

REALIZING UNIVERSAL ACCESS AND MOBILITY FOR JAMAICAN RURAL RESIDENTS IN A MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORT MODEL

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H. Rural access and mobility

Residents of Jamaica's rural areas are hard-pressed and challenged to move within and outside of their communities due to the limited and/or lack of access to public transportation. Successive political administrations have consistently paid "lip-service" to the issue at hand and there has been scant attention paid to the plight of the rural resident's transportation needs.

Poor infrastructure conditions, under-resourced budgets, planning deficiencies and weak approaches and strategies to economic and social development have all contributed to the absence of proper public transportation arrangements for Jamaica's rural folk. The problem is particularly troublesome for two important and core economic sectors such as a) agriculture, which is characterized by low productivity levels and market access issues directly related to roads and transportation and b) education and employment for rural youth mobility.

This study and presentation seeks to identify and recommend the most appropriate approach to realizing universal access and mobility for all categories of Jamaican rural residents within the context of the country's national multi-modal transportation policy, the harsh economic and social conditions facing the local economy and the challenges faced in providing a modern and efficient transportation system throughout the country. The resultant conclusion of this case study, will inform the Government's national development plan – Vision 2030, the roadmap for making Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise families and conduct business.

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