



Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Kenya

## Press Release

-

### **Work starts this month on anti-congestion road links in the capital, says EU**

In the lead up to signing an agreement which will see increased funding go to urban transport, the European Union confirmed that work is starting on 16 km of road links in Nairobi which are designed to ease congestion between major junctions.

The links will ease major congestion hotspots by linking the city's arteries, such as Limuru Road to Waiyaki Way and Thika Road, and linking Enterprise Road to Mombasa Road. Eight road and pedestrian links in all will be built, with KShs 3.4 billion provided by the European Union, in grants not loans.

An important part of the works is to ensure the large number of Nairobi's pedestrians benefit too. Streetlights will be installed and all the roads will have pavement constructed alongside the highway. In addition, two new walking/cycling-specific routes will be built along Rabai Road and Lusaka Road.

Planning and work has been in collaboration with Ministry of Transport and the Kenyan Urban Roads Authority, who are providing KShs 1.5 billion, to build 21 km of footpaths and cycleways. Traffic management procedures will be put in place while the work takes place to ensure cars keep moving. Construction workers will be given safety training and high visibility clothing. Work is expected to be complete by 2016.

Lodewijk Briet, the European Union Ambassador to Kenya, said:

"Nairobi's business and growth is being held back by jams. These links are designed to fill-in the missing parts of Nairobi's road layout – mostly in the east - and ease congestion and improve safety for the city's commuters and pedestrians.

"The European Union wants to help Nairobi grow and improve the lives of its travelling residents. No one doubts the economic cost of congestion to Nairobi. It could be anywhere between KShs 50 to 200 million every day, depending which analysis you look at. Further planning and investment will be needed, particularly in buses and public transport."

A recent report from the Japanese development agency, JICA, and commissioned by the Nairobi City Council showed that in 2013 the average speed of traffic in the capital is 40km/h but is forecast to halve in the next fifteen years without extra transport capacity.

The capital's population is expected to double to 7 million by 2030 and, at the same time, car ownership is set to rise from a quarter of the capital's households ten years ago to half the city's population by 2025.

Affordable mass transit is vital for the many of the capital's workers. Many of the urban poor walk, and pedestrians accounted for some 40% of travel in the city last year. There are associated time-losses and a drop in national productivity, as well as security and safety issues for pedestrians, which is why the European Union has made pedestrian routes an important part of this project.

The next six-year round of European Union funding for Kenya will be signed this week and a major part of funding is expected to include support to improving Nairobi's public transport infrastructure.

**Notes to editors:**

Please find the map showing the location of the road links also attached.

Table of road and path links in Nairobi:

	<b>Road link (all with pavements for pedestrians)</b>	<b>Length</b>
1	Muratina street upgrading (General Waruingi Road to Juja Road) and extension (Juja Road to Thika Road)	2.2km
2	Lusaka Road turning into dual carriageway (Mombasa Road to Enterprise Road)	1.3km
3	Enterprise Road turning into dual carriageway (Likoni Road to Homa Bay Road)	2.2km
4	Likoni Road turning into dual carriageway (Mombasa Road to Enterprise Road)	1.9km
5	Quarry Road turning into dual carriageway and extension to Landhies Road and Accra road extension to Ngara Road	2.8km
6	Ring Road Parklands turning into dual carriageway from Westland Roundabout, and extension to Limuru Road and then to Thika Road	5.7km
	<b>Total road</b>	<b>16.1km</b>
<b>Pavement/cycleway</b>		
7	Footpath/cycleway alongside Rabai and Mumias South Road	4km
8	Footpath/cycleway alongside Lusaka road	1km
	<b>Total path/cycleway</b>	<b>5km</b>

**For media enquiries only please contact: Matt Freear**

**Phone: +254 703 116992**

**Website: [http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/kenya/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/kenya/index_en.htm)**

**Twitter: [@EUinKenya](https://twitter.com/EUinKenya)**