

Handout 19

Concepts and Definitions

Terms	Definitions, Concepts and related information
RTI	Rural Transport Infrastructure
RTI Network	 Lowest level of physical transport chain that connect rural population to farms, local markets, services like schools & health centres
	Potentially increases income and improves quality of life
Basic Access	Minimum level of service of the RTI network
	 Necessary building block for poverty reduction
	 Provision of basic services should be considered a basic human right, like health and basic education
Basic Access Infrastructure	 This is needed to ensure that the prevailing type of rural transport vehicles (motorized and non-motorized) have reliable access.
	 Reasonable delays at river crossings or temporary road closures during the rainy season must be tolerated. This reduces investment costs considerably.
	 The maximum time allowed for temporary closures is a political decision and an affordability issue.





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Basic Access Intervention	 This refers to the <i>least-cost</i> intervention (in terms of total lifecycle cost) for providing reliable, all-season passability by the prevailing means of transport. It requires all season passability for a pick-up truck, a small bus, or a truck, even if these are a small fraction of total traffic. It needs appropriate RTI for the efficient and economical use of non-motorized (or intermediate) transport. An example is found in Bangladesh, where non-motorised rickshaw-vans (for goods) and passenger rickshaws dominate traffic.
Features of RTI: Physical	 These are the community RTI and consist of tracks, paths and footbridges, and sometimes (partly) engineered roads.
Titysical	 They should not exceed five kilometres in length.
Features of RTI:	 Most "traffic" is people travelling on foot.
Traffic characteristics	 Sometimes includes intermediate means of transport (IMT) - bicycles and animal drawn carts.
	Sometimes includes motorized transport.
	 Average daily motorized four-wheeled traffic on the majority of the RTI network is below 50 vehicles per day (VPD). Non- motorized traffic (NMT) can be a multiple of this number.
Features of RTI:	 Normally owned by local governments and communities.
Ownership	 Community RTI is usually undesignated - not formally recognized transport network
	If no legal framework exists then the community RTI is said to belong to the community.
	The capacity of communities to own and take care of RTI is limited usually to the intra- and near-village network and to short links to the main road network.





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Features of RTI: Managing and financing	 Transfers of funds are usually from central government (from the Treasury, dedicated road funds, donor financing)
	 Finds should be leveraged to generate local resources in cash or in kind.
	 Financial resources are usually extremely scarce, particularly for the maintenance of roads.
The (trouble) Spot Improvement approach	 This approach focuses on interventions only on the most difficult sections of roads.
	It is an appropriate method to improve access at low cost.
	 This approach is most often used where there are limited resources to maintain access for a deteriorating road network.

