Advance Contracting Notice

Date: 24 April 2018

Country/Borrower: Bangladesh

Title of Proposed Project: 47243-BAN: Rural Connectivity Improvement Project

Name and Address of Executing Agency:

- **Executing Agency:** Local Government Engineering Department
- **Contact Person:** Mr. Md. Anwarul Islam, Project Director
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Brief Description of the Project:

The project will improve about 1,700 km of rural roads to all-weather standards, serving the agriculture sector and 51.5 million rural people (49% of the country's population) living in 34 districts in five administrative divisions. It will support the government's agricultural strategy of increasing agricultural productivity, encouraging commercial agriculture and agribusiness development, increasing employment opportunities for rural poor people, and reducing the poverty level. The project will also enhance the capacity of the rural infrastructure agency on road asset management, road safety, contract management, financial management and climate-resilient road design and construction; and enhance road users' awareness on road safety, among others. In addition, the project will assist Bangladesh develop its rural road master plan for the entire country using GIS-based technology.

Brief Description of Goods and Related Services, Works or Consulting Services to be Procured and Retroactive Financing:

All contracts will be procured in accordance with ADB’s Procurement Policy: Goods, Works, Nonconsulting and Consulting Services (2017, as amended from time to time) and Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers: Goods, Works, Nonconsulting and Consulting Services (2017, as amended from time to time). Advance contracting and retroactive financing will be considered and used to expedite the project implementation. ADB approval of advance contracting will not commit ADB to subsequently approve the project or to finance the procurement costs.

The proceeds of the loan are intended to be used for the procurement of civil works, consulting services, vehicle, and equipment contracts. The project will procure 37 civil works to upgrade around 1,700 kilometers of rural roads in 34 districts through national competitive bidding (NCB)

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using one-stage, one-envelope bidding procedure. Bidding for the works contracts will commence by July 2018. There are three consulting services packages under the contract: (i) project implementation support consultant (PISC); (ii) capacity development consultant for GIS-based development of a rural road masterplan; and (iii) project-associated transaction technical assistance (TRTA) for institutional development initiatives. Expressions of interest for PISC will be called for in May 2018. All consultants will be engaged through a firm using ADB’s quality-and cost-based selection (QCBS). Vehicles will be procured through NCB, and other goods either through NCB or shopping.