

ROAD SAFETY

Roads are the preferred mode of Transport of our nation and the backbone for its Development. Millions of people commute the road daily for their routine trips. India has about 63 lakh Kms of road network and Tamil Nadu has about 2.7 lakh Km of road network. Road Safety is an issue of great concern across world. In the year 2022 a total of 4,61,312 road accidents reported in In India and a total of 64,105 accidents reported in Tamil Nadu. The Government of Tamil Nadu and Highways department is determined to reduce the number of road accidents and taking various steps towards the same.

As per World Health Organization (WHO) report (2022), road traffic crashes result in the death of approximately 11.90 lakh people around the world every year. As per authenticated report over 4.80 lakh road accidents occurred in the country during 2023 that resulted in over 1.72 lakh people fatalities. When compared with the 2022 data on road accidents, during 2023 the crashes have increased by 4.2% and there is an increase of 2.6% in fatalities.

INITIATIVES OF GOVERNMENT

Government of Tamil Nādu have taken several measures to reduce the road crashes by enhancing the road safety. Speed, proliferation of modern vehicles and insufficient capability of drivers, good roads are the major factors contributing to road accidents. Loss of life, temporary/permanent disability, loss of income and Material damage due to these accidents have raised concern about road safety among the people.

With a focus to reduce loss of lives in road crashes, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of TamilNadu announced Seeraana Salaigal ie., Fatality Accident Incident Reduction (FAIR), under "Innuryir Kappom Thittam" (IKT) during the Road Safety meeting held on 18.11.2021

Special Task Force – Road safety

To implement FAIR, a Special Task Force on Road Safety (STF-RS) was constituted on 15.3.2022 under the Chairmanship of the Additional Director General of Police, State Crime Records Bureau, in which, the Chief Engineer (H), Construction and Maintenance is one of the members. The STF is mandated to identify short-term and long-term solutions for reducing fatalities and injuries in road accidents. The implementation of the recommendations is also being monitored by STF.

Vide G.O No. 640, Home (Tr-V) Dated 21.11.2024, the Government have issued orders duly reconstituting the STF-RS with the Transport and Road Safety Commissioner as a Chairman.

The State Road Safety Council (SRSC):

The State Road Safety Council (SRSC) constituted vide G.O (MS) No. 1016 dated 04-07-2007 under Section 215 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. The objective of this Council is to improve road safety aspects in road transport sector in the State.

- SRSC is the high-level body to advise the Government on all policies and programmes relating to road safety.
- It is headed by the Hon'ble Transport Minister of Tamil Nādu along with 22 members from various departments.

'Guide for Road Safety Awareness'

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu released a 'Guide for Road Safety Awareness' on 22.08.2022 as a part of creating awareness on Road Safety.

'District- Level Road Safety Review Meetings:

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has Advised to conduct district-wise review meetings to emphasize road safety and create awareness. The Hon'ble Chief Minister for Public Works, Highways and

Minor Ports has been conducting Road Safety District level review meetings to sensitize all stakeholders. So far, meetings have been conducted in 22 districts viz., Namakkal, Chengalpattu, the Nilgiris, Theni, Madurai, Thoothukudi, Sivagangai, Ramanathapuram, Erode, Coimbatore, Virudhunagar, Karur, Tiruppur, Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Tenkasi, Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari, Cuddalore, Dindigul, Trichy and Mayiladuthurai. In these meetings, stakeholders including representatives of vehicle-owner associations and NGOs have actively participated.

District Road Safety Council:

The Government Of Tamilnadu has created **Road Safety Cell** for Chennai city headed by the Additional Director General Of Police (L&O) vide G.O.(Ms). No. 521 Home Department, Dated:11.06.2003.

This Road Safety Cell was reconstituted as **Chennai District Road Safety Committee** vide G.O.Ms.No.1566 Home (Transport-v) Department, Dated 20.11.2008.

GoTN established the District Road Safety Committee in each district under the Chairmanship of the District Collectors with the job of considering various measures needed to promote road safety, prepare road safety plans with special attention to the accident-prone spots/stretchers, maintenance of roads, driver training, accident analysis, publicity initiatives, traffic planning, highway patrol, passenger amenities, providing assistance to accident hit/affected people, etc., in the districts.

The District Road Safety Committee for Chennai under the Chairmanship of the Commissioner of Police (CoP), Chennai, would address various Road Safety related issues in Chennai City.

ACCIDENT BLACK SPOTS RECTIFICATION

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India had identified 1208 accident black-spot locations in Tamil Nadu based on the data collected during the years 2015-18. Subsequently, 273 accident blackspot locations on NHAI and NH roads were also identified. The long-

term rectification measures have been completed for 857 accident black spots and works on the remaining accident black spots are in various stages of implementation.

HOTSPOTS RECTIFICATION

STF -RS have identified 3980 number of Hotspots in Field Survey-1 and 2185 number of Hotspots in Field Survey-2 for short-term and long-term rectifications for accident-prone zones. Rectification under short-term measures have been completed for all the hotspots and works for Long-term measures are in progress.

ROAD SAFETY WORKS

As short-term road safety measures, Provision of speed breakers, signboards, and protective works are being taken up to reduce accidents, under the guidance provided by the Road Safety Wing of the department. Long-term measures such as construction of grade separators, Vehicular Underpass, widening of road, junction improvement, straightening of curves etc., are also being undertaken under the regular schemes.

Road Safety Works under CRIDP

In the financial year 2024 – 25, 300 works have been taken up in the CRIDP under Road safety at the cost of Rs. 207.47 Crore which includes curve widening, junction improvements and providing metal crash barriers, etc., that are in progress.

Junction Improvement Works

Junctions are crucial for highway traffic as they allow vehicles to change direction, access different roads, and connect various parts of a highway network, but their most important role is ensuring safety by minimizing conflict points and accidents through proper design and traffic control measures at these intersections where multiple vehicles converge.

During 2024-25, 137 numbers of accident-prone junctions have been identified and rectification works are taken up at a cost of Rs.162.12 Cr. The works are in progress.

ROAD SAFETY TRAINING

Road safety training is important because it helps Engineers to design safer roads and reduce the risk of accidents. So far, 590 Engineers in 16 batches have been trained. Key elements in Road Safety Engineering with practical sessions at site were explained to the trainees.

Road Safety Awareness Programmes:

The Engineers of Road Safety Wing and the Construction and Maintenance Wing regularly conduct awareness Programmes at several Schools, Colleges and Public places on road safety. Officials from the Traffic Police, Transport Department and public representatives also join in creating awareness. So far, 188 such awareness programs have been conducted during this year.

Junction Improvements:

KM 18/8 COIMBATORE – SIRUVANI ROAD



Before



After

**KM 81/6 OF AVINASHI - TIRUPPUR - PALLADAM - POLLACHI - COCHIN
(VIA) MEENKARAI ROAD**



Before



After

Widening from Two Lane to Four Lane including Junction Improvements at Km 93/2 - 93/6 of Avinashi - Tiruppur - Palladam - Pollachi - Cochin (via) Meenkarai Road



Before



After