

## **What Does Integrated Planning mean for RTS?**

From the national point of view rural activities are important in relation to national goals and targets that the government has set for overall economic and social development. These would likely relate to increases in agricultural production, the development of rural industries, improvements in the education levels and health, and the general integration of the nation through improved communication. At the local household level the issue is more basic. For households to benefit from investments members must be able to access facilities and take advantage of the services provided under the investment. It is thus the need to integrate the needs of households with broader national economic and social objectives that is at the goal of integrated RTS planning.

### **Methodology**

To be fully effective, an RTS plan must first fall within the framework of a national policies. It should include broad strategies that address all aspects of rural services provision as well as the organization of horizontal (inter-departmental; inter-district/municipal) and vertical (across administrative levels; public-private) institutional responsibilities. The national policy provides a framework and direction for the development and coordination of programs in different sectors and at all levels of government. Furthermore, a national strategy constitutes government's commitment to various initiatives and actions. It is an instrument for public debate, as there will be conflicting interests between stakeholders, and brings out the interfaces between rural transport and other parts of the transport subsectors/other sectors. It thus facilitates the integration of rural transport within sector-wide planning and design activities, such as land development plans, traffic management schemes, road design, road maintenance, etc.

At the regional and state planning levels RTS policies must provide guidance and a framework within which responsible agencies can plan and work. They should specify important strategic action areas and nominate responsible 'lead agencies'. The objectives of a state/regional policy must be clearly defined in order to facilitate evaluation and planning and may include, but not limited to, such areas as, (a) the integration of services planning within state/regional land use planning; (b) prioritization of areas with high levels of transport activities; (c) monitoring of rural transport patterns; and, (d) development of by laws regarding RTS.

The key to integrated rural planning takes place at the local level where many of the objectives of higher level policies are translated into practical programs and projects tailored to specific needs. Information gained at the local level is also serves and important feedback mechanism for higher level planning needs. The basic aims of a local plans usually include the following:

- survey the extent and the nature of various forms of transport within the area;

- determine the specific needs of the community with participation of all stakeholders;
- indicate constraints to necessary RTS supply and demand;
- identify practical interventions; and,
- design engineering measures that address problems, including costs and implementation plans.

Based on: Guitink, P. 1996. *Strategic Planning for Non-motorized Mobility*. Infrastructure Notes Series, No. OT-4. The World Bank, Transport. Water and Urban Development Department, Transport Division, Washington, DC.

To learn more:

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