Lead Agency on Road Safety, Punjab Road Safety Council
Supreme Court Mandate

The Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety vide letter No.16/2016/CORS, dated 24.11.2016 addressing all Chief Secretaries of the States/UTs, directed the constitution of a Lead Agency to exclusively deal with road safety issues.

This letter was in continuation of earlier reference made vide letter dated 23.12.2014.
Road Accident Fatalities in Punjab

Source: 2021 Report on Punjab Road Accidents & Traffic
Hierarchical Structure

Punjab Road Safety Council
[Chairperson: Transport Minister]

Lead Agency
[Director General: Retired IAS]

District Road Safety Committees
[Chairperson: Deputy Commissioner/DM]
Lead Agency, PSRSC

- A full-fledged Lead agency on Road Safety as the Secretariat to the Punjab State Road Safety Council was notified on 04.12.2020.
- There are three non-official members, who are Joint Director level professionals in the field of Medical & Emergency, Road Engineering and Traffic Management.
- State Government in order to make the Lead Agency fully functional on a continuous basis appointed a retired IAS officer as Director General, Lead Agency.
Functions of the Lead Agency, PSRSC

- Working as a secretariat for the Punjab State Road Safety Council, arrange meetings of the Council, issue its Minutes and monitor the implementation of the decisions of the Council by the concerned Departments of the State.
- Coordination with the concerned Departments of the State.
- Ensure implementation of the directions issued from time to time by the SCCoRS and by the Central Government and furnish Compliance Reports in a time-bound manner.
- Notify annual targets for reduction of accidents and fatalities as fixed by the State and draw up an Annual Action Plan to achieve the targets and monitor its implementation.
- Collate regular basis data on road accidents and analyze the data to identify areas of road stretches and categories of accident victims who should be focused upon.
- Manage the Road Safety Fund and ensure that the Fund is effectively utilized.
Lead Agency’s working during the last three years

Lead Agency to the Punjab State Road Safety Council in spite of its initial problems relating to lack of staff, budget, and infrastructure, is able to bring the issue of road safety to the forefront, as it is one of the most serious public health issues in the state, keeping in view the of a large number of innocent lives lost every year which the state government cannot afford to ignore. The impact of the issue is clearly visible by the huge investment made by NHAI in the rectification of black spots in the state and the state government’s own budgetary support for road safety, which was non-existent three years ago.

During the years 2020 and 2021, even though the Lead Agency was created, it did not have any professionals or funds in place, nor infrastructure and staff for its proper functioning. It was only in the month of July, 2021 that the Finance Department sanctioned three posts of Joint Directors and subordinate staff. During the years 2021 and 2022 efforts were made to recruit professionals in the fields of Road Engineering, Traffic, Medical Emergency, and also subordinate staff. However, due to low remuneration notified for these posts, till the end of December 2022, the Lead Agency was functioning with one Under Secretary and one Senior Assistant.

The then Finance Minister, of Punjab in his budget speech in April 2021, for the first time, announced a financial allocation of Rs. 33 Crores to road safety in Punjab. However, due to a lack of Heads of Expenditure and staff, this budget could not be utilized. During this financial year 2021-22, the Heads of Expenditure and SOEs have been created. However, the entire Budget allocations under Revenue Head 3055 and Capital Head 5055 have been diverted during RE in December 2021. During the Financial Year 2022-23 a proposal for Road Safety works/schemes/projects was submitted to the Finance Department and the Finance Department has increased the budget allocation to Rs. 64.10 crores.
On Going Projects/Works

- The proposal to purchase of Highway Patrol Vehicles and traffic management equipment by the Traffic Police (SADAK SURAKHYA FORCE)

- Supervision of utilization of Rs 4.05 crores released to the District Road Safety Committees (under CFDL Scheme).

- The Motor Vehicle Accident Fund for the cashless treatment of victims of Road Accidents (Hit & Run) as notified by MoRTH, Government of India.

- The Scheme for Grant of Awards to a Good Samaritan for persons who save the life of a victim of a road accident involving a motor vehicle by administering immediate assistance and rushing to Hospital/Trauma Care Centre within the Golden Hour of the accident to provide medical treatment.

- The Proposal to make the Trauma Care Centers at Jalandhar (Level-II), Khanna, Pathankot, Fazilka, Ferozepur (Level III) functional with the gap-funding by PSRSC.

- Monitoring the traffic checking as per the provisions of the Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Act, 2019 done by the Department of Transport and Traffic Police in Punjab.
On Going Projects/Works (cont.)

- Monitoring the implementation of *the Road Safety Action Plan* 2023-2024.
- Monitoring the construction of footpaths and cycle-tracks as per the directions issued in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 279 of 2022 by the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India.
- Undertaking road safety awareness campaigns in the state with the involvement of civil society organizations and NGOs in the State.
- Capacity Building of the Stakeholder Departments by organizing trainings/workshops/Seminars, etc.
- Implementation of Road Safety Mini-Mission under Mission Tandarust and the Gap-funding Project.
- Implementation and supervision of various directions issued by SCCoRS, MoRTH, and Punjab Government etc.
- Preparation and submission of a comprehensive, consolidated compliance report to the SCCoRS on the directions issued since the year 2014.
Works/Projects to be taken up

- Installation of CCTV Camera systems (ITMS) on major roads/city junctions in the most accident-prone districts of the State.
- Purchase of Electronic and Non-Electronic Traffic Management and Road Safety Equipment.
- Monitoring of the setting up of road safety and accident response unit at the Police Commissionerate, Amritsar.
- Formulation of a scheme by the Health and Family Welfare Department for free treatment of road accident victims within 48 hours of a road crash.
- Monitoring and supervision of the rectification of Black Spots identified during Phase-1 (2019) and Phase-2 (2021) by the road-owning agencies including NHAI and also funding the process of identification of Black Spots of Phase-3.
Future Vision

Punjab’s current daily average fatality rate per million population is 12-14 fatalities per day, which is very high compared to the national average of 8-10 fatalities per day. This is due to a lack of systemic traffic enforcement in the state especially with regard to drunken driving and over-speeding coupled with an ever-increasing vehicle population and untrained drivers and unsafe vehicles on the roads and also near absence of proper emergency care in Punjab.

The State is committed to address these road safety issues by putting in place Highway Patrol Vehicles equipped with modern traffic regulation equipment for effective patrolling of highways, by improving the system of issuing Driving Licenses and fitness certificates to commercial vehicles, by putting prompt and proper emergency care in place, by removing black spots on all the roads in the State by taking engineering and enforcement measures and sensitization of people through awareness campaigns. These measures will be supplemented by the installation of CCTV camera system (ITMS) on major roads and junctions State for electronic monitoring of traffic enforcement of the entire state as per the mandate given under Section 136 A of the MV Act, 1988.

The Punjab State Road Safety Council and the Lead Agency in coordination with all stakeholder departments such as PWD (B&R), Local Government, NHAI Health and Family welfare, Transport, Punjab Mandi Board, and Traffic Police, will work towards the reduction of road accident fatalities by 50 percent in next two years.
"Think globally, act locally"