

Chapter 1 Measures Regarding Road Transport Safety

1. Improvement of Road Traffic Environment

At a time when the birth rate declines and the population ages, it is important to improve the road traffic environment where people are given priority in a safe and secure walking space in order to create a traffic society in which children are protected from accidents and the elderly people and disabled people can go out at ease and in safety. The related organizations including schools, education boards, road administrators and the police work together to promote measures that based on urgent joint inspections implemented FY2012 to ensure traffic safety in school roads and continuous measures including periodic joint inspections in the community.

In addition, in order to contribute to the promotion of traffic safety through more efficient road traffic operations, not only that traffic demand management (TDM) which looks at ways to improve the use of roads to increase transport efficiency and to level the traffic amount in terms of time and space may be promoted in a comprehensive manner, but also a traffic system where people, roads and cars function in an integrated manner may be built using the latest advanced IT to improve safety, transport efficiency and comfort. Furthermore, the development and dissemination of ITS that contributes to the environmental protection through the reduction in the number of traffic jams and a smoother traffic, introduction of “Circular Intersections”, and creation of environment for bicycles where all road users abide by the traffic rules and where it is possible to ride a bicycle in a safe and comfortable manner may be promoted. Moreover, in order to prevent a third party from getting injured due to the aging of traffic safety facilities, an overall inspection of road accessories such as road signs will be carried out by road administrators.

- ① Develop safe and secure walking spaces in community roads where people are given priority
- ② Promote traffic safety measures in arterial roads
- ③ Promote projects to improve traffic safety facilities
- ④ Promote effective traffic regulations
- ⑤ Enhance environment to promote use of bicycles in a comprehensive manner
- ⑥ Introduce sophisticated road traffic systems
- ⑦ Promote traffic demand management
- ⑧ Improve road traffic environment in anticipation of a disaster
- ⑨ Promote parking measures in a comprehensive manner
- ⑩ Improve road traffic information
- ⑪ Improve road traffic conditions to increase traffic safety

2. Dissemination and Reinforcement of Traffic Safety

Traffic safety education policies (National Public Safety Commission Notification No. 15, 1998) are applied, and a gradual and moreover systematic traffic safety education is put into place that caters to the psychosomatic developmental stage and life stage of everyone from children to adults. In advance of aging society, in addition to raising the traffic safety awareness of the elderly themselves, the characteristics of the elderly must be known to other generation, so that the elderly are protected, and education for growing awareness of consideration for the elderly is strengthened. Furthermore, guidance is strengthening in relation to the safe use of bicycles for elementary, junior high and high school students who use bicycles frequently; and this becomes a foundation for the education of future drivers.

- ① Promotion of a gradual and systematic road safety education
- ② Promotion of effective road safety education
- ③ Promotion of awareness-raising activities concerning traffic safety
- ④ Promotion of voluntary activities of private organizations concerning traffic safety
- ⑤ Promotion of community participation and cooperation

3. Ensuring Safe Driving

It is necessary to improve abilities and qualifications of drivers in order to ensure safe driving. To that end, it is aimed to enhance driver's education programs not only for drivers but also for those who are trying to obtain a driving license. Especially, it is aimed to enhance education of elderly drivers who are expected to significantly grow in number in the future. The current driving license system will be reviewed in consideration of recent traffic conditions.

In anticipation of future changes in land transportation operations and in recognition of the importance of the role and responsibilities played by companies and businesses in traffic safety, it is aimed to help them implement measures for safe driving in a voluntary manner and help land transportation operators enhance safety measures, in addition to promoting efforts to disseminate the guidelines for the prevention of traffic work accidents. Furthermore, in order to improve further the safety with the participation of all people in the building-up of safety management system, it is intended to enhance the "Transport Safety Management System" whose implementation status is checked by the government.

- ① Enhance driver's education
- ② Improve the current driving license system
- ③ Promote safe driving management
- ④ Encourage land transportation operators to enhance their safety measures
- ⑤ Prevent traffic work accidents
- ⑥ Enhance information related to road traffic

4. Ensuring Vehicle Safety

Despite the decrease in the number of casualties in traffic accidents in recent years, the situation is still serious with the death toll of 4,373 in 2013. In the Ninth Fundamental Traffic Safety Program, it has been established to reduce to equal to or less than 3,000 fatalities by 2015. In order to attain this objective, automobile safety measures will be promoted by organically coordinating three measures consisting of the "expansion and strengthening of safety standards," "promotion of advanced safety vehicles (ASV)" and "vehicle assessment."

- ① Develop, put to practical use and disseminate preventive safety technologies
- ② Promote the improvement of standards on the vehicle safety
- ③ Provide information on vehicle assessment
- ④ Enhance inspection and maintenance of vehicles
- ⑤ Enhance and strengthen the recall system
- ⑥ Securing of bicycle safety

5. Improvement of Rescue and Emergency Medical System

It is aimed to develop rescue and emergency systems as well as emergency medical systems by securing a close coordination and cooperation between emergency medical institutions including fire departments so as to deal with road traffic accidents promptly including those on expressways in order to save the lives of people injured in traffic accidents and minimize damage.

Especially it is intended to develop systems to enable doctors, nurses, emergency response personnel, ambulance personnel and other to provide first aid and emergency medical care at accident sites or on the way to hospitals in order to further improve the life-saving rate and life-saving effects, and to develop emergency reporting systems to allow reporting from accident sites as well as to disseminate first aid knowledge and skills among the general public (bystanders).

- ① Develop rescue and emergency systems
- ② Develop emergency medical systems
- ③ Secure a close coordination and cooperation between emergency medical institutions

Chapter 2 Measures Regarding Railway Transport Safety

1. Improvement of Railway Environment

In order to secure railway traffic safety, it is necessary to maintain highly reliable railway facilities including railway tracks and operational safety equipment and build a highly overall safety system. To this end, it is intended to maintain railway facilities in best conditions at all times and promote safety measures by developing operational maintenance equipment and strengthening of railway structures against earthquakes.

- ① Improve safety of railway facilities
- ② Develop operational maintenance equipment
- ③ Strengthen measures against earthquakes
- ④ Promote fire prevention measures for underground railways

2. Ensuring the Safe Operation of Railways

It is intended to improve qualifications of train drivers, analyze and make use of accident information as well as risk information, and enhance safety measures against earthquakes, weather information and others in order to prevent serious railway accidents. In addition, in light of the security audit conducted on the JR Hokkaido, security audits on railway operators in the future will be carried out in a more effective manner and emergency situations such as a large accident or a disaster will be coped with in a proper and urgent manner. Furthermore, in order to improve further the safety with the participation of all people in the building-up of safety management system, it is intended to enhance the “Transport Safety Management System” whose implementation status is checked by the government.

- ① Improve qualifications of train drivers
- ② Analyze and make use of risk information
- ③ Enhance weather information
- ④ Supervise railway operators
- ⑤ Provide a rapid and adequate response when an accident or a disaster occurs
- ⑥ Enhance transport safety management