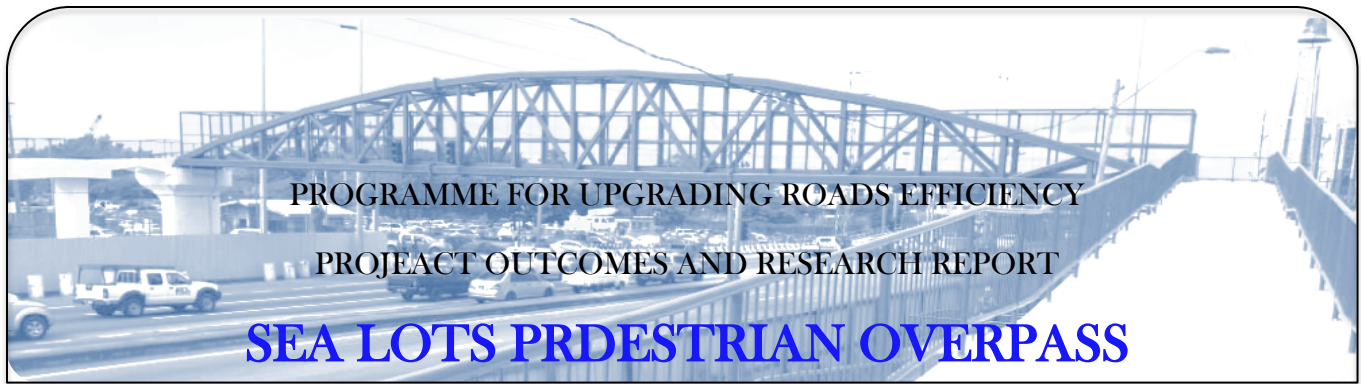




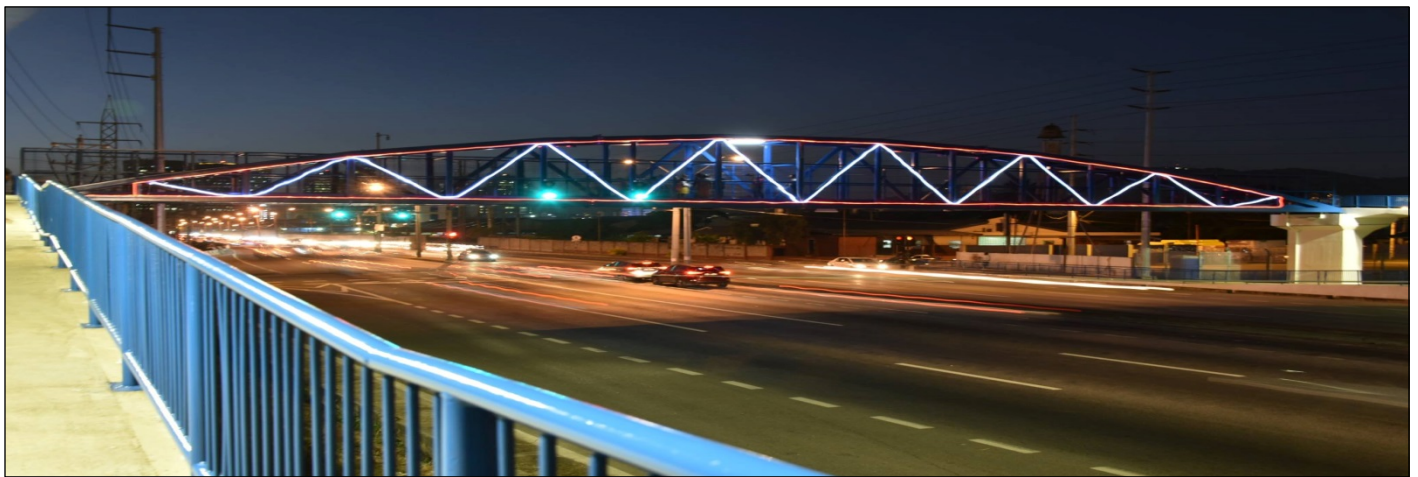
**PROGRAMME FOR
UPGRADING ROADS
EFFICIENCY
PROJECT OUTCOMES AND
RESEARCH REPORT**



**SEA LOTS
PEDESTRIAN
OVERPASS**



The Sea Lots Pedestrian Overpass was a project of the Ministry of Works and Transport, PURE Unit. The PURE Unit was mandated to design and construct a pedestrian overpass to provide a safer means for residents to access and egress from the Sea Lots area. The pedestrian overpass is located along the Beetham Highway, just east of the intersection of Abbatoir Road/ Production Drive and in the vicinity of the Central Market compound to the north and SWMCOL compound to the south. The project was conceived due to the safety concerns regarding pedestrian and vehicular conflicts in the vicinity of the Central Market, Port of Spain along the Beetham Highway.



Residents of Sea Lots community and environs cross the Beetham Highway to access various areas in the surrounding community of Port of Spain. Studies conducted by the Traffic Management Branch (TMB) indicated that on regular weekday alone, a total of 289 persons cross the Highway between Pioneer Drive and Abattoir Road .Noteworthy, a number of accidents involving pedestrians occurred in said vicinity, which was highlighted in local media and emphasized the inadequacy of measures to ensure the safety of pedestrians traversing the highway in this area.



The objectives of the Sea Lots Pedestrian Overpass were:

- To eliminate pedestrian and vehicular conflicts at intersection of Abattoir Road and the Beetham Highway.
- To eliminate pedestrian crossing phase at the signalised intersection, thereby reducing travel times into and out of POS.
- To ensure safe and efficient movement of people and goods across the Beetham Highway.
- To create a pedestrian friendly facility, that is well integrated into the market compound and environs.



PROJECT OUTCOMES AND RESEARCH

The Outcomes and Research Department of the Programme for Upgrading Roads Efficiency (PURE) conducted surveys with residents and visitors within the surrounding community at the preliminary and completion stages of the project.

Two hundred and five (205) individuals were surveyed with regard to this project.

The objectives of this survey were to determine whether the project met its intended purpose. As such, the questionnaires were tailored to fulfil the stated objective.

EVALUATION OF RESULTS

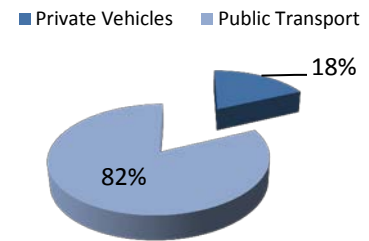
A preliminary survey was conducted one (1) month before construction began. Of the participants surveyed, 82% used public transportation to and from their homes on a daily basis, while the remaining 18% use private vehicles.

Additionally, 95% of the participants indicated that there was a need for the pedestrian overpass at Beetham Highway, highlighting the concerns for their children and the elderly when crossing, primarily because of the reckless drivers on the roads that do not use the traffic lights correctly.

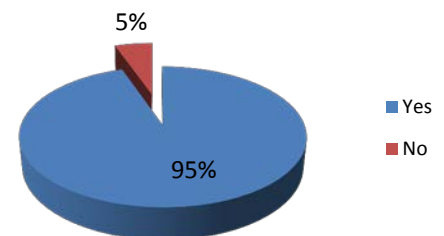
Out of the 144 respondents who supported the need for a pedestrian overpass, 71% indicated that it was necessary for the improvement of pedestrian safety, 17% indicated its importance for the removal of pedestrian and vehicular conflicts when crossing the dangerous highway and 12% indicated the overpass will help save time by avoiding waiting on the traffic lights.

With the proposed walkover to provide improved pedestrian safety, residents hope that friends and family would visit more frequently.

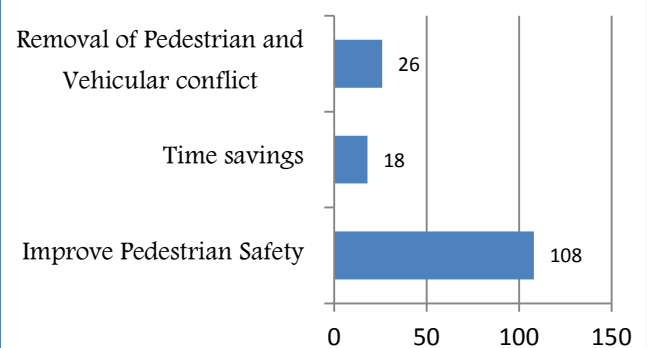
Daily means of Commuting



Is there a need for the pedestrian overpass?



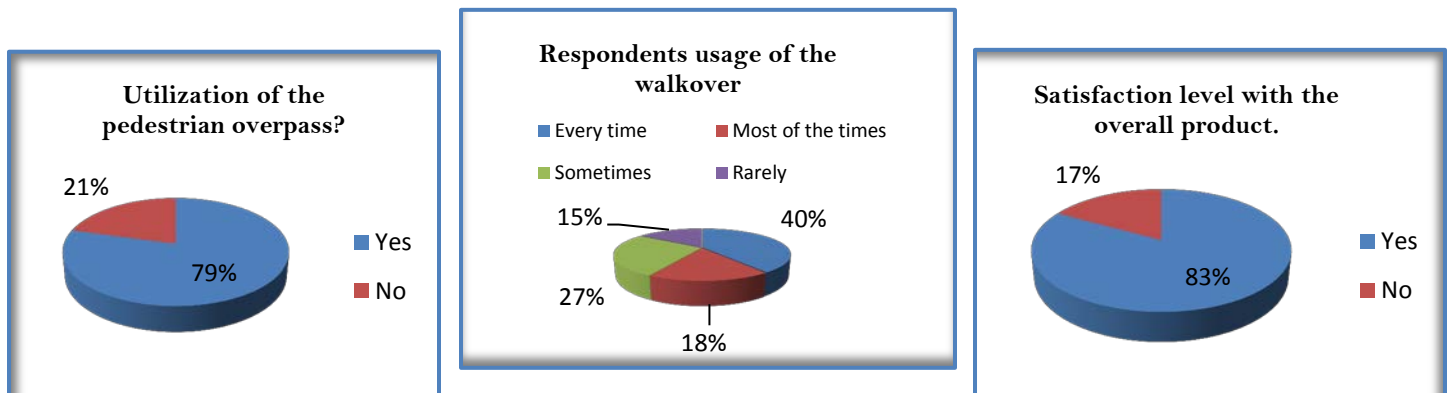
Why is there a need for pedestrian overpass?



Subsequent to the completion of the pedestrian overpass on the 30th of November 2018, a post construction survey was conducted in January 2019, using randomly selected pedestrians utilizing the walkover. *It was observed that approximately 125 persons utilized the walkover and 8 persons did not, on said day.*

The survey also highlighted that 79% of participants preferred to use the walkover as they felt uncomfortable for their children to cross the busy highway, while the remaining 21% preferred not to use the walkover, due to the length of the ramp. It was indicated that the ramp made it difficult to carry heavy goods across, and that it is too time consuming to cross, especially when rain is falling. It was also mentioned by some residents that they felt contented crossing the highway, as they have been crossing the highway all their lives.

Additionally, 83% of the participants indicated that they were extremely satisfied with the final product and would encourage others to use it.



CONCLUSION

Based on the survey findings, it is quite evident that the project has safely and accurately met three out of the four intended objectives mentioned in the onset of this report, which could be seen as a huge success for the PURE Unit. However, the objective of eliminating pedestrian and vehicular conflicts at the intersection of Abattoir Road and the Beetham Highway is yet to be fulfilled. The unit faces the challenge of some individuals failing to use the pedestrian overpass although it is safer for them to do so, as well as it is their direct responsibility as citizens. In accordance with the Highway Code issued under the ***Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Act, Section III (1) of M.V. and R.T. Act Chap. 48:50***, "It is the responsibility of each pedestrian to make use of all measures that would improve their own safety on the roadways." With this in mind, some pedestrians are executing this responsibility by regularly using the Sea Lots Pedestrian Overpass while others are not. On the other hand, those who do not, risk their lives and the lives of their loved ones who may be traversing with them. Unfortunately this is unavoidable and out of the hands of the unit, as this aspect is as a result of mere choice or free will of an individual/s. Although the unit faces this challenge, the Sea Lots Pedestrian Overpass acts as a feasible means of traversing to and from the Port of Spain market compound and environs. Further, it has added aesthetic value to the community and the lighting has significantly contributed to a heightened sense of safety at night when using the Overpass.

PURE Unit will continue to improve the lives of residents and communities' one project at a time in helping to create a safer road network.