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Revision of the UNECE Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project Standards and Recommended Practice

The UNECE-sponsored Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project published the 3rd Edition of its Standards and Recommended Practice containing motorway design, construction and operation as well as newly required safety measures in motorway tunnels.

The TEM Standards and Recommended Practice were published for the first time in 1981 and updated in 1992. They serve the purpose of ensuring that planning and design of the TEM motorway provide for adequate traffic flow at minimum operating cost, harmonized conditions for motorway users, proper level of service, safety, speed and driver comfort over medium and long distances. They were elaborated under the technical guidance provided by the Governments participating in the TEM Project and were adopted by the Project's Steering Committee.

In the course of the present revision, the UNECE European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR) and the 1997 update of the Highway Capacity Manual (US Transportation Research Board Special Report 209) were taken into account. In addition to these sources, the chapter on tunnels was revised basically in order to incorporate the newly required safety measures in motorway tunnels, including the recommendations of the UNECE Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels established in 1999. The topics covered are: planning; design parameters; traffic regulation and safety; facilities; environmental considerations; bridges; tunnels; and maintenance related to design.

Although their primary application will be to the Trans-European North-South Motorway, the Standards are available to other United Nations member countries, which may find them beneficial for the formulation or updating of their national standards.

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The full text of the standards and Recommended Practices is available on the UNECE web site:

<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/tem/temstand.html>

The TEM Project is a sub-regional cooperation framework established in 1977 under the aegis of the Geneva-based UNECE by the Governments of the Central, Eastern and South-Eastern European countries for the development of transport infrastructure, assistance in the integration process of transport infrastructure systems and the facilitation of international road traffic in Europe.

The Project, which is supported by contributions of 13 member countries, has so far been instrumental in the establishment of and assistance in the construction of the TEM Network extending in total to 23,797 km, out of which 7,201 km (28%) are in operation and 1,682 km under construction, despite the significant financial difficulties of most countries in the region.

The following countries are members of the TEM: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Turkey. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Sweden and Ukraine are observers.

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