

2.1 Duties of the Consulting Firm

At the outset, this project became known as CARNS or the CARNS study, an abbreviation for Community Access Roads Need Study. In view of the size of the task of identifying Local Roads in the rural areas of KwaZulu-Natal, six member firms of the S A Association of Consulting Engineers were appointed such that each could undertake the assessment of three or four Maintenance Districts in which they were experienced. In addition, Mr Peter Derman, the Director of CORD (Community Organisation Research and Documentation), was appointed to provide social and developmental input, and to take responsibility for establishing the Transport Forums in all 24 Maintenance Districts.

The Terms of Reference of these appointments were as follows:

"The duties to be performed by the Consulting Firm in terms of this Agreement shall be:

- 2.1 *The study will in essence consist of the following:*
 1. *Prioritisation of CAR's for the whole of the Province based on districts , and*
 2. *Prioritisation of CAR's on a local level after proper consultation with the communities.*

- 2.2 *In addition to the pure road need study, the following aspects of rural development need to form part of this initiative.*
 1. *Existing applications for roads must be investigated and discussed with the applicants. It must be explained to the communities that a need study is being undertaken without raising expectations.*

Institutional capacity building of communities will be co-ordinated by CORD who will be responsible for an appropriate strategy and implementation in conjunction with the other six consultants.

The assessment of CAR's for possible proclamation, to form part of the established network will form part of the study and the points system should be used as a guide.

The labour component of CAR's constructed

capital-intensively should be optimised and proposals should be formulated.

Maintenance programmes will form a very important aspect of the CARNS and a joint programme should be developed.

Proposals for a training programme are required.

Although the primary aim of CARNS Is to prioritise the road needs of the rural communities, a desk top study of road infrastructure needs could include the documentation of other infrastructure needs if this does not entail a substantial increase in cost.

A Provincial prioritisation of road needs will include a Need for Access Index based on the degree of accessibility in a magisterial district as well an Development Potential Index.

2. *Transport Forums (Road Infrastructure) need to be established in all Maintenance Districts as representative bodies for the communities..*

Transport Forums (Passenger Transport) already exist in certain areas and could be utilised to represent communities with regard to road infrastructure matters."

The Study was managed by a Steering Committee, chaired by Mr H Klem, Deputy Chief Engineer of the Department's Community Access Roads and Construction Directorate, and included Messrs B Mbanjwa and N Cross of the same Department, and representatives of CORD and the six firms of consulting engineers.

In following the Terms of Reference, the Project Team has identified the following sub-projects which were assigned to subcommittees who reported on a regular basis to the Steering Committee:

- Prioritisation of CAR's
- Allocation of Funding
- Information Management and Database Design
- Local Road Design Standards
- Maintenance Strategies
- Production of District CAR Drawings
- Report Preparation

This has ensured that the Study findings were applied uniformly across all Maintenance Districts.