

URUGUAY

SECTOR:	Transportation
PROJECT NAME:	Integration Corridors and Primary Road Improvement Program (1022/OC-UR)
TOTAL COST:	\$176 million
FINANCING:	
IDB	\$123 million
LOCAL	\$ 53 million
DATE OF APPROVAL:	July 9, 1997
GENERAL DESCRIPTION:	<p>The general objective of this program is to reduce transportation costs and eliminate constraints on international traffic along the main integration corridors and elsewhere within the national highway system. The program has three specific goals: (a) improving the features and structural capacity of national highways and bridges that are part of the integration corridors, thus eliminating any constraints on their use and ensuring safer road conditions; (b) instituting more efficient maintenance management arrangements for the national highway system, and (c) implementing measures for institutional strengthening designed to improve the effectiveness of the Ministry of Transportation and Public Works (MTO) as well as the National Highway Department (DNV), as the agencies in charge of investment policy in the road sector, and promote private sector involvement in direct management of the transportation infrastructure.</p> <p>The program consists of three specific projects: (a) a highway rehabilitation and bridge improvements project, including works for replacing pavement, widening roadways, improving alignment of problem segments, and expanding bridges with insufficient width or other constraints; (b) a rehabilitation and maintenance pilot project, which consists of a new system for maintenance with private sector participation; and (c) an institutional strengthening project to support the measures of the two agencies involved. The institutional strengthening component is divided into three areas: (a) transportation policy; (b) private sector participation in the road sector; and (c) strengthening of the DNV.</p>
CONSULTANTS:	<p>As part of the engineering and administration expenses, consultants will be hired to carry out the following activities: (a) advisory services for evaluation of the highway construction project designs (National Competitive Bidding - NCB); (b) design of the highway construction project (NCB); (c) hiring of construction managers (NCB); (d) hiring of supervisors for the pilot project contract and a review of past experiences in private sector maintenance arrangements as part of the same services (NCB); (e) advisory services to implement a computerized system for program monitoring (NCB); (f) a study on transportation planning and policy, connected with the study on user fees and taxation in the transportation sector, and other studies on specific aspects of freight and passenger transportation (International Competitive Bidding - ICB); (g) a feasibility study and initiation of new concessions for two routes (ICB); (h) staff and advisory services for strengthening the environment unit to be set up in the DNV (NCB); (i) various activities under the road safety project (implementation of a traffic accident analysis system that will incorporate methodologies for consideration of road safety problems in engineering designs, traffic management, statistical accident analysis, and economic evaluation of projects) (ICB); (j) training for DNV managerial staff (NCB); (k) a study on environmental liabilities that are not part of the national highway system (ICB); (l) training course in environmental assessment of highway</p>

projects (NCB); and (m) a study on highway transportation of hazardous substances and training program, to initiate regulation of that type of transportation (ICB); (n) implementation of the statistical traffic survey program, including provision of traffic count equipment and taking readings at 52 sites over five years (ICB); (o) implementation of a single national drivers registry (NCB); (p) a study on rice transportation on the east coast (NCB); and (q) a study on national freight transportation.

GOODS AND EQUIPMENT:

Under the institutional strengthening component of the proposed program, procurement of computer hardware and software will be financed.

CIVIL WORKS:

The program will finance works under the highway rehabilitation component which is composed of 25 segments of 7.0 m to 7.2 m primary national highways with 1.5 m and wider shoulders and a total length of approximately 520 km. These works will involve the replacement of pavement, widening of the roadway, and in certain cases improvements in the alignment to remedy problems concerning mainly road safety. Under the bridge improvement plan, includes works on 26 bridges totaling some 2,200 m and located in the main freight transportation corridors in the country. Approximately 40 percent of these bridges will be fully rebuilt, and the remainder will have their structure reinforced and their roadway widened to bear the traffic in proper road safety conditions. Bridges that are widened and reinforced will be symmetrically increased from 5.5 m to 8.0 m, and reinforced to resist the new maximum load capacity of 45 MT. Sidewalks with 1.2 m widths will also be built, without altering the bridge structurally or jeopardizing its aesthetic value. The rehabilitation and maintenance pilot project, will hire a road works firm, which will be assigned a segment of the system (360 km of roads), and after rehabilitating it to meet the technical standards, it will be in charge of its maintenance. This component will consist of two parts: (a) initial rehabilitation of certain segments of the roads, with quality controls; and (b) maintenance of all the roads, including those rehabilitated during the contract period, with maintenance activities defined and carried out by the contractor, including any necessary reinforcement works. The roads selected for the pilot project are paved with asphalt (154 km), concrete (88 km), bitumous treatment (37 km), reinforced priming (21 km), and gravel (59 km).

EXECUTING AGENCY:

Ministerio de Transporte y Obras Públicas (MTO)
Ministry of Transportation and Public Works through the
Dirección Nacional de Vialidad (DNV)
Rion 561, Montevideo, Uruguay
Tel: (59-82) 965-768
Fax: (59-82) 962-883
Contact: Agustn Aguerre