

Completion of Phase One of the Project for the Road Improvement of the Northern Part of the North-South Corridor in the Republic of Zimbabwe

In 2018, the Government of Zimbabwe and Japan signed an Exchange of Notes and Grant Agreement for the grant aid project named “*Project for the Road Improvement of the Northern Part of the North-South Corridor in the Republic of Zimbabwe,*” providing up to 21 million United States Dollars. The objective of the project is to improve transportation and logistics situation as well as traffic safety of the Northern part of the North-South Corridor by constructing climbing lanes and improving horizontal and vertical alignment of the sharp curves between Chirundu and Makuti. This project is a part of Japan’s support for North-South Corridor Development that includes previous support such as construction of Chirundu Bridge in 2002, support for launching the Chirundu One Stop Border Post (OSBP) in 2009 and the current technical cooperation project with Ministry of Industry and Commerce and Zimbabwe Revenue Authority to further improve the operation at Chirundu OSBP.



Phase 1 of the project commenced on 1 July 2019 and was completed on 31 May 2021. The project was implemented by the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development under the supervision of Japanese highway engineers. Through the construction of Phase 1 of the project, the sharp bends of the 6.5km stretch of road between Morongora and Hells Gate (between Makuti and Chirundu) have been widened, the gradients reduced and hill-climbing lanes constructed, with visual guidance pegs, markings and adequate signposting installed as depicted in the pictures.



The road improvement plays an important role in accessibility, efficiency and facilitating for regional and international trade in Zimbabwe and it will lead to a reduction of traffic accidents and shorten traveling time of the 6.5km road section.

At the handover ceremony held on 5 May 2021, and as Japan continues its support to Zimbabwe, the Japanese Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Mr. Satoshi Tanaka officially announced that the Government of Japan had decided to conduct a preparatory survey for second phase of the project.