

6.1. Roads and Bridges

Tamil Nadu is a large state with a high level of urbanization. Transport linkages play an important role in the development of the state. Rail and Road are the dominant modes of transport and are well coordinated. The road transport network in the State contributes substantially to the development of a strong industrial base as well as for the development of the whole economy. Tamil Nadu has a more extensive road network than most of the Indian States.

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Present Status

Tamil Nadu has an area of 1,30,058 Sq.km. The total length of roads in the State is 1,93,918 km. of which 61,471 km. is maintained by the Highways Department and the balance length of roads are maintained by Local Bodies and other departments. The break up details of the road network is given in the table below:

Details of Government Roads – Category wise in Tamil Nadu

S. No.	Category of Road	Length in kms				Total
		Single Lane	Inter-mediate Lane	Double Lane	Multi Lane	
1.	National Highways	18	42	1155	25	1240
	Under NHAI	-	-	2791	469	3260
2.	State Highways	827	954	7021	462	9264
3.	Major District Roads	3961	2869	2419	202	9451
4.	Other District Roads	33895	1939	646	31	36510
5.	Sugarcane Roads	1711	3	32	--	1746
	Total - Highways	40412	5807	14064	1189	61471

Source: Highways Department

Tamil Nadu is in the forefront in the development of road infrastructure. The density of road network in Tamil Nadu is 286 km per lakh of population, which is higher than the national average of 258.20 km.

Moreover, the road network in the state is 146 km. per 100 sq. km. area, which is higher than the national average of 74.90 km. This is an indicator of very good road infrastructure facilities in Tamil Nadu.

The faster economic growth in the state over the last seventeen years has created new demands for transport infrastructure in general and roads in particular. The Government of India has taken major steps to strengthen the National Highway network in the country and the major ongoing projects in the State of Tamil Nadu are National Highways Development Project (NHDP) (Phase - I) i.e., Golden Quadrilateral, NHDP (Phase II) i.e., North South Corridor, Port Connectivity Scheme (NH 7A), Four laning of NH 45 and 45 B and National Highways Development Project (NHDP) (Phase III).

Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme (CRIDP)

Under the Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme, the State Highways, Major District Roads and Other District Roads are taken up for widening and strengthening as per Indian Roads Congress (IRC) standards in a phased manner.

State Highways

The State Highways are arterial routes of the State, linking district headquarters and important towns and connecting them with National Highways or Highways of the neighboring States. Out of 9264 km. of State Highways, 827 km. are Single lane carriageway, 954 km. are Intermediate lane carriageway, 7021 km. are Double lane carriageway and 462 km. are Multi lane carriageway. During the year 2007-08, Widening and Improvements to 1421 km. of road works and 16 bridge works have been completed at a cost of Rs.420 crore. During the year 2008-09, 1766 km. roads and 65 bridge works are taken up at a cost of Rs.441.44 crore. It is anticipated that 1247 km. road works and 60 bridge works will be completed by the end of the year. In the year 2009-10 it is proposed to take 1339 km. length of roads and 65 bridge works.

Major District Roads

A major requirement in respect of major district roads is to bring to minimum two lane standards, strengthening of weak pavements and widening and reconstruction of weak and narrow bridges and culverts. Major District Roads connect production centre with marketing centres and connecting these centres with the important highways. It is proposed to widen atleast 40% of the Major District Roads to two lane standards in the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Out of 9451 km. of Major District Roads, 3961 km. are Single Lane, 2869 km. are Intermediate Lane, 2419 km. are Double Lane and 202 km. are Multi Lane. During the year 2007-08, road works for a length of 1869 km. and 17 bridge works have been completed at a cost of Rs.379.89 crore. During the year 2008-09, 1688 km. road work and 55 bridge works are taken up at a cost of Rs.283.92 crore. It is anticipated that 1200 km. length of roads and 30 bridge works will be completed by the end of the year 2008-09. In the year 2009-10, it is proposed to take 1256 km. and 65 bridge works with an outlay of Rs.92 crore.

Other District Roads

Other District Roads (ODR) connects rural production centres and marketing centres with Taluk headquarters and other main roads nearby. Out of 36510 km. of Other District Roads, 33895 km. are Single Lane, 1939 km. are Intermediate Lane, 646 km. are Double Lane and 31 km. are Multi Lane. During the year 2007-08, road works for a length of 1405 km. and 40 bridge works have been completed at a cost of Rs.162.10 crore. In the year 2008-09, 1755 km. road works and 100 bridge works are taken up at a cost of Rs.162.63 crore. It is anticipated that 846 km. length of roads and 65 bridge works will be completed by the end of the year 2008-09. In the year 2009-10, it is proposed to take 2263 km. of road and 91 bridge works at a cost of Rs.210 crore.

Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (Other District Roads)

During 2007-08, 919 km. length of roads and 20 bridge/ culvert work have been completed at a cost of Rs.104.96 crore, including spill over works. During the year 2008-09, 1080 km. length of roads and 35 bridge works are taken up at a

cost of Rs.95.04 crore and it is anticipated that 600 km. length of roads and 30 bridge works will be completed at a cost of Rs.120 crore by the end of the year 2008-09. In the year 2009-10, it is proposed to take 1307 km. length of roads and 29 bridge works with an outlay of Rs.540.50 crore.

Chennai Metropolitan Development Plan

In order to improve the traffic and transportation facilities in the Chennai Metropolitan Development Area, a comprehensive traffic and transportation management plan has been formulated for Chennai Metropolitan Area. Under the scheme of Traffic and Transport Improvement in Chennai Metro area, during 2007-08, 139 km. length of road works, 38 bridges/ culverts and centre median works have been completed at a cost of Rs.109 crore. During 2008-09, 273 km. length of 79 roads at a cost of Rs.275 crore has been taken up for execution. It is anticipated that 189 km. length of 50 roads at a cost of Rs.156 crore would be completed during this year.

Revamped Central Road Fund

The Government of India set up the Central Road Fund from the year 2000 with accruals from Special Cess levied on petrol and diesel consumed in the State. Under this scheme during 2007-08, 27 Road works for a length of 116.82 km. and 6 bridge works were completed at a cost of Rs.87.06 crore. During 2008-09, 57 road works for a length of 461.83 km. and 16 bridge works are taken up at a cost of Rs.75 crore. It is anticipated that 325 km. length of road works and 7 bridges will be completed by the end of the year 2008-09 with an outlay of Rs.125 crore. In the year 2009-10, it is proposed to take 236.83 km. length of road works and 9 bridge works with an outlay of Rs.83 crore.

Improvements to Major District Roads and Other District Roads

Under this scheme, Improvement to Other District Roads/ Major District Roads and Construction of bridges have been taken up with NABARD loan assistance for the benefit of Rural Sector. During 2007-08, 187 Km length of road works and 4 bridge works have been completed at a cost of Rs.18 crore including spill over works. In the year 2008-09, it has been proposed to complete

2 bridges at an estimated expenditure of Rs.52.80 crore. In the year 2009-10, it is proposed to take 2 bridges with an outlay of Rs.2.5 crore.

Rural Roads Improvement Scheme

During 2007-08, 471 Km of roads have been improved and 9 bridges constructed at a cost of Rs.95 crore. These works have helped to provide connectivity to 280 villages. During 2008-09, 600 Km of rural roads and 12 bridges were taken up for improvement at a total cost of Rs.134 crore.

During this year, it has been proposed to complete 630 Km roads and 12 bridges at an expenditure of Rs. 117 crore.

During 2009-10, it is proposed to take 40 km length of roads and 27 bridges at a cost of Rs.11.90 crore.

Bus route Roads Improvement Scheme

During 2007-08, 250 Km of roads have been improved and 5 bridges constructed in Chennai Metro Area at a cost of Rs.48 crore. During 2008-09, 150 Km of roads and 3 bridges were taken up for improvement at a total cost of Rs.46 crore.

River bridges with NABARD loan assistance

Under this scheme 55 river bridges and 417 Km length of 139 roads were taken up out of which 43 bridges and 410 Km length of 136 road work has been completed and balance works are in progress. Also sanction was accorded for construction of four major bridges across important rivers at a cost of Rs.121.50 crore in anticipation of approval from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) bank. These works are in estimate /tender stages.

Construction of Railway Over Bridge (ROBs) / Railway Under Bridge (RUBs)

During 2007-2008, the State Government sanctioned 42 ROBs/RUBs at a cost of Rs.876.70 crore under Railway Works Programme (RWP) on cost sharing basis. During 2007-08, 4 ROBs/RUBs has been completed. During 2008-09, 23

ROBs/RUBs has been taken up and it is anticipated that 12 ROBs would be completed out of spill over works under RWP and HUDCO loan assistance at a cost of Rs.183 crore.

In the year 2009-10, it is proposed to take 4 ROBs/RUBs with an outlay of Rs.200.00 crore.

Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project III (TNUDP III)

Under the scheme implemented with World Bank assistance, 5 road works for a length of 36 km at a cost of Rs.102.24 crore in Chennai Metropolitan Area (CMA) has been sanctioned and taken up. Tenders for 2 road works are to be called for. Resettlement and rehabilitation are in progress for balance works. Tenders will be called for on completion of the same.

Construction of Bridges under Tsunami Emergency Assistance Project (TEAP) with loan assistance from Asian Development Bank

Under this scheme, construction of 5 bridges in the Tsunami affected Districts of Nagapattinam, Cuddalore and Thiruvallur in Tamil Nadu has been taken up with loan assistance from Asian Development Bank. The Bridges are to be constructed in vulnerable locations to serve the surrounding communities during any disaster in future. It is anticipated that an expenditure of Rs. 48 crore would be incurred during the year 2008-09. In the year 2009-10, it is proposed to take 4 bridges with an outlay of Rs.31 crore.

Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project (Externally Aided Project)

Under the World Bank assisted Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project upgradation of roads to conform to international standards has been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs.2160 crore. The World Bank loan component for the project is Rs.1670 crore and Tamil Nadu Government's share is Rs.490 crore. The important features of this project are upgradation of 742 km. of roads connecting 11 districts, enhanced periodical maintenance of 1030 km. of State Highways & Major District Roads and implementation of Road Safety Works

including improvements of accident prone zones and implementation of Institutional Strengthening Action Plan for Highways Department.

During the year 2007-08, 479.22 km. of road upgradation and maintenance works and 3 blackspot improvement works have been completed at a cost of Rs.429.60 crore. During the year, 2008-09, 610.78 km. of road upgradation and maintenance works and 14 blackspot improvement work have been taken up at a cost of Rs.507.16 crore and it is anticipated that 447 km. of road upgradation and maintenance works and 12 blackspot improvement works at an outlay of Rs.507.16 crore will be completed during the year 2008-09.

In the year 2009-10, it is proposed to take 165 km. of road for upgradation and maintenance work with an outlay of Rs.690.50 crore.

Special Projects

Tamil Nadu Road Infrastructure Development Corporation

Tamil Nadu Road Infrastructure Development Corporation was set up with the objective to catalyse private sector participation and investment in road sector.

Road Infrastructure Development in Oragadam Industrial Park Area

To improve the road infrastructure facilities in the fast developing Oragadam Industrial park area, near Sriperumpudur (Kancheepuram District), the Government have sanctioned Rs.300 crore during 2006-07 for taking up the following works:

- Widening of Singaperumalkoil – Sriperumpudur road (SH-57) (24.60 Km) to six lane with central median (Four laning in phase-I)
- Widening of Vandalur – Wallajabad road (SH-48) (33.60 Km) to four lane with central median
- Forming a Bye pass for Ponthur Village in Singaperumalkoil – Sriperumbudur Road
- Forming Service road for 3 km on each side of the junction at Oragadam
- Construction of a Grade Separator (over bridge) at Oragadam junction.

The work of widening to four lanes has been taken up and works are in progress. Action to acquire additional lands required to widen to 6 lanes are being carried out. During the year 2008-09, Government have sanctioned Rs.119 crore for the above works and the anticipated expenditure is Rs.120 crore. In the year 2009-10, Rs.38 crore is proposed for the above works.

Rajiv Gandhi Salai (IT Expressway) (Extension)

Phase-I of Rajiv Gandhi Salai (IT Expressway) widening to 6 lane from Madhya Kailash to Siruseri is nearing completion. The Government has decided to extend IT Expressway from Siruseri to Mamallapuram in Phase-II and has sanctioned Rs. 70 crore for acquiring lands required for widening for a further length of 25.3 Km. Land acquisition works have been taken up. The feasibility report for this project has been completed.

Plan Outlay for 2009-10

The outlay approved for Roads and Bridges during 2009-10 is Rs. 2032.77 crore. Of this, the outlays proposed for Scheduled Caste Sub Plan and Tribal Area Sub Plan are Rs.123.38 crore and Rs.0.05 lakh respectively.