

SUSTAINABILITY TOOLKIT FOR TRANSPORT PROJECTS

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ABSTRACT

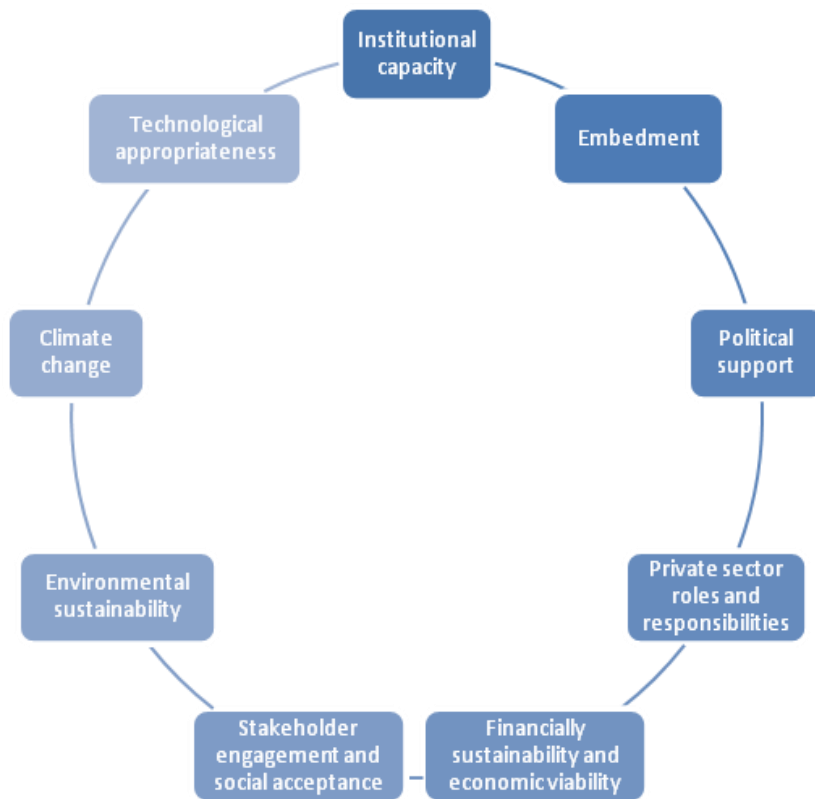
Donor agencies support projects and programs in the transport sector with the main goal of promoting the recipient country's development agenda. Such support often aims to transfer knowledge, increase awareness and mainstream new technologies and methodologies that will make a positive and lasting impact in solving transport problems in developing countries. The objective is to contribute to poverty reduction in general and help achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The donor support phase usually has a limited time frame with the expectation that the host nation will become aware of the potential benefits of the project and will embed the initiatives into national policies and strategies. When this does happen, the initiatives can be said to be mainstreamed with high prospects of their continuance and resulting long-lasting benefits.

Unfortunately, some initiatives, however potentially beneficial they may be to the recipient country, often fall away within a relatively short period after donor support is withdrawn. When this happens, the substantial human and financial investment in the research or development initiative by both donor and recipient country agencies is often wasted. Even more damaging for local poor communities are circumstances where improvements in livelihoods, which began under the initiatives, are reversed when they fail.

Some lessons have been learnt and the WB document "Assessing Development Effectiveness" provides guidance on assessing reliable feedback from projects. However, it would be preferable to have a more comprehensive framework for assessing the prospects for sustainability before projects are implemented such as by undertaking a Project Sustainability Audit. The Transport Research Support Program (TRSP), hosted in the Transport Anchor, has commissioned Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) from UK to develop a "Sustainability Toolkit for Transport Projects" for use by Task Team Leaders (TTLs) at project conception and throughout project delivery.

The Sustainability Toolkit is a sophisticated checklist to assess the potential for the project to be sustainable in the long run. This checklist and accompanying guidance cover the expected opportunities and constraints related to sustainability. A set of core sustainability principles were developed to inform the process of providing loans and grants to recipient countries, providing the evidence base necessary for Bank clients to be convinced they will have a sustainable product representing value for money.

The toolkit is structured so that users can search either by common problem or barrier, core sustainability principle or by an element of the World Bank's project life cycle.



The toolkit covers five of the seven stages of the project life cycle, from problem identification through to procurement and negotiation.

