The Department for International Development (DFID) is the UK government department responsible for promoting international development and the reduction of poverty. The central focus of the DFID’s policy is commitment to an internationally-agreed target by the international donor agencies to halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by the year 2015. Associated International Development Targets (IDTs), also to be achieved by 2015, include basic health care provision, universal access to primary education and a reversal in destructive environmental trends. The bulk of our assistance is concentrated towards the poorest countries in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

DFID seeks to work in partnership with governments that are also committed to the IDTs, and collaborates with business, civil society and the research community to encourage practices which help to reduce poverty. We also work with multilateral institutions including the World Bank, United Nations agencies and the European Commission. DFID’s headquarters are located at:

Department for International Development
1 Palace Street
London SW1E 5HE
UK
Switchboard: 020 7023 0000
Fax: 020 7023 0072
Web site: www.dfid.gov.uk
email: enquiry@dfid.gov.uk
Public enquiry point: 0845 3004100
Telephone enquiries from overseas: +44 1355 84 3132
DFID's policy advice, knowledge and research are organised and delivered by several Advisory Groups. The work of these groups is either directly related to the achievement of an IDT or is necessary to support the achievement of one or more of the targets. The Groups operate within the following development themes:

- Education
- Health and population
- Infrastructure and Urban Development Department
- Rural livelihoods and environment
- Social development
- Governance
- Economics, statistics and enterprise development.

**Infrastructure and Urban Development Department**

The Infrastructure and Urban Development Department (IUDD) deals with the infrastructure related aspects of all development activities undertaken by DFID and has particular responsibility for urban development issues.

At a general level the provision, maintenance and operation of infrastructure is essential for sustainable social and economic growth. At a detailed level, basic infrastructure services are key to directly improving the lives of poor people and providing alternative options in making a livelihood. Consequently IUDD’s work supports progress towards the achievement of the IDTs.

IUDD’s programme addresses these issues in six sectors:

- Energy
- Geoscience
- Transport
- Water resources and sanitation
- Urban development
- Information, communications and technology

IUDD is collaborating with international organisations to assist nations in implementing policies and programmes which will help the infrastructure sectors contribute towards the achievement of the IDTs. This assistance includes strengthening institutions, improving capacity to adopt new policies for better governance and encouraging private sector participation.

**Research**

Knowledge, research and technology underpin all DFID’s work. DFID spends over £100 million each year on development-oriented research and capacity building, managed through its thematic and regional programmes.

The IUDD ‘Engineering Knowledge and Research’ (KaR) programme aims to fill the key knowledge gaps in the infrastructure and urban development fields necessary to achieve the International Development Targets. (More information on the KaR programme may be found from the DFID web site (www.dfid.gov.uk) which has links to all the web sites for each IUDD sector, as well as the web sites of the organisations responsible for the dissemination of information within each IUDD sector).

**Transport research work within DFID**

DFID has a long history of support for research aimed at addressing the technical and policy needs of the transport sector in developing countries. The research programme has focussed principally on road travel, the main means of transport of the poor in developing countries, be it, by foot, ‘intermediate’ means of transport or motorised vehicle. The two basic thrusts of DFID work in the roads sub-sector are to:
a. Improve transport sector efficiency, and thereby the sector’s contribution to the nation’s economic growth by:
   (i) reducing the costs of providing and managing infrastructure and
   (ii) optimising the overall costs of using road transport systems.

b. Improve transport services for the poor in order to allow greater access to markets and livelihood opportunities, so that poor people can improve their economic and social status.

Increasingly the KaR programme has recognised the need to make the results of its research programme more accessible and to communicate more with the users of the research products. As part of this, DFID is supporting the ‘Transport-Links’ initiative (of which this CD is one of the first outputs). The initiative includes the construction of the Transport-Links web site (www.transport-links.org, due to be opened in mid-2001). More information may be found under the ‘Transport-Links’ section of this CD-ROM.

In addition, IUDD commissions the publication of Newsletters for each of the KaR sectors along with numerous research reports, articles and publications. More information about these newsletters is given under the “Transport” Newsletter section of this CD-ROM.