety Awareness". The lecture was attended by third and fourth-year students from Kathford College of Engineering and Management, who actively participated and engaged in the session. This initiative aimed to share valuable knowledge and raise awareness about the growing scope of transportation engineering and the importance of road safety in Nepal. We believe such interactions inspire young minds and contribute to building a safer and more efficient transportation system for the future.



SOTEN Representation in IRF World Congress 2024

SOTEN participated in the IRF World Congress 2024, held in Istanbul, Türkiye from October 15 to 18, 2024. The event was organized by the International Road Federation in partnership with the Republic of Türkiye's Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure. SOTEN's representatives delivered several presentations during the technical sessions. Dr. Padma Bahadur Shahi, Immediate Past President, on "A Case Study on Determining Free Flow Speed on a Four-Lane Urban Arterial Road in Kathmandu" within the Traffic Management Systems & Operations session. Mr. Hemant Tiwari, General Secretary, discussed on "Impact of On-Street Parking on Capacity and Speed of Urban Roads in Nepal", using Durbarmarg and Jawalakhel-Manbhawan Road Section as case studies, during the Urban Mobility Planning and Management session. Mr. Krishna Ojha from the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport presented on the "Effectiveness of Road Safety Audit Recommendations Implementation in the Road Design", Audits and Analysis for Enhanced Safety session. Dr. Thusitha Shahi presented "A Case Study on Road User Perception of Safety at Bridge Sites in Nepal".



In a same event, SOTEN presented a Special Token of Appreciation to the International Road Federation (IRF) team. The token was handed to Ms. Susanna Zammataro, Director General of IRF, in recognition of their



valuable contributions and support to the transportation and road safety sector. During the event, SOTEN also expressed its keen interest in fostering future collaborations with esteemed global organizations, including: PIARC World Road Association, Qatar Transportation and Traffic Safety Center, Youth for Road Safety (YOURS). These potential partnerships aim to strengthen knowledge exchange, promote innovative solutions, and enhance road safety initiatives both locally and globally. SOTEN remains committed to building a strong network of collaboration to address the challenges and opportunities in the transportation sector.



Research and Publication

The paper, titled "Assessment of Stratified Speed Characteristics and Compliance with Posted Speed Limit in an Urban Area: A Case Study of Section of Karnali Highway, Nepal," is published in the International Journal on Engineering Technology, Volume 2, Issue 1. The primary author is Trilok Chandra Bist, who is a life member of SOTEN and the co-author is Hemant Tiwari, who holds the position of General Secretary of SOTEN. The study area is located in the Surkhet district, where speed limits vary between 20 to 40 km/h. The researchers employed a

manual data collection method to gather stratified speed samples from various types of vehicles during off-peak hours. The collected data were used to calculate different speed metrics for each vehicle category, providing insights into how well drivers adhere to the posted speed limits in urban settings. The study focuses on analyzing speed characteristics and the level of compliance with posted speed limits in an urban area along a section of the Karnali Highway in Nepal. The research highlights the importance of speed as a fundamental element in traffic engineering, impacting safety, travel time, comfort, convenience, and the overall economics of the transportation system. The findings aim to contribute to better traffic management and safety practices in similar urban environments, providing insights for policymakers and urban planners to develop more efficient transportation strategies.

Transportation Sector—Current National Affairs

Airport Closure and Increased Airfares

From November 23, the country's oldest international airport is going to operate with only 65% flights for the repair. This will take place till the 18th of Chiatra. The upgradation of the airport is meant to increase the rate of 33 Visual Flight Rule (VFR) and 12 Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) flights by 20 to 25 percent. This has been part of the Master plan of 2009 with the help of the ADB grant. Apron for international flight parking, taxiway, and hangar aprons are being built in the project. This has in return increased opportunities for international airports in Bhairawa and Pokhara.(November 8, ekantipur.com) Himalaya Airlines is set to start regular flights, two days a week, targeting Chinese tourists. (My Republica, Nov 28). This could be the first regular international flight the Pokhara Regional International Airport



may host. In 2023, the international airport received a total of 7 international flights.

Citing the closure of the international airport and the reduction of international flights, air fares to Delhi, Dubai, Kuala Lumpur, Doha, and other international destinations increased up to fourfold. These rates are even higher than those from international destinations. These flight rates have a direct impact on the workers who go to work in these countries (especially for employment) (ekantipur.com, October 7, 2024). On December 17, Oninekhabar cited The Safety List, which is updated annually, where all Nepali airlines are banned from flying in the airspace of Europe. This has been a major setback for CAAN despite the efforts. Nepal has been off the list since a decade. Despite the closure of the international airport, the Tribhuvan University, the airport observed the very high number of flights in the November accounting for 429,847 passengers from a total 2648 international flights and 9877 domestic flights. This shows a continuous growth of the air travel demand which requires attention from the respective stakeholders. (December 19, onlinekhabar)

Road Construction Adds to the Misery of the Locals: Road Construction Delayed

The road construction has always been challenging. The 6 years of construction of the East-West Highway section, Butwal Narayangarh section, has only led to 53% of construction. The three extensions of the project still haven't met their destination, keeping the dwellers in trouble through delayed travel time, air pollution, and multiple landslides in sections of highway leading to long queues. This has also halted economic activities around near the highway. Further, different deadlines to ease the traffic were assigned to the contractor to improve the movement. By November 25, 70% of the one lane

was sought to be black-topped whereas by March 17, 2025, all sections were sought to be black-topped. Thus, a notice to correct as a warning was sent to the contractor for delaying the road expansion and not following the plan. (November 27, ekantipur.com). This is the reason why on September 30, in Bardaghat, a section near Khusarni Khola collapsed resulting in a high-tension electricity pole. There are too many incidents of closure of this highway section. This seems to aggravate the situation with no effort from the stakeholders.



Fig. Bardaghat section of Narayangarh Butwal after closure (ekantipur.com)

In news covered on November 28, 2024, a local woman from Gwarko, Lalitpur faced shortness of breath and dizziness due to dropped oxygen as she was residing near flyover construction. One of the main reasons for air pollution in Kathmandu has been cited as the construction works. (Arjun Poudel, The Kathmandu Post). Another important country project faces a halt in work for 13 months. It faced design issues and was halted because of the monsoon rain which stopped filling work. The contractor's project manager accused the underestimation of the major reason for the financial strain on the project.

Soar in Electric Vehicles and Reduced Fuel Consumption

Has the travel reduced? The Kathmandu Valley witnessed a reduction in fuel consumption, a drop of 8.25 percent a s com



compared with last year's consumption. Some petrol pumps even recorded a 26.44% drop in sales since the previous year. (Republica, November 12). This could be also related to the soaring number of electric vehicles. Laxman Kafle in The Rising Nepal, recognized the EV for cost and cleaner travel in the country. Citing the excitement and enthusiasm in electric vehicles in the NADA show, and many test drives in the latest EV models, it is sure with the government policies, the number of electric vehicles is increasing. Up to 50 kW capacity vehicles currently have a 15% custom duty and 5 % excise duty while in between 50- and 100-kW capacity, 20% custom duty and 15 percent excise duty have been imposed. These taxes are around 200 to 300 percent in diesel and petrol-powered vehicles. The country has entered an era of Electric Vehicles. Soaring number of electric vehicles has been the highlight of this fiscal year. The 249 units of electric vehicles imported in the fiscal year 2020/21 have gone high to 11,700 electric vehicles units in 2023/24. The article writes, that 50 electric public vehicles from Sajha Yatayat, 10 for Sundar Yatayat, and many vans and public vehicles being used on Highways as well have introduced us to the sustainable era. Though, as a transportation engineer, we have to be aware of the travel of every individual. Travel is important for growth, and for generating economic activities. For this, the country has to invest in public transportation and sustainable means of transportation that would ensure travel rights for the people of the country.

Nagdhunga Tunnel Nears Completion with 80.5% Progress, Deadline Extended to 2025

An 80.5% progress has been achieved in the Nagdhunga tunnel. This is the first tunnel in Nepal constructed to reduce the considerable travel time through

Nagdhunga connecting Thankot. The tunnel construction has been extended by 1.5 years and the project deadline has reached October 2025. Blacktopping from Balambu to the Tunnel entrance has also been completed (December 21, 2024, The Kathmandu Post).

Mahadevtar in Fast Track Project and Siddhababa Tunnels Show Significant Progress

As of November 8, 2024, the Mahadevtar tunnel took a 65% progress in Fast track, Kathmandu-Nijgadh road. The tunnel is 3386 m long. Similarly, the bypass tunnels in Siddhababa is taking pace. Two bypasses (of three) connecting the main tunnels have been completed whereas the main tunnel length of 587.22 meters of 1,126 meters have been completed. (September 26, 2024, The Kathmandu Post).



Fig. Tunnel in Siddhababa (focused on bypassing the 4 km hazardous section) (Source: The Kathmandu Post, September 26, 2024)

Lalitpur Introduces AI-Enabled Traffic Signals to Optimize Traffic Flow

Lalitpur, Nepal, installed its first AI-enabled traffic signals, optimizing traffic flow by adjusting to vehicle volume. These smart signals read license plates, maintain traffic records, and communicate to reduce stop times. Installed at Pulchowk (2), Kandevata, Damkal Chowk, and Jawalakhel, they enhance traffic management. (Onlinekhabar, Dec 21, 2024).



Call for Participation: 3rd International Transport Conference (11 - 13 April, 2025)

The Society of Transportation Engineers Nepal (SOTEN) is pleased to invite professionals, researchers, academics, and stakeholders from around the world to participate in the 3rd International Transport Conference 2025. This conference will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from April 11 to 13, 2025, and aims to facilitate collaboration, innovation, and the exchange of knowledge in the field of transportation. We welcome the submission of research papers aligned with the conference theme, "Towards Safe, Sustainable, Efficient, and Resilient Mobility." We encourage your esteemed participation to contribute to the success of this significant event.

3rd

INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT CONFERENCE

Theme: "Towards Safe, Sustainable, Efficient, and Resilient Mobility "

11-13 April, 2025
Hotel Yak and Yeti
Kathmandu, Nepal

Jointly Organized by :

Ministry Of Physical Infrastructure and Transport

Society Of Transport Engineers Nepal

CALL FOR PAPERS

- Transportation System Integration
- Transportation Sector Reforms
- Transportation Economics and Policy
- Urban and Regional Planning
- Multimodal Transportation
- Highway Design and Maintenance
- Intelligent Transportation System
- Use of Clean and Alternative Energy
- Cross Cutting Issues of Transportation

- Traffic Engineering
- Road Safety
- Public Transportation
- Non-motorized Transport
- Transportation Technology and Innovation
- Transportation System Design and Management
- Sustainable Transportation
- Disaster and Climate Resilient Transport
- Aviation, Railway and Freight Transport
- Green Roads and Low Carbon Transport

Important Dates	15 Feb, 2025	28 Feb, 2025	11-13 Apr, 2025	<p>Scan to Submit</p>
	Submission of Abstract	Acceptance of Abstract	Conference Date	

For more details visit : www.soten.org.np

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