

The assessment of non-traffic benefits in road transportation economic analysis: “a case study for Upgrading of Makongolosi- Rungwa- Itigi- Mkiwa Road to Bitumen Standard.”

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Economic evaluation of road improvement project requires estimated economic benefits to exceed its economic cost for its implementation to be justified. However, the analysis of these road projects mainly depends on the benefits that are directly related to traffic. Non-traffic benefits that arise to the communities along the road project influence zone are excluded/ ignored in the analysis, since these benefits constitute a very small proportion of overall project benefits and make no impact to its economic evaluation. The study assessed the impact of non-traffic benefits in the economic viability analyses of road improvement projects and revealed that, the selected non-traffic benefits which included; “increased income due to employment during construction, improved access to social services (education and health facility), increased income as a result of economic growth, RoW – road reserve facilitates installation of other public utilities, and land value appreciation,” greatly enhanced the economic performance indicators and constitutes a considerable proportion of benefits to the overall benefits. Additionally, the study also revealed that non-traffic benefits have more impact in low volume roads which constitute of low vehicular-traffic with low traffic growth. Hence, it justifies how significantly is to assess the non-traffic benefits in the economic viability analyses of road improvement projects.