

TRANSPORT

Fact Sheet

BACKGROUND

Transportation sector serves as a crucial link connecting people to employment, markets, and goods and services. The lack of timely maintenance and investments in the sector has placed significant strain on existing infrastructure to meet the growing demand for transport services as society progresses. Despite substantial investments in infrastructure over the years, there are persistent challenges including aging infrastructure, lack of access and adequate infrastructure, particularly in rural areas that hinder equitable access to efficient and effective mobility, while also ensuring environmental sustainability. Over the medium term from 2024 – 2026, the Government seeks to achieve an integrated eco-friendly transportation system that is efficient and effective in meeting the demands of its users while also ensuring it is sustainable, accessible and safe.

CURRENT STATUS

Transport contributed -0.67 to Fiji's GDP In 2021, the lowest level of contribution since 2014, which stood at 4.03%. Percentage contribution to GDP for transport fell below 2% from 2019 onwards. Fiji has expanded its land and maritime transport infrastructure considerably, encompassing 7,659,868 kilometers of roads, 1,389 bridges and crossings, and 48 jetties. The construction sector has picked up post-COVID. Fiji witnessed a 14% increase in vehicle registration from 2017 - 2021. There has been a 51% increase in vehicle registration from 2010 levels of approximately 98,000 vehicles to nearly 148,000 to date. Many registered vehicles, approximately 74% are privately owned.

CHALLENGES

1. *Maintaining infrastructure:* emphasis on allocating the necessary resources to effectively undertake both routine and periodic maintenance for our infrastructure and transport assets.
2. *Inadequate design and capacity:* require a concerted approach and a combination of innovative strategies that is accepted to Fiji's context and culture.
3. *Legislative Reform:* amendment of regulations to include specific requirements for special-needs friendly features in public services as well as
4. *Legislative Reform:* review legislations to include requirements for ensuring disability access.
5. *Climate Change:* New investments in the transport sector must be designed and constructed to withstand the impacts of climate change, including the heightened frequency and intensity of extreme weather events.
6. *Access to Roads and inter-island transport:* more equitable access to transport infrastructure and services to the rural community and outer islands.
7. *Road Safety:* road safety strategy due to the absence of a national roads strategy or Action Plan.
8. *Access to inter-island transport:* issues of disruption to service schedules and aged vessels that compromise safety and comfort.
9. *Decarbonising Fiji's maritime sector:* has been slow due to the very minimal efforts by both the public and private sector.

FUTURE POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

➤ **Ensuring adequate maintenance of existing infrastructure assets:**

- ✓ Review current model of contracting for road maintenance;
- ✓ Consider options for expansion through relocation or separation of vessel handling operations;
- ✓ Continued investment in outer island jetties and bridges programme.
- ✓ Timely maintenance and replacement of all Aids to Navigation (ATONs);
- ✓ Maintain and rehabilitate existing Ports and wharves.
- ✓ Upgrade and maintenance of rural airstrips and airport runways and associated infrastructure.
- ✓ Strategic investments in education and training to ensure availability of skilled resources for maintaining infrastructure.
- ✓ Strengthen investments in preventative and routine maintenance of existing infrastructure assets.
- ✓ Explore options on climate-resilience for existing infrastructure.

➤ **Access to safe, efficient, affordable, and environmentally sustainable transportation services and infrastructure:**

- ✓ Provide incentive for private sector investments for replacement of aged vehicles and vessel fleet;
- ✓ Promote the public transportation and continued investment into convenient, safe and connected walking and cycling infrastructure;
- ✓ Reconvene the National Road Safety Council to steer a coordinated national effort towards addressing road safety;
- ✓ Strengthen enforcement to curb drink driving and speeding;
- ✓ Review fees and levies to discourage poor driver behaviour.
- ✓ Review fees and levies for reckless drivers;
- ✓ Reconvene the National IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) Committee;

- ✓ Consider the implementation of virtual Aids To Navigation (ATONS).
- ✓ Convene the National Oil Spill Committee to develop and implement comprehensive strategies mitigating the impacts of oil spills;
- ✓ Establish a Glofouling National Taskforce to minimise the spread of invasive species through the shipping industry;
- ✓ Develop Marine Insurance Policy for Fiji for financial protection against losses or damages to vessels, cargo, and related liabilities during maritime activities;
- ✓ Undertake assessment of Fiji's air access infrastructure, current routes and pricing, for providing access and affordability;
- ✓ Maintain safety through enforcement of regulations and standards, improvements in safety infrastructure;

➤ **Reduced reliance on imported fossil fuels and gradually de-carbonization of transport:**

- ✓ Accelerate investments in electric vehicle charging infrastructure through public and development partner finance;
- ✓ Development of Battery Recycling Program;
- ✓ Support the Electric Bus Pilot Project on selected routes for demonstration of proof of concept;
- ✓ Re-fleeting of Government vessels to be energy efficient;
- ✓ Monitoring of the Government Shipping Franchise Scheme (GSFS) 15 Year contract agreements and ensuring the transition to energy efficiency;
- ✓ Consider re-fleeting of domestic aircrafts for more efficient aircrafts;
- ✓ Purchase of fuel-efficient aircrafts;
- ✓ Initiate the removal of fossil fuel subsidies;
- ✓ Develop a national 'Decarbonization Strategy' for Fiji;
- ✓ National awareness and public education on sustainable transport and fuel-efficient vehicles;
- ✓ Explore viable options into the introduction of hydrogen fuel and biofuel.