



Press Release

Commissioning of Road Safety Work at La Paz Intersection.

Venue: La Paz

Date: Wednesday, 11th July, 2018

The ceremony marks a major milestone in Accra's commitment to reducing road injuries and deaths.

The Mayor of Accra, Mr Mohammed Adjei Sowah, this morning broke ground to commission the commencement of road safety enhancement works at the La Paz intersection. He was joined by officials from the National Road Safety Commission, Ghana Highway Authority, Department of Urban Roads and the Police (MTTD), as well as representatives of Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety, Vital Strategies, World Resources Institute, International Road Assessment Programme and the Accra Metropolitan Assembly.

The Accra Metropolitan Assembly/ Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety (AMA-BIGRS) is facilitating the transformation works in collaboration with the Partnership for Healthy Cities, which is funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Road crashes remain one of the leading causes of serious injuries and deaths in Accra. Data from the police show that from 2011 to 2015, 70% of the road traffic fatalities in the Accra Metropolitan Area were pedestrians. And about 15% of all road fatalities in the Accra Metropolitan Area occurred on the N1 corridor.

The risk of pedestrian death from vehicle impact begins to rapidly increase after a vehicle speed of 30-40 km/h. This means that in areas where pedestrians are present, and especially those with high volumes of pedestrians, vehicle speeds must be kept low and pedestrians properly protected to prevent death and serious injury.

To reduce the high rate of fatalities and serious injuries, safety inspections were carried out by AMA-BIGRS, which reviewed six high-frequency crash locations on the N1, including the La Paz intersection.

Data collected by the AMA-BIGRS team suggests that at least 11,130 pedestrians were counted within an hour at this junction. On average, 16,972 pedestrians were counted in an hour. Within the 12-hour period of data collection, as many as 203,661 pedestrian activities were registered, with vehicles travelling at speeds ranging from 90 to 120 km/hr on the corridor.

This has resulted in frequent pedestrian knock-downs with the accompanying devastating fatalities and serious injuries. These incidences cut short the lives of many and robbed families



of their providers and caretakers. Many people have been left destitute because of road crashes.

The inspection report proposed a number of safety interventions to enhance pedestrian safety as a result of the high pedestrian volume operating within the intersection catchment area. In response to some of the identified challenges at the intersection, we are embarking on this important transformation to improve safety at the intersection. These include:

- Increasing the pedestrian signal timing (crossing times): This will lead to more people crossing the entire 14 lanes all the way without waiting in the middle, and people are less likely to disobey the signal.
- Lowering of kerbs where pedestrians cross the roads. This will ensure unimpeded and safe pedestrian flow; as well as that of the physically disabled.
- Remarking the crossings and other pavement markings (pedestrian crossing, strips, centre line marking etc). This ensures general safety at the junction, enables pedestrians to cross at designated crossing locations.

The Accra Metropolitan Assembly will continue to work with the National Road Safety Commission, Bloomberg Philanthropies and all partners under this initiative as well the road agencies to deploy proven solutions to save lives and improve environments where people live, work and play.

About the AMA-BIGRS

The Accra Metropolitan Assembly, in partnership with the Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety (AMA-BIGRS) has implemented evidence-based road safety interventions to reduce road injuries and deaths in Accra since 2015. BIGRS is a five-year initiative supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies. Accra is one of the 10 cities worldwide selected to participate in this initiative.

AMA-BIGRS has four components: safer streets and mobility, enforcement, mass media and communication, and road safety surveillance. A number of activities and interventions have been undertaken under these four components since 2015. These include road assessments to guide recommendations for safer roads, launch and continuous implementation of the pedestrian safety action plan, formation of a task force comprising the Motor Traffic and Transport Department (MTTD) of the Ghana Police Service and City Metropolitan Guards, and road safety campaigns to clamp down on drunk driving during festive occasions.



About the Partnership for Healthy Cities

The Partnership for Healthy Cities is a prestigious global network of 54 cities committed to saving lives by preventing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and injuries. Supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies in partnership with World Health Organisation, as well as Vital Strategies, this initiative is enabling cities around the world to deliver a high-impact policy or programmatic intervention to reduce NCD risk factors in their communities.

For more information, visit: <https://partnershipforhealthycities.bloomberg.org/>