

## **KENYATAAN MEDIA**

## Response to Media Reports on the access road to Westport

Referring to Bernama report which described the access road to the Westport as a 'deadly path', Ministry of Works wishes to announce that ongoing efforts have been taken to upgrade the route for user comforts.

For the information, Ministry of Works through the Department of Public Works (PWD) has completed five projects for the route to the Westport and Northport since 2012 involving these projects:

- Construction and Upgrading Jalan Lingkaran Pulau Indah. Completed in December 2012 costing RM121 milion
- 2. Construction and Upgrading Jalan Lingkaran Pulau Indah Fasa 1B & 2(FT181), completed in November 2014 costing RM174.3 million
- 3. Upgrading of Junction at Bandar Sultan Sulaiman / Pintu 2 Northport Pelabuhan Klang, completed in May 2014 costing RM98 milion
- 4. Construction of Flyover Across Railway Line at Jalan Pelabuhan (FT103), completed September 2015, costing RM204 million
- 5. Upgrading of Junction at Bandar Sultan Sulaiman / Pintu 2 Northport, (part of project 3 above), completed in August 2016, costing RM55.5 million

Currently, there is one project under construction and another due to be awarded to a successful contractor on the Lebuhraya Pulau Indah (FT181).

The project currently under construction is the upgrading of two at-grade intersections with flyovers, and the conversion of a further two intersections to a left-in / left-out intersection only. A fifth intersection along the stretch of road will be upgraded to a signalized intersection. Once

 completed the whole stretch of the Lebuhraya Pulau Indah will be "freeflow" to traffic.

Regarding the suggestion from Selangor Container Drivers Association as quoted by Bernama, which suggested that the route be widened and motorcycles lanes are built, for the record, a further scope of the project includes the construction of paved shoulders which is an alternative to an exclusive motorcycle lane, to ensure safety for the motorcyclists. The width of each lane will also be widened from the current 3.5m to 3.65m to give a more comfortable feeling to the heavy vehicle drivers when using the road.

The Ministry will also carry out a feasibility study on the possibility of constructing an exclusive motorcycle lane to and from the ports. The construction of exclusive motorcycle lanes can be a little complicated since roads leading to ports are not fully access-controlled, unlike a tolled road. The cost to construct an exclusive motorcycle lane may be substantial as there could be land acquisition involved.

In terms of accidents involving motorcycles on the route, the road users should adopt 'safety first' attitude and inculcate behaviour respecting one another.

Educating the drivers of heavy vehicles to be aware of the existence of motorcyclists in the traffic can be very helpful in ensuring safety on these roads leading to the ports. Thirdly, monitoring safe operational speeds on heavy vehicles can also contribute to the safety of the road users in general on the roads leading to the ports.

The Ministry of Works will carry out a further Road Safety Audit to find out what needs to be done further to ensure the safety and comfort of the road users along that stretch of road. However, it is a standard operating procedure for road safety audits to be carried at various stages, i.e. from the design stage, the construction stage, prior to the opening of the road

to traffic, and finally after the road had been opened to traffic, for road safety audits to be carried out.

There are also three projects in the planning stage that will further complete the road networks leading to and around the two ports. This will largely depend upon the approval from the Central Agencies for funding of the projects.

On the claim that the road is deemed to be 'in poor condition, it is the result of the many heavy vehicles that are using the roads daily, often exceeding their weight limits, i.e. "overloading". Currently, the road is handling about 80,000 vehicles per day. The Ministry of Works has recently carried out a pilot study on Weigh-in-Motion (WIM) system to study the overloading problems on Federal Roads, and the results show that 10% of the total traffic are heavy vehicles that are overloaded beyond the weight as stipulated in the Government's weight restriction order (WRO).

To ensure that the Federal Roads in the area are properly maintained, the Ministry is embarking on a rehabilitation program of the existing road network every year. This year, the Ministry has carried out rehabilitation works on route FT103 which link Port Klang to Northport which cost RM0.95 million. Additional rehabilitation works on route FT181 which connect the junction Bandar Bukit Tinggi/KESAS/Banting to Pulau Indah which cost RM2.2 million will be implemented in the near future if allocation is approved. For the record, the Ministry has spent a total of RM46.1 million to repair damaged federal roads in the area from 2010 until 2015.

In addition, the Ministry also implements routine maintenance works on road network in the area which includes works such as patching of potholes and sealing of cracks from time to time to retard the deterioration of the road surface defects. The Ministry has spent a total of RM13.4 million on federal roads from 2010 up to August this year.

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