

Draft Initial Work Plan for the CAREC Road Working Group (2026–2028)
(For discussion and adoption at the 1st Road WG Meeting)

I. The Scope and Mandate of the Road WG

1. The Road WG was recommended to be established under the Transport Sector Coordinating Committee (TSCC) by the midterm review (MTR) of the CAREC Transport Strategy 2030 (CTS 2030), which was endorsed by the 24th CAREC Ministerial Conference in November 2025, and the 22nd TSCC meeting in June 2025. It will serve as a regional platform to address key priorities and policy matters in the CAREC road subsector.
2. The objectives of the Road WG is *"to oversee CAREC initiatives relating to road maintenance and sustainability, road asset management system (RAMS), and road safety outcomes."*¹
3. In the road subsector, CTS MTR placed priority on (i) strengthening RAM practices and associated policies to enhance the financing of road maintenance activities; and (ii) transitioning the road safety agenda from primarily knowledge sharing—where notable progress has been achieved—to more action-oriented measures, including the greater use of digital technologies and the adoption of a programmatic, multi-sectoral approach aligned with the national road safety strategy and its action plan.
4. The proposed Road WG modality consists of: (i) two members per country, comprising representatives from the road ministry and the national road agency, and (ii) the members may nominate their respective representative to participate in the Road WG meetings.
5. As the Road WG Secretariat, ADB will coordinate, organize, and monitor the WG's activities including:
 - Annual Road WG meetings, plus thematic technical session(s) as needed.
 - Annual monitoring report to TSCC and CAREC Ministerial Conference.

II. Priority Activities (2026–2028)

6. The Road WG will focus on the following prioritized activities over the next three years (2026–2028):
 - Road Asset Management (RAM)
 - Road Safety
 - Green and Resilient Roads
 - Smarter Roads (Digitalization)

Activity 1 — Road Asset Management

7. Many CAREC countries rely on reactive, legacy maintenance systems and suffer from chronic funding shortages, underscoring the need to transition to preventive RAMS and implement financing reforms. Activity 1 will focus on the reviewing the key deliverables from the RAMS pillar under the CTS and suggesting improvements.

Activity 2 — Road Safety

¹ CAREC, 16-17 June 2025. para 18 of [TSCC Summary of Proceedings](#)

8. Most of CAREC countries are not on track to meet the SDG target for reducing fatalities, and their technical standards require updating to align with international best practices. Activity 2 will focus on reviewing the key deliverables from the Road Safety pillar under the CTS and suggesting improvements.

Activity 3 — Green and Resilient Roads

9. *Rationale:* Climate resilient roads are essential for ensuring that the CAREC region’s transport networks remain- functional and reliable amid increasing exposure to extreme weather events such as floods, landslides, and temperature extremes, which accelerate pavement deterioration and disrupt connectivity.

10. *Key Activities* may include:

- Pilot applications of Green Road Toolkit within road planning and design processes.
- Development of a pilot climate-resilient road designs on CAREC corridors

Activity 4 — Smarter Roads (Digitalization)

11. *Rationale:* Roads Digitalization enhances the efficiency, reliability, and safety of road networks by integrating modern digital technologies into planning, operation, and maintenance. Utilizing tools such as GIS-based asset management systems, ITS, remote sensing, and real-time corridor monitoring enables transport agencies to improve data accuracy, optimize maintenance interventions, and strengthen incident and traffic management.

12. *Key Activities* may include:

- Develop digitalization framework for smarter roads.
- Pilot digital solutions for prioritized CAREC corridor(s).

III. Deliverables (2026–2028)

13. Key deliverables are as follows.

Year	Key Deliverables
2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing road subsector inputs for regional transport model development and associated training. • Road WG Annual Meeting delivered. • Road WG Annual Progress Report submitted.
2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One agreed knowledge product delivered. • Road WG Annual Meeting conducted. • Road WG Annual Progress Report submitted.
2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One agreed knowledge product delivered. • Road WG Annual Meeting conducted. • Consolidated 2026–2028 Road WG Progress Report submitted.

IV. Knowledge & Capacity Building Needs (2026–2028)

It will be finalized in accordance with the DMC survey findings.