

Reporting Session of GRSI Beijing Project of Improving Vulnerable Road User Safety at Junctions

On May 26, a public event was held on in the morning at China People's Plaza in Beijing to report the outcome of the GRSI Beijing Vulnerable Road User Safety Project and to launch the Chinese version of the good practice manual of *Design & Operational Guide on Vulnerable Road User Safety at Junctions*.

The event was jointly hosted by GRSP, Beijing Transportation Research Center (BTRC) and Beijing University of Technology (BJUT) who are the key Chinese partners of the project. About 80 people participated in the event, which include the relevant stakeholders and media.

The press conference was chaired by Mr. Guo Jifu, Director General of Beijing Transportation Research Center (BTRC). Mr. Jiang Fan, Deputy Director of Beijing Municipal Committee of Communications (BMCC) and Rob Klein, GRSP Regional Director for Asia made the keynote speech at the event.





Mr. Jiang Fun, Deputy Director of Beijing Municipal Committee of Communications (BMCC) is making the key note speech



Mr. Rob Klein, GRSP Regional Director for Asia, is making the key note speech

A brief project introduction was given by Ann Yuan, GRSP Country Manager for China in order to give the participants a better understanding on the background, activities and outcome of the project. She used three junctions (Xidan, Dongsi She Tiao and Da Wang) as example to explain the problems, countermeasures used and the improvement obtained at each junction. The messages of the importance of the partnership and of using low engineering cost countermeasures can also effectively improve road safety were got across to the participants at the meeting.



Ann Yuan is giving the introduction on the project

Chen Yanyan, Professor of Beijing University of Technology (BJUT) briefly introduced the good practice manual (Chinese version) of *Design & Operational Guide on Vulnerable Road User Safety at Junctions*, which developed by Beijing Transportation Research Center (BTRC) and Beijing University of Technology (BJUT) and GRSP as the final product of the project. Her presentation was focused on the structure of the manual. The manual aims to provide a design and operational guide for reducing conflicts and improving the safety situation of vulnerable road users at urban junctions whilst taking account of traffic efficiency. It introduces the relevant road and facilities design, as well as management countermeasures. Target readers include leaders and professionals in road safety related government agencies, road design and traffic engineering institutions, traffic management divisions, and relevant research institutes and universities.



Prof. Chen is giving the introduction on the Manual.

Right after the two presentations, a Q & A session was followed. The discussion was warm and interesting. Questions were related to how to effectively improve the VRU's safety on the road; how to evaluate the improvement of road safety and the international good practice on improving VRU safety on the road.



Five road safety experts were invited as the panelists to answer questions. They are: Mr. He Yong, the Director General of Highway Design Institute of MOC (1st from left); Mr. Fang Shouen, Professor of Tongji University, Shanghai (2nd from left); Mr. Duan Liren, Professor of Changan University, Former Deputy Director of Beijing Traffic Management Bureau (middle); Mr. Rob Klein, GRSP Regional Director for Asia (2nd from right); Mr. Christer Hydén, Professor of Lund University, Sweden (1st from right).

Besides the representatives from the project partners (BTRC, BJUT and GRSP), the representatives from 4 GRSI companies (Michelin, Renault, Shell, Toyota), the relevant national stakeholders such as the Ministry of Transport (people from different departments of the ministry); Ministry of Health (people from China CDC and the Health Human Resource Development Center); National Development and Reform Commission (ICT/NDRC); Beijing Traffic Management Bureau, Beijing City Planning and Design Institute and several different universities. The representatives from other relevant international agencies such as WHO, World Bank, Handicap International and Beijing Germany Safe-driving Company also participated in the event.

In addition to the stakeholders, there were 15 people from different media (include Newspaper, Magazines, internet websites) were at the events.

Road traffic crash is a major cause of death and injury in China. Official statistics report over 73,000 deaths and 304,000 injuries on China's roads in 2008. According to the municipal traffic police data, nearly 50% of road crashes in the city occurred at junctions; and 45% of crashes in Beijing involve VRUs in the city of Beijing.

All partners appreciate the generous support from the Global Road Safety Initiative (GRSI), a member of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration, in translating the manual and implementing the speed management project in China.

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