

Prior Information Notice

Improving Access to Private Sector Finance and Management of Road and Rail Transport

This is a prior information notice (PIN) only. A call for competition will be launched once the Terms of Reference are fully defined and approved.

The Applied Research Programme in High Volume Transport (HVT) is a five-year programme funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). The objective of the programme is to strengthen the evidence base that will support high volume road and rail transport to be greener, more accessible, more affordable, more inclusive and safer. This objective will be achieved by producing a body of new research relevant to Africa and South Asia and also updating vital transport research that will help policy-makers and practitioners make informed investment decisions, reduce poverty and develop economies. More information about the HVT Programme [can be found here](#).

Adequate and good quality transport infrastructure is universally recognised as a key element for economic growth and societal development, but Africa is poorly served compared to South Asia and other developing regions. Sub-Saharan Africa has the lowest road and railway densities and is the only region where road density has declined over the past 20 years (1990-2011)¹.

The study to improving access to private sector finance and management of road and rail transport will assist the governments of low income countries (LICs) in Africa and South Asia explore opportunities to increase private sector participation to expand the quantity and improve the quality of road and rail transport.

By bringing together the key evidence-base technical, commercial, political and institutional issues, the study will give financiers, technocrats and public sector officials, a set of policy, strategy and practical guidelines. These guidelines will improve their understanding, collaboration, and decision making in the financing, delivery and management of road and rail transport.

The study will deliver a Research Report, a Policy Guide and an academic paper and the study will be carried out in two phases. Phase 1 will draw lessons from current practice on private sector financing, Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and concession agreements, and propose ways of increasing private financing and improving transport maintenance and management. The reviews will involve partner and LIC stakeholder consultations. Phase 2 will publish at least one academic paper and develop, validate, and prepare for publication the Policy Guide.

The HVT Programme will demand experts that have the necessary professional skills and experience in private sector investment in transport and management of infrastructure and professionals with the skills and ability to deliver an innovative, convincing, concise, comprehensive and user-friendly Policy Guide.

Important Note

This is a Prior Information Notice, not a call for competition/ tender at this time. No tender documents are available at this stage. The project for Improving Access to Private Sector Finance and Management of Road and Rail Transport will be advertised for competitive tender at a later stage by the HVT PMU.

If you have **not** received this notice directly from the HVT PMU, you may wish to subscribe to updates from the HVT Programme. By subscribing, you will receive information on research projects, procurement opportunities, and other project activities. Use [this link](#) to subscribe.

¹ Africa's Pulse: An analysis of issues shaping Africa's economic future, World Bank, April 2017