

Chapter 1

Measures Regarding Road Transport Safety

1 Improvement of the Road Traffic Environment

With respect to the development of the road transport environment, measures have been promoted so far by relevant organizations including the National Police Agency and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism both for arterial roads and residential streets. Through these efforts, a certain leveling effect on accident reduction has been confirmed.

However, thus, it is necessary to promote further safety measures on residential streets on which many pedestrians and bicycles transit because the percentage of the number of facilities while walking and riding on a bicycle in Japan is about 2 to 3 times higher than that of the United States and main European countries. For this reason, for the future development of the road transport environment, the effort will be made separate the functions between arterials roads that play the central role in vehicle traffic and “life roads” (residential streets) will be made.

In addition, from the perspective of forming a traffic environment in which children are protected from accidents and elderly people and disabled people can go out safely and with peace of mind as our aging society with falling child birthrates advances, the development of a road traffic environment in which safe and secure walking space is ensured will be strengthened.

In addition, in order to contribute to the promotion of traffic safety by smoothing road transport, not only policies of traffic demand management (TDM*) designed to improve transport efficiency and level the traffic volume in terms of time and space are comprehensively promoted, but also people, roads and vehicles are built as an integrated system to improve safety performance, transport efficiency and comfortability using the most advanced technologies with a view to developing and disseminating an Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) aimed at contributing to environment maintenance through traffic smoothing and reduction of traffic jams. Anti-reverse running measures on highways will be further promoted.

Countermeasures for wrong-way driving on expressways will be enhanced.

- ① Develop safe and secure walking spaces on residential streets where pedestrians are given priority
- ② Separate functions of residential streets by further promoting the use of expressways
- ③ Promote traffic safety measures in arterial roads
- ④ Promote projects to improve traffic safety facilities
- ⑤ Universal design of walking space
- ⑥ Promote removal of utility poles
- ⑦ Promote effective traffic regulations
- ⑧ Enhance cycling environment in a comprehensive manner
- ⑨ Introduce Intelligent Transport Systems
- ⑩ Promote traffic demand management
- ⑪ Improve road traffic environment in anticipation of a disaster
- ⑫ Promote parking measures in a comprehensive manner
- ⑬ Improve road traffic information
- ⑭ 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. Further, since elementary, middle and high school students who use bicycles in many occasions are members of traffic society, and in light of the enactment of the new regulations for bicycle users, education on basic knowledge about road transport regarding the use of bicycles, traffic safety awareness and traffic manners will be provided to them in an enhanced manner.

- 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 addition, the "Law to Partially Amend the Road Transport Act" (Act No. 40 of 2015) was published in June 2015 and was enacted by March 12, 2017, in which, as road safety measures targeting older drivers, an extra cognitive functioning test will be carried out to older drivers of 75 years old and over who commit a certain violation of law, and an extra training course for older drivers who are judged by the test to be impaired for driving a car due to a decrease in their cognitive functions will be provided, and as measures to prevent traffic accidents of trucks, a new type of driving license to drive vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of 3.5 to 7.5 tons will be introduced which can be acquired by people of 18 years old and over. Therefore, the further prevention of traffic accidents will be carried out by ensuring their smooth operation.

In view of changes in cargo transportation by automobiles in the future and in consideration of the importance of the role and responsibility to be played by companies and their branches in traffic safety, it is urged that they provide voluntarily safe driving management measures and enhance safety measures in addition to the promotion of efforts to disseminate guidelines for the prevention of traffic and work disasters in cooperation with relevant organizations. In addition, safety measures will be promoted further using the nationwide traffic safety campaign and comprehensive transport inspection at the end and beginning of year. To ensure a safe and sound operation of a chartered bus, measures included in the "Comprehensive measures to achieve safe and sound operation of the chartered bus" that are compiled based on the Karuizawa Ski bus accident that occurred in January 15, 2016, are implemented without fail and follow up is carried out.

Further, safe travel of vehicles for business is aimed by promoting safety measures based on the "Comprehensive Safety Plan 2009 for vehicles used for business".

In the transport safety management system, the road transport operators built and improved the safety management organization through unified, company-wide efforts and the national government checked it for the implementation status. Taking into consideration that 10 years have passed since implementation of this system, the effects and problems of the system are being summarized and ideal method of future development shall be examined. In addition, the dissemination of this concept to all the operators to enhance and strengthen the system.

- 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 Measures

Recently, though the number of fatalities in traffic accidents showed a decreasing tendency, the condition is still serious since 3,904 people died in 2016. In the Tenth Fundamental Traffic Safety Program (The plan period is between FY 2016 and FY 2020), the target to reduce the number of fatalities in traffic accidents to less than 2,500 by 2020 has been established. In order to achieve this target of reducing the number of traffic accidents, the 3 policies of "Expansion and Strengthening of Safety Standards," "Plan to Promote Advanced Safety Vehicle (ASV)" and "Automobile Assessment" will be organically coordinated with each other to promote vehicle safety measures.


From the viewpoint of preventing traffic accidents caused by elderly drivers, popularization of safety support cars equipped with advanced safety technology is aimed, contributing to prevention of traffic accidents by elderly people.

- ① Promote the improvement of standards on the vehicle safety
- ② Provide information on vehicle assessment
- ③ Enhance inspection and maintenance of vehicles
- ④ Enhance and strengthen the recall system
- ⑤ Securing of bicycle safety

5 Improvements 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.

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

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 Improving safety performance of railway facilities
- ② Strengthening measures against earthquake of railway facilities
- ③ Promoting countermeasures against aging railway facilities
- ④ Promoting measures for safety improvement on station platform

2 Ensuring the Safe Operation of Railway

In order to prevent serious railway accidents and based on the results of the study regarding the review of security audits implemented in FY 2014 in light of the problem of the JR Hokkaido in relation to security audit to railway operators, enhancement of security audit will be carried out through the implementation of unambiguous and more effective security audit including the implementation of a temporary security audit when the same kind of troubles occurs apart from the scheduled security audit, and when a large scale accident occurs, it will be dealt with rapidly and appropriately. In addition, the awareness of safety in business operators will be raised using the nationwide traffic safety campaign at the end and beginning of year. Moreover, holding of the qualification of drivers, sharing and use of accident information and information on safety troubles, and enhancement of meteorological information will be carried out.

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- ① Carrying out security audit
- ② Improve qualifications of train drivers
- ③ Sharing and use of information on troubles on safety
- ④ Enhance weather and other information
- ⑤ Adequate response when a large-scale accident occurs
- ⑥ Implementation of Evaluation of Transport Safety Management