

Annexure 'A'

14-

ROAD SAFETY POLICY



-45-

I. PREAMBLE

1. High incidence of road accidents in Chandigarh is a cause of concern for the Administration. The vehicle population in the City is increasing rapidly thereby leading to traffic congestion on roads which increases the probability of road accidents.
2. Per capita vehicle population in the city is the highest in the country. In 2011, it was more than 10.07 lakhs (Source: Ministry of Statistics and Project Implementation). Everyday more than 100 vehicles are being registered in UT Chandigarh (Source: Black Book 2013, Chandigarh Traffic Police).
3. During the last 5 years, the average number of deaths due to road accidents in Chandigarh is around 150. (Source: Black Book). Number of deaths due to road accidents in Chandigarh is 10.5 per 1 lakh population, while the National Average of 32.3 per 1 lakh population (Source: Ministry of Statistics and Project Implementation).
4. Road safety needs to be addressed holistically taking into account the number of vehicle, quality & design of roads and safety of drivers & commuters.
5. Enhancing road infrastructure is vital for safety of road users.
6. In the light of this, the Chandigarh Administration commits to bring about a significant reduction in incidence of road accidents thus reducing mortality and morbidity resulting from road accidents.

II. VISION 2020

46

To provide an enabling environment for safer travel on roads.

III. OBJECTIVES

47

To realize the Vision, the following objectives have been laid as:

- i. To develop a reliable traffic and accident data base and improve the process of data collection, transmission and analysis.
- ii. To improve road infrastructure.
- iii. To ensure safer driving.
- iv. To ensure safety of vulnerable road users.
- v. To improve emergency medical response for road accidents.
- vi. To encourage alternatives to motor vehicle use.
- vii. To encourage research for road safety.
- viii. To strengthen institutional environment for road safety
- ix. To ensure effective enforcement

IV. STRATEGIES

-48-

1. **To develop a reliable traffic and accident data base and improve the process of data collection, transmission and analysis:**

Traffic and Accident data is a valuable source of information for policy makers, planners, researchers and crash investigators etc. To achieve this objective, the Administration intends to:-

- Encourage computerisation and linked databases relating to vehicles, drivers, road conditions, load impact, crash details, etc. and make it available to stakeholders.
- Use data analytics on challan data, accident data, traffic jam data, parking space and usage data, etc.

2. **To improve road infrastructure:**

Improving the road infrastructure will enhance road safety. In this regard, the Administration intends:-

- To introduce latest design and construction techniques, road safety audit, in a sustained manner for road construction.
- To install appropriate signages at relevant places.
- To carry out enforcement to remove traffic bottlenecks like encroachments and obstructions.
- To promote collaboration among various departments of Administration such as Engineering, Police (Enforcement), Transport, etc. for enhancing road infrastructure and quality & safety standards of Public Transport.
- To identify 'black spots' (accident-prone areas) on the basis of intensity and severity of accidents and take appropriate steps for mitigating chances of accident on such spots.
- To use Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) to establish a safe and efficient system to regulate traffic.
 - To use variable speed limits during peak periods and/or poor weather conditions.

- 49
- Use of variable timings & synchronization of traffic signals to facilitate smooth flow of traffic.

3. **To ensure safer driving:**

Driver error is a major cause of road accidents and to address this issue, the Administration intends:-

- To undertake intensive safety campaigns to motivate drivers to wear helmets and fasten seat belts.
- To educate drivers on road discipline, rights of pedestrians and other vulnerable road users.
- To promote the establishment of properly equipped driving schools and to make registration of driving schools mandatory.
- To implement simulation-based driving test prior to issuance of driving license.

4. **To ensure safety of vulnerable road users:**

Pedestrians, cyclists, children, senior citizens and persons with special needs are particularly vulnerable and are involved in a large number of accidents. To ensure safety of these vulnerable road users, the Administration intends:-

- To make necessary provisions such as walkways, bicycle ways, zebra crossings, signages & road markings.
- To make road safety education programmes mandatory in schools.
- To implement lower speed limits at high density pedestrian places like Railway Station, Schools, Inter State Bus Terminals, etc.
- To place special emphasis on safety of vulnerable groups like school children, persons with special needs and senior citizens.
- To involve NGOs/Civil Society Organisations/Media etc for bringing about behavioural changes in identified group of road users.

5. **To improve Emergency Medical Response (EMR) for road accidents:**

50-

To ensure that all accident victims get prompt and efficient medical treatment, the Administration intends:-

- To educate people about first-aid to accident victims through intensive campaigns
- To ensure that all government employees receive first-aid training on entry in service and at appropriate intervals during their career.
- To improve the capacity of Government hospitals to deal with EMR.
- To also promote involvement of private practitioners and hospitals in EMR and traumacare through training and adequate safeguards.

6. **To encourage alternatives to motor vehicle use:**

Congestion on roads increases the probability of accidents. To decongest the city roads, the Administration intends:-

- To implement Mass Public Transport system and encourage citizens for its use.
- To promote non-motorised / environment friendly means of transport like public bikes.
- Explore option of implementing staggered office timings.

7. **To encourage research for road safety:**

Effective research on road safety issues is an essential pre-requisite for better understanding of the problem and provides the framework against which effective policies and counter-measures should be developed. Chandigarh Administration intends:

- To work in collaboration with academia and industry to promote research and development in the area of road safety.
- To assist and guide Road Safety Council on road safety issues.

8. **To strengthen institutional environment for road safety:**

SK

An effective institutional mechanism is essential for sustainable road safety policy implementation. In order to strengthen the institutional & funding mechanism, the Administration intends to:-

- To strengthen the institutional mechanism by establishing office of the Road Safety Commissioner to ensure effective coordination amongst various stakeholders
- To clearly define the responsibility of each institution involved in the process of ensuring safe roads for all.
- To establish a pro-active system of public participation, involving all stakeholders including Chandigarh Transport Undertaking, School Bus Operators, Private Operators, etc.

9. **To ensure effective enforcement:**

Effective enforcement will have a direct impact on reduction in accidents. The Administration intends:-

- To ensure, inter-alia, following types of enforcement
 - Fastening of seat belts
 - Wearing of helmets
 - Ban on usage of handheld devices while driving
 - Ban on drunken driving
 - Lane driving
 - Usage of vehicle indicators
- To make use of technologies like speed cameras, breath-analysers, surveillance cameras, electronic signages etc. to ensure safety on roads.
- Correctional workshops and Higher penalties/cancellation of licenses for repeated offenders.

V. IMPLEMENTATION

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