



Road Update

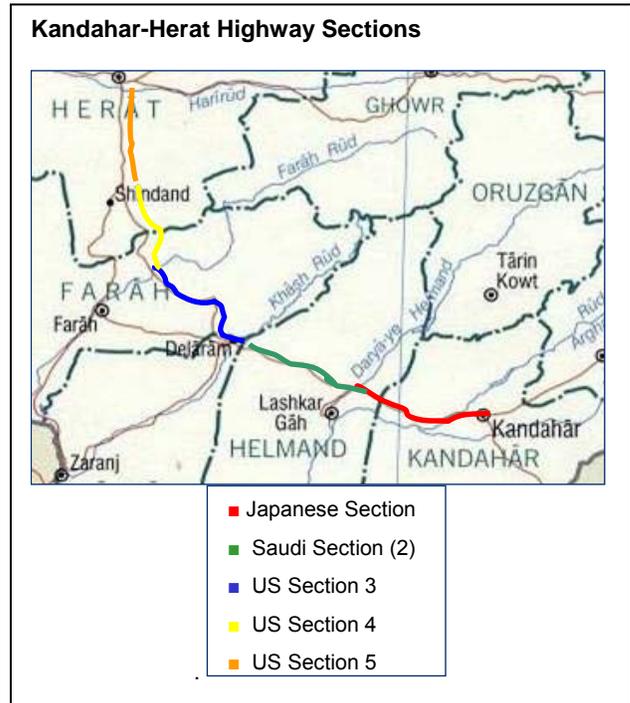
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KANDAHAR-HERAT HIGHWAY

The Kandahar-Herat Highway connects the southern and western parts of Afghanistan. This 557 km stretch of highway is part of the “Ring Road”, which interlinks the main cities of Kabul, Kandahar, and Herat. USAID is funding 326 km of the Kandahar-Herat Highway, while Saudi Arabia and Japan are each responsible for a 116 km section. The Japanese have stopped construction due to ongoing security concerns. USAID is also funding the security, de-mining, design, and construction management of the Saudi Section (Section 2).

USAID FUNDED WORK

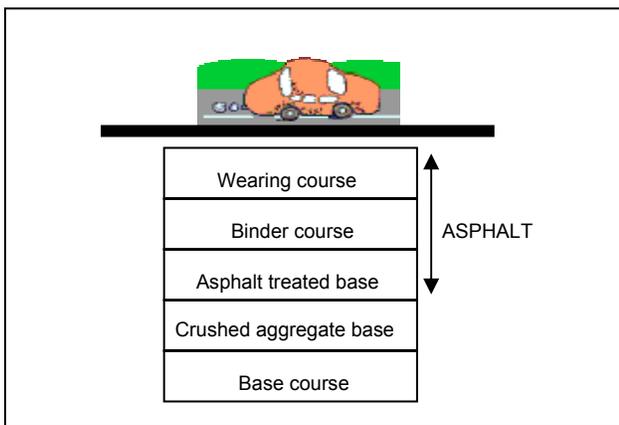
Demining, mobilizing, and design continue on **Section 2** (Km 116-231). In **Section 3** (Km 231-356), over 99% of the first and second layers of asphalt have been laid, along with 38% of the final layer (wearing course). In **Section 4** (4A Km 356-406, 4B Km 406-456), work continues on 4A at full speed, with over 86% of both the first and second layer of asphalt complete, along with 51% of the wearing course. On 4B, all of



the asphalt is complete. Also, 65% of the double bituminous surface treatment (DBST) of the shoulders is complete. In **Section 5** (Km 456-557), bridge and culvert works are continuing, and 71% of the first layer of asphalt and 67% of the second layer are complete. Currently all work is suspended on the final 24 km of the highway, pending approval to increase the spending ceiling on the prime contract.

USAID incorporates capacity building, a principal component of development and reconstruction assistance, into road reconstruction efforts in order to increase Afghan participation and commitment. During this period, 71% of the project’s employees were Afghan nationals.

Composition of a Road



Guide for the Non-Road Engineers: Construction Flow





Road Update Continued

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Focus on Urban Roads: Bibi Mahro

Northbound lanes are open to 2-way traffic on asphalt treated base. Southbound lanes are closed in preparation for subbase and base materials. Side-drain curbs and ditch work is ongoing in both directions. Unsuitable material in subgrade is being replaced. Crews are working two 12-hour shifts to meet milestones. All concrete side drains and medians are to be completed by mid-November. Asphalt wearing course and striping are to be completed in early in 2006.

PROVINCIAL ROADS HIGHLIGHTS

Security continues to delay progress on several provincial road projects.

Kabul-Gardez Road (125 km) - Section 1 is complete. Turnover procedures are in progress, and the one year warranty is officially in effect. Section 2 asphalt wearing course is complete from Km 45 – 87. This section is being prepared for the official final inspection on October 31. For Section 3, ground survey, construction of four new culverts and final design work is in progress. Prime coat placement is completed from Km 87+000 to 87+650.

Pul-e Alam to Ring Road (35 km) – Embankment work is ongoing at various locations, and rock excavation work is underway at Km 22+040 to 22+100. DBST placement continues from Km 19+900 to 20+000. There is additional drainage work at seven locations from Km 0+000 to 32+772.

Jalalabad-Asmar Road (124 km) – Sampling and testing of existing road bed work is in progress. Culvert inspection is ongoing between Km 45 – 50. Demining is in progress from Km 117 to 122 and at a new crusher plant location at Km 37+000.



Cutting the slope by the road in Panjsher Valley

Kandahar-Tirin Kot Road (148 km) – DBST in Section 3 is complete, and the road is open to traffic. The entire project, less Section 2 (Km 41 – 72), is being readied for final inspection and handover. This is tentatively scheduled for early November 2005.

Shiberghan-Sari Pul Road (54 km) - Repairs are being made to the culverts at Km 47+629, 19+451, and 22+812 are ongoing. Preparations are underway final inspection in early November.

Panjsher Road (70 km) – Section 1: Masonry culvert work is completed at Km 12+451, 14+363, 11+851 and 14+114. Retaining wall work is ongoing at Km 8+610. Section 2: Crushing and stockpiling of base course material is ongoing. Excavation and embankment work is ongoing from Km 44+900 to 45+600. Minor work on camp buildings continues.

Farah-Ring Road (70 km) – Camp facility mobilization is ongoing. Crusher production of subbase and base course material is ongoing. The road footprint between Km 38 and 40 is being surveyed. Embankment work is ongoing between Km 33 and 36. Stone masonry work continues at Km 32+432, 33+387, 33+420, and 33+985. Demining is complete for borrow sites at Km 25, 45, and 47. Gabion work from Km 9+400 to 9+540 is ongoing.

Lashkar Gah-Ring Road (49 km) - Quarry work and rock crushing continues. Testing of subgrade CBR from Km 32+080 to 38+820 is ongoing. Compaction tests are being conducted from Km 3+780 to 4+000, Km 40+840 to 41+000, and Km 30+000 to 30+250.

Ghazni-Sharan Road (57.5 km) – Precasting and placement of culvert slabs continues. Backfilling for widened culvert works is in progress between Km 35 and 37. Bulk earthworks and cutting from Km 44+700 to Km 45+600 are ongoing.

Road-Related Security Incidents

On Oct 18, 2005, a US Protection & Investigations, LLC (USPI) convoy was attacked in Kandahar. A remote controlled IED was detonated as the convoy passed, and the lead USPI escort vehicle took the full force of the IED, which resulted in 2 escort guards killed and 3 escort guards injured. The injured are presently receiving treatment at a hospital in Kandahar. Authorities have been notified, including American Military Forces. USPI provides security for USAID road activities.