



**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU**  
**HOME, PROHIBITION AND EXCISE**  
**DEPARTMENT**



**ROAD SAFETY POLICY**



**APRIL 2007**



## **ABSTRACT**

**Road Safety - Road Safety Policy - Approved - Orders**  
**- Issued**

### **HOME, PROHIBITION & EXCISE (TRANSPORT-V) DEPARTMENT**

**G.O.(2D) No. 242**

**Dated: 13/4/2007**

**Read:**

(1) G.O.(Ms).No. 259, Highways Department dated: 11/12/2006.

(2) From the Project Director, Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project, Chennai-20, D.O.Lr.No. 2401/99/TNRSP/F2 dated: 27/2/2007.

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### **ORDER:-**

The total population of vehicles in Tamil Nadu has been growing year after year. The average growth in the last five years has been of the order of 10 percent every year. This is one of the main reasons for increasing road accidents in the State. In the calendar year 2006 alone 11,009 persons lost their lives in road accidents. Road Safety is a subject that has been receiving the Government's continuous attention and Government have been taking various steps for widening of roads, putting up of road signages, highway patrolling and starting of emergency relief centres etc.

2. In this context the Government has felt a need to come out with Road Safety Policy which is comprehensive and addresses all related issues that need to be acted upon in this regard. The Project Director, Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project, Chennai has sent a draft Road Safety Policy for approval of the Government. This draft has been discussed in the reconstituted Inter Departmental Steering Committee which has membership from the various line departments of the Government concerned with implementing the Road Safety Policy. This Committee examined the draft policy and suggested certain revisions to it. These revisions have been adopted by the Steering Committee and a revised Road Safety Policy has been drawn up by the Government.

3. The Government, after examining the revised draft Road Safety Policy in detail, approve the same. The Road Safety Policy as approved by the Government is annexed to this Order. All the Heads of Departments concerned viz. Director General of Police, Transport Commissioner, Chief Engineer, Highways, Director of Medical Services, Director of Medical Education are requested to take necessary action to carry out the actions delineated in the Road Safety Policy of the Government.

**(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)**

S. MALATHI,  
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

To

The Project Director, Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project,  
48, Dr. Muthulakshmi Salai, Housing Board Complex,  
Adyar, Chennai-20.

The Transport Commissioner, Chennai-5.

The Director General of Police, Chennai-4.

The Commissioner of Police, Chennai-8.

The Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Chennai-7.

The Chief Engineer, Highways, Chennai-5.

The Director of Medical Services, Chennai-6.

The Director of Medical Education, Chennai-10.

Copy to:

The Highways Department, Chennai-9.

The Transport Department, Chennai-9.

The Health and Family Welfare Department, Chennai-9.

All Sections in Transport Wing of Home Department,  
Chennai-9.

## Annexure

### ROAD SAFETY POLICY

1. The road accident scenario in Tamil Nadu is causing concern. The rapidly increasing vehicle population is contributing to an alarming increase in accidents.
2. Nearly 10,000 people are killed in about 51,000 accidents annually. While fatal accidents cause loss of invaluable human life, all accidents cause pain, grief and misery as well as economic loss.
3. A Road Safety Council has been established in Tamil Nadu under Section 215 of the Motor Vehicles Act 1988 under the Chairmanship of the Transport Minister. In G.O.Ms.No.767, Home (Transport V) Department dated 20.7.2000, the Government had created the office of Road Safety Commissioner within the Transport Commissionerate to advise the Government on road safety policies and coordinate road safety measures. The Government also created a Road Safety Fund in G.O.Ms.No.768, Home (Transport V) Department dated 20.7.2000 to provide resources for road safety measures. Detailed guidelines for the operation of the Fund were issued in the Tamil Nadu Road Safety Rules 2000. The Government's approach to road safety is enunciated in the Policy Note of the Home Department (Motor Vehicles Acts - Administration, Demand No.25) presented to the Legislative Assembly. This approach identifies engineering, enforcement and education as major thrust areas and recognises the need for driver training, driver skill testing, setting up of emergency accident relief centres, improvement of road infrastructure and several other aspects.
4. The increasing number of accidents and consequent loss of lives and resources indicate a need to strengthen the Government's policy on Road Safety. The Government of Tamil Nadu is keen to take concerted measures to control the incidence of road accidents and ensure safe travel for all road users. Accordingly, the Government of Tamil Nadu feels the need to formulate and enunciate this separate Road Safety Policy which will act as a guide to the concerned Departments and to the public.

### **VISION**

5. **Stop and reverse the increasing trend in number of accidents, number of deaths and number of injuries through comprehensive measures covering engineering, enforcement, education and emergency care.**

### **MEDIUM TERM OBJECTIVE**

6. **Achieve a 20 percent reduction in fatalities and injuries by 2013, considering 2006 as the base year.**

To realise this vision, an in-depth analysis of the factors affecting road safety such as road environment, road users and vehicles has been carried out and the following measures have been evolved.

## ACTIONS

### Improved Data Collection process and Reliable Safety Information Database

<b>7. Accident data is crucial to address road safety problems. It is a source of information for planners, facilitators and and researchers. Towards improving the data collection process and developing a reliable accident data base the Government of Tamil Nadu intends to:-</b>	➤ Improve the system of accident data collection and carry out comprehensive analysis.
	➤ Pursue the policy of computerisation and centralisation of data relating to vehicles, drivers, road conditions, load impact, crash details, etc.

### Safe Road Infrastructure

<b>8. Improving the road environment will have a positive impact on road safety. In this regard, the Government intends to :-</b>	➤ Continuously identify accident prone areas ("black spots") on the basis of accident intensity and severity using appropriate indicators and make appropriate improvements.
	➤ Introduce latest planning, design and construction techniques in a sustained manner, including appropriate signage and other "road furniture"
	➤ Carry out road safety audit, wherever appropriate and create institutional arrangements to sustain this activity.
	➤ Remove encroachments and obstructions affecting the full use of roads.

### Safe Driving

<b>9. Driver error is a major cause of road accidents and to address this issue, the Government intends to:-</b>	➤ Undertake safety campaigns and vigorously motivate drivers to wear crash helmets and fasten seat belts.
	➤ Enforce fastening of seat belts and wearing of helmets as per statutory rules.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Introduce a more effective and efficient licensing procedure and vigorously pursue the creation of a National Roster for all driving license holders.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ensure effective enforcement to check violation of basic safety requirements and drunken driving, and implement deterrent penal provisions. Appropriate use of technological measures like smart cards and high security number plates will be made.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Promote the establishment of an adequate number of properly equipped driving schools.</li> </ul>

### Safety of Vulnerable Road Users

<p><b>10 Pedestrians, cyclists and children are particularly vulnerable and are involved in a large number of accidents. To ensure safety for these vulnerable road users, Government intends to :-</b></p>	<p>Make road safety education programmes mandatory in schools.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Organise campaigns and orientation programmes for all categories of road users and make them aware of their respective responsibilities.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Place special emphasis on safety of vulnerable groups like school children, the disabled and senior citizens.</li> </ul>

### Safe Speed

<p><b>11. Each road is designed for use at a particular speed, neglecting which leads to accidents. To ensure safe speed, the Government intends to :-</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Introduce or revise speed limits after scientific assessment of stream speeds in different areas and install proper signs indicating the speed limits.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Strengthen the enforcement of speed limits through the use of appropriate technology like speed cameras.</li> </ul>

## Institutional and Financial Mechanism

<b>12. An effective institutional mechanism is essential for sustainable road safety policy implementation. In order to strengthen the institutional and financial mechanism, the Government intends to :-</b>	<p>➤ Strengthen the Road Safety Council and the office of the Road Safety Commissioner by creating the necessary institutional structures needed to provide effective coordination.</p> <p>For this purpose, the terms of reference of the Executive Committee under the Council, currently administering the Road Safety Fund, will be suitably widened. Adequate attention will be paid to enhance the effectiveness of the District level council.</p>
	<p>➤ Clearly define the responsibility of each institution involved in the process of ensuring safe roads for all.</p>
	<p>➤ Create necessary support structures to enable each institution to effectively play its assigned role.</p>
	<p>➤ Establish a pro-active system of public participation, involving all stakeholders including State Transport Undertakings.</p>
	<p>➤ Improve co-ordination by presenting fund allocations relating to road safety under various Departments and schemes in a consolidated manner.</p>

## Increased Funding

<b>13. Road Safety measures require enhanced and recurrent funding support. Towards ensuring this, the Government intends to:-</b>	<p>➤ Identify measures for augmenting funding for road safety.</p>
	<p>➤ Encourage private participation in the task of raising funds for road safety.</p>

## Effective Enforcement

<b>14. Effective enforcement will have a direct impact on reduction in accidents and to ensure that the Government intends to:-</b>	➤ Organize proper training for traffic police personnel for better understanding and effective handling of traffic problems, by improving traffic facilities, infrastructure and institutional facilities.
	➤ Ensure greater accountability of the force and introduce a system of recognition of meritorious service.

## Emergency Medical Response (EMR)

<b>15. Towards making emergency medical care available to all accident victims, the Government intends to:-</b>	➤ Upgrade and disseminate awareness about the system of accident care and health management through effective publicity campaigns.
	➤ Promote involvement of private practitioners and hospitals in EMR and trauma care through training, adequate safeguards and incentives.
	➤ Improve the capacity of Government hospitals to deal with EMR.

## IMPLEMENTATION & MODIFICATION

16. This Policy indicates a broad outline of the measures to be taken. The various Departments of Government will formulate specific measures and take appropriate action to give effect to this policy.

The Executive Committee of the Road Safety Council shall periodically review this policy and make recommendations to Government for modification as and when necessary.

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