

ROAD SAFETY AUDIT ON NATIONAL AND REGIONAL NETWORKS

A. Mouratidis

Professor, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, (GR)

ABSTRACT

A road Safety Audit is a formal safety performance evaluation of a road and a rational approach to measures of improvement. Main targets of a Road Safety Audit are the reduction of accident rate and the mitigation of accident severity.

Modern highways are designed through an optimization process introducing several criteria, such as construction cost, travel time, ride comfort, environmental impact, land use effects and, especially, road safety. However, if new roads are not always at the desired level of safety, most older roads present significant deficiencies and need effective improvement.

In the present paper, the structure and the objectives of a Road Safety Audit model are presented meant for regional and national road networks. The site survey, assessing the condition of road elements, that is, pavements, road equipment, geometric features, visibility, is introduced as an important stage of the whole procedure. The practice of a safety audit for existing roads may prove useful to improve regional and national roads which, despite recent and, usually occasional rehabilitation operations, still remain high risk traffic links.

KEYWORDS :Road, safety, design, site survey