

Third-Party Evaluator's Opinion
Wanxian-Liangping Highway Construction Project

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Item: Relevance

In China, there is a huge economic disparity between the coastal areas and the interior. The opening to traffic of the highway between Shanghai and Chengdu is expected to promote the distribution of people and goods, which will in turn contribute to the reduction of the economic disparity. The highway constructed under this project is part of the highway system connecting Shanghai to Chengdu. Since the planned highway includes a section where there is neither railroad nor air service, it is an important part of China's highway construction.

The development of the transportation system that includes the Wanxian-Liangping Highway is helping to accelerate the economic growth of Chongqing. The municipality's GDP grew to 348.6 billion yuan in 2006, a 12.2% increase over that of the previous year. In terms of permanent resident population, the per capita GDP reached 12,437 yuan, an 11.9% increase over that of the previous year. In addition, the city's local financial revenues reached 52.946 billion yuan, a 30.5% increase over that of the previous year, of which 31.773 billion yuan is in the form of general financial revenues, a 23.7% increase over that of the previous year. This accounts for 60% of the overall financial revenues. Chongqing ranks fifth or higher among the 12 provinces of western China (or autonomous areas) in all principal economic indicators.

The construction of the Wanxian-Liangping Highway will contribute to the establishment of a harmonious society. Chongqing is a multiethnic municipality under the direct jurisdiction of the central government. The Han people make up the bulk of the ethnic composition in Chongqing, but there are 48 other minority groups including the Tujia, Miao, Huizu, and Manju. In all, there are 1.75 million members of minority groups in Chongqing. With 1.13 million, the Tujia constitute the largest minority group. Since the municipality of Chongqing has a population of 31.4423 million, minorities account for 55.6% of its total population. The wide variety of minority cultures and customs found in Chongqing are precious tourist resources, so the development of transportation infrastructure is indispensable for its tourist industry.

Item: Impact

Generally speaking, the more brisk the traffic, the greater the negative impact of traffic accidents. However, since traffic rules are rigorously enforced in China, traffic regulations in the area targeted by the project were also rigorously enforced, and as a result, the number of accidents did not increase proportionate to the increase in traffic volume. Among the positive impacts the project have had is the

increase in the flow of people and goods and the various opportunities for exchanges between local residents that such an increase generates.

A glance at the trend in the number of traffic deaths since the Wanxian-Linagping Highway was opened to traffic reveals that the number of deaths per 10,000 vehicles occurring between Wanxian and Lingping decreased from 6.3 persons in 2004 to 3.7 in 2005, and in 2006, the number was reduced to zero. These decreasing trends in traffic accidents are significantly lower than the national average of 6.2 deaths per 10,000 vehicles.

From the foregoing, it is clear that the positive impacts on the local residents exerted by the road constructed under this project are greater than the negative impacts of traffic accidents and the like.