



Success Story

Officials Implement Road Safety Team's Recommendations

RESEARCH SUGGESTS that about 40,000 people die from crashes on Indonesia's roads annually, and another 500,000 are injured. The Directorate General of Highways (DGH) is tackling this problem by addressing one key reason for many crashes: inadequate road design. While many people assume that crashes are almost entirely due to human error, road safety specialists know that road engineering plays a key role in both preventing crashes and minimising their severity.

Indonesia has few road safety engineers, so DGH began working with the Indonesia Infrastructure Initiative to create a Road Safety Engineering Team that is increasing capacity both nationally and locally. The Team, which includes DGH officials and national and international consultants, conducts road safety inspections of "blackspots" – places where a high number of severe crashes have occurred. The inspections identify low cost steps to make the blackspot safer, at the same time local officials receive hands-on training by taking part in the inspection.

One such inspection was conducted in March 2010 in Menteng, Jakarta, at a loop near Jalan Sumenep. In February 2010, three young people were killed and two more seriously injured when their car failed to negotiate the loop and hit a fence. David Hawes (AusAid Infrastructure Advisor), recognising the hazards of this location, called on the RSE Team at DGH to inspect this location and to recommend low cost countermeasures. Inspectors quickly identified why the site is prone to crashes. Following new construction two years ago, northbound cars now cross a four-lane bridge, often at high speed, unable to see that after the bridge, the two left lanes are forced to turn into the loop. There were no speed limits posted and no warning signs to alert drivers in advance that they were in a "trap lane."

The team prepared several recommendations for making this spot safer. The Traffic Directorate of the Jakarta Police and the Provincial Transportation Agency (DISHUB) have already begun to institute them. They have removed a potentially misleading direction sign, and installed four 60km/h signs to limit speed, a new cantilever advanced direction sign to guide drivers, and new chevron alignment markers around the loop. A large delineator has been installed on the nose of the island. Additional steps are underway. These measures will reduce the risks at this location and hopefully prevent future crashes. ●

"To get such positive action in world record time is wonderful."

– *IndII Road Safety Consultant Phil Jordan, commenting on the rapid response by Jakarta's traffic directorate to the audit recommendations*



The Menteng blackspot, with some of the new safety features in place.

Indonesia Infrastructure Initiative is an Australian Government funded project designed to promote economic growth in Indonesia by enhancing the relevance, quality and quantum of infrastructure investment

