

SUMMARY OF PROJECT PERFORMANCE

A. Background

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved the Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project (current project) on 7 August 2019 for \$200 million from its ordinary capital resources with an attached technical assistance for \$ 1 million from the Technical Assistance Special Fund.¹ The loan and project agreements were signed on 6 September 2019, and the project became effective 7 November 2019. The current project aims to (i) improve and maintain conditions and safety of selected 2,100 kilometer (km) rural roads and (ii) enhance capacity of rural infrastructure agency and awareness among road users. The project's executing agency is the State of Maharashtra acting through Maharashtra Rural Road Development Association (MRRDA).

2. The proposed additional financing project will scale up the current project's outputs by (i) expanding improvement and maintenance of rural roads and bridges under output 1 by 2,900 km, (ii) adding further piloting of new technologies such as asphalt blended with plastic waste and pre-cast concrete arch bridges under output 1, and (iii) adding the following under output 2: (a) impact evaluation study and (b) mobile mapping monitoring tool.

B. Performance of the Project

3. The current project is *performing well* as based on assessments in the following aspects:
- (i) **Delivery of expected outputs is successful.** Initial actions as agreed in the current project's project administration manual are progressing as planned. Contractors have been engaged for all the 195 civil works contracts and the project implementation support consulting service. As of 31 May 2021, 1,132.8 km of roads have already been completed.
 - (ii) **Implementation progress is satisfactory.** Cumulative contract awards were projected to be \$172.3 million, and disbursements were projected at \$56.3 million as of 5 July 2021. The actual achievements were \$170.7 million (99.2%) for contract awards and \$59.6 million (105.9%) for disbursements as of 5 July 2021.
 - (iii) **Compliance with safeguard policy requirements is satisfactory.** Each safeguard item is being complied with as confirmed in the inception mission on 8–11 June 2021.
 - (iv) **Management of risks is successful.** All the risks indicated in the current project's risk assessment and risk management plan have been managed successfully. As such, the successful implementation of the project is not threatened by major risks.
 - (v) **Project rating is on track.** The project is rated *on track* in the project performance rating.

C. Conclusion

4. The project is performing well in accordance with the criteria under the staff instructions.² The commitment of MRRDA's senior management and capacity of MRRDA staff shown in implementation of the current project will warrant sound implementation of the additional financing project.

¹ ADB. 2019. [India: Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project](#). Manila.

² ADB. 2018. *Staff Instruction on Business Processes for Additional Financing (Sovereign Operations)*. Manila.