



## **MINISTRY OF ROADS AND TRANSPORT STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ROADS**

Telephone: (020) 2729200  
Email: [comms@roads.go.ke](mailto:comms@roads.go.ke)  
Website: [www.roads.go.ke](http://www.roads.go.ke)

TRANSCOM BUILDING  
NGONG ROAD  
P.O. Box 30260 - 00100  
NAIROBI

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **MINISTRY LAUNCHES BRIDGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM MANUALS TO STRENGTHEN MAINTAINANCE AND SAFETY OF BRIDGE INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Nairobi, 30 June 2026:** The Ministry of Roads and Transport has launched the Bridge Management System (BMS) Manuals, establishing a comprehensive national framework for the inspection, maintenance and management of bridges across Kenya.

The manuals mark a significant milestone in strengthening bridge asset management, extending the lifespan of critical infrastructure and enhancing the safety, resilience and sustainability of the country's transport network.

The official launch ceremony was presided over by the Principal Secretary for Roads, Eng. Joseph Mbugua, on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary for Roads and Transport, Hon. Davis Chirchir. The event held at Crowne Plaza, JKIA, brought together representatives from the Government of Japan, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), road agencies, regulatory institutions, academia and other stakeholders in the infrastructure sector.

In a speech delivered on his behalf by the Principal Secretary, the Cabinet Secretary described the launch as a transformative step in Kenya's approach to bridge management, noting that the system shifts the sector from reactive repairs to preventive, data-driven and life-cycle-based maintenance. He emphasized that bridges are critical national assets whose failure can disrupt transport, compromise public safety and impose significant economic costs.

Kenya's road network spans more than 240,000 kilometres across national and county roads and includes over 3,100 bridges and more than 5,100 box culverts that support connectivity across major transport corridors. However, ageing infrastructure, inadequate inspection coverage, fragmented records, limited maintenance resources and increasing climate-related risks have exposed bridge assets to deterioration and structural vulnerability.

The Bridge Management System project, implemented with support from JICA under the Project for Strengthening of Capacity Development on Bridge Management

System in the Republic of Kenya, commenced in October 2020 and is scheduled for completion in July 2026. The initiative seeks to strengthen the technical, institutional and operational capacity of road agencies to manage bridge assets more efficiently and sustainably.

At the centre of the initiative is the 2026 Bridge Management Suite, comprising specialized technical manuals that provide a standardized framework for bridge inspection, condition assessment, maintenance planning, repair, budgeting and asset management.

The manuals include the **Bridge Maintenance Management Guideline**, which establishes institutional procedures and maintenance planning frameworks; the **Inspection Manual for Bridges** and **Bridge Inspection Handbook**, which standardize inspection methodologies and defect assessment; the **Bridge Repair Manual**, which provides technical guidance for repairing concrete, steel, timber and masonry structures; the **Standard Specifications for Bridge Repair in Kenya**, which set quality standards for repair works; and the **Cost Estimation Manual for Bridge Repair Works**, which introduces a uniform approach to budgeting and cost planning.

The Bridge Management System enables systematic collection of inspection data, standardized condition ratings and objective prioritization of maintenance interventions, allowing road agencies to allocate resources efficiently, improve safety outcomes and maximize value for public investment.

Implementation of the project has brought together the State Department for Roads, the Materials Testing and Research Directorate, the Kenya Roads Board, the Kenya National Highways Authority, the Kenya Rural Roads Authority, the Kenya Urban Roads Authority, the Kenya Wildlife Service, the Kenya Institute of Highways and Building Technology and the National Construction Authority.

The Cabinet Secretary emphasized that the initiative aligns with the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, the Fourth Medium Term Plan and the Ministry of Roads and Transport Strategic Plan 2023–2027, all of which prioritize infrastructure sustainability, climate resilience and prudent management of public assets.

He called upon road agencies and county governments to adopt the manuals as standard reference documents and integrate the Bridge Management System into their routine operations.

The Principal Secretary expressed appreciation to the Government and people of Japan and JICA for their continued partnership and technical support, acknowledging that the collaboration has strengthened institutional capacity and established a solid foundation for sustainable bridge management in Kenya.

The launch of the Bridge Management System Manuals underscores the Ministry's commitment to preserving critical transport infrastructure through planned maintenance, evidence-based decision-making and effective asset management to

ensure safe, reliable and resilient bridge infrastructure for present and future generations.

**For additional information, please contact:**

*Public Communications Department  
State Department for Roads  
Email: [comms@roads.go.ke](mailto:comms@roads.go.ke)*