



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



**DIEGO MARTIN
PEDESTRIAN OVERPASS**

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DIEGO MARTIN PEDESTRIAN OVERPASS

Diego Martin Highway gives access to both residents and visitors of not only Diego Martin but also to the Petit Valley residents and visitors. To accommodate the amount of vehicles that traverse on the highway, the Ministry of Works and Transport PURE Unit expanded the highway in 2010. The expansion project in 2010 has made it difficult for pedestrians to cross the highway in a timely manner. As a result, there have been numerous accidents over the years, which have left an unsafe feeling when crossing the highway.

In order to provide the residents and visitors of Diego Martin and Petit Valley with a safer mean of crossing the highway, the Ministry of Works and Transport, PURE Unit was mandated to design and construct a pedestrian overpass. The construction of an overpass would serve to address the safety concerns regarding pedestrian and vehicular conflicts. This project would serve to benefit the community by enabling safer and efficient movement of individuals across the Diego Martin Highway from residential areas to commercial areas.



This Diego Martin Highway Pedestrian Overpass would be crucial to the linkage of the Victoria Gardens and Four Roads communities as well as commercial developments in between.

The area of study as determined by TMB is bounded to the west by the Diego Martin Main Road, to the east by Franklin Road, to the north by Morne Coco Road and to the south by Wilson Road. Moreover, studies conducted on Wednesday May 1st, 2019 between the hours of 7:30 to 11:30 showed that 386 persons cross the highway within the morning period alone. Another count was performed on Wednesday June 11th, 2019 between the hours of 2:30 to 5:00 showed that 289 persons cross the highway within the early afternoon period.



Figure 1 – Current Situation (Before Construction)



Figure 2 – Current Situation (Before Construction)

In fact, the majority of persons crossing the highway within the afternoon are school children, from both primary and secondary schools within the area. Importantly, there is a large number primary school children crossing the highway by themselves, which is a serious safety concern. Hence, a number of accidents have been highlighted in local media involving both drivers and pedestrians while crossing the highway.

The Project objectives

The objectives of the Diego Martin Pedestrian Overpass Project are:

- To ensure safe and efficient movement of pedestrians across the highway to their destinations.
- To assist in the reduction of vehicular accidents and damage to personal property cause by vehicle pedestrian conflict.
- To create facility that would serve the community and environs whether a visitor, commuter, consumer, employer, employee, student, child, differently abled person and elderly person.

- To eliminate pedestrian crossing phases at the signalised intersection, thereby reducing travel times into and out of POS.



Figure 2 - Beginning stage of Construction



Figure 4 - During Construction



Figure 5 - During Construction



Figure 6 - During Construction

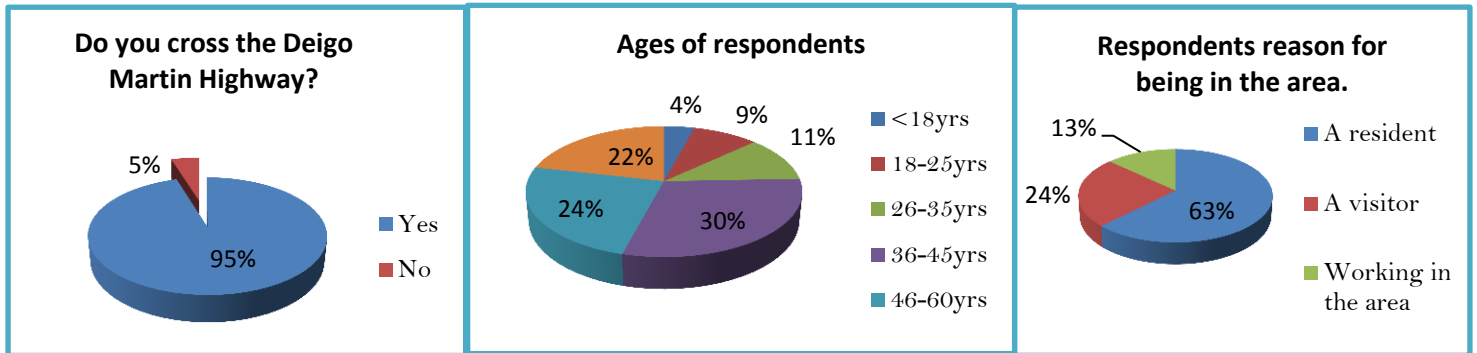
PROJECT OUTCOMES AND RESEARCH

At the preliminary stage of the project, the Outcomes and Research Department of the Programme for Upgrading Roads Efficiency (PURE) conducted surveys with one hundred and sixty-eight (168) individuals at the Diego Martin intersection. These individual consisted of residents, visitors and persons working within the surrounding area.

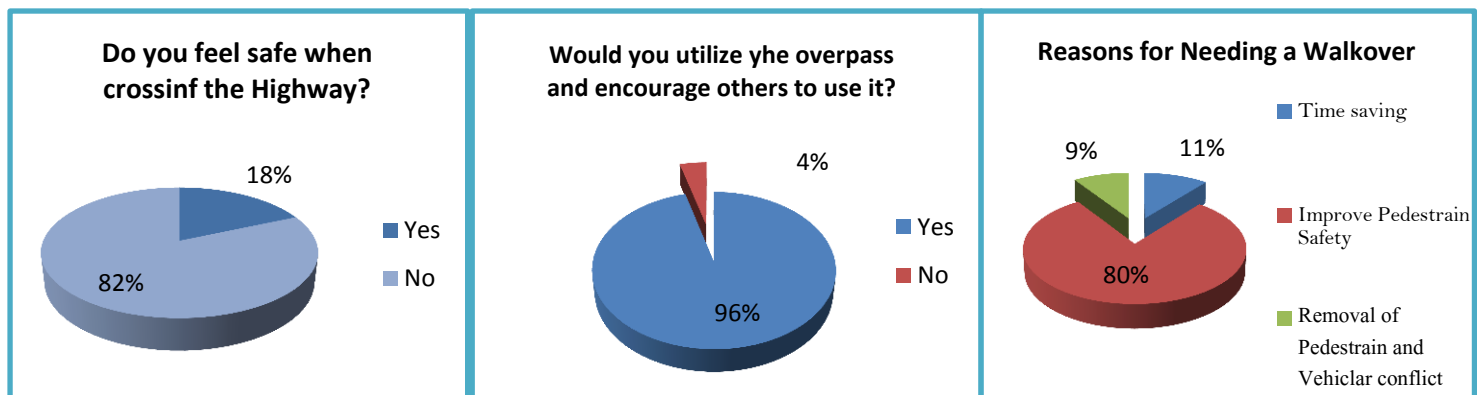
The objectives of the surveys are to:

- Determine existing issues before the project is executed.
- To highlight concerns and views of the residents and motorists within the community about safety and travelling issues.

A preliminary survey was conducted in Diego Martin between the months of January and May 2019, near the highway. The surveys were carried out at different times of the day (morning and afternoon period). The participants that were surveyed were individuals crossing the intersection. From the one hundred and sixty-eight (168) persons that were surveyed, eight (8) were drivers. In all, 63% were residents of Diego Martin, 24% were visitors and 13% were persons working in the area. The survey showed that all ages cross the Diego Martin intersection, however the data shows that 4% are below the ages of 18, 50% are between the ages of 18 to 45, 24% are between the ages of 46 to 60, while the remaining 22% are 60 and over.



82% of participants indicated that they are concerned with the safety of their lives when crossing the highway at any time of the day, due to the reckless drivers that do not obey the traffic lights. Meanwhile, 96% of the respondents said that there is a serious need for a walkover, because (a) of the number of lives that have been lost at the intersection over the years, (b) the traffic lights at the intersection takes too long to indicate when to cross, and (c) the time taken to cross the intersection is too short for the disabled and elderly persons. While the remaining 4% indicated that they felt safe cross the highway because they understood how the traffic lights function.



Conclusion

The information collected indicated the serious safety hazard posed to the residents and visitors experiencing when crossing the Four Roads, Diego Martin Highway Intersection. The data showed that the participants are fearful for their lives, and are concerned for the lives of the primary school students who cross the highway on their own.

In this vein, the Ministry of Works and Transport PURE Unit has commenced construction of a pedestrian overpass to facilitate safer passage across the highway. This project will benefit the community by ensuring safer and efficient movement of individuals across the highway. 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."*

Therefore, it is incumbent on each pedestrian to ensure that they use the completed **walkover each time** they traverse the highway. Further, an important **responsibility lies with parents, guardians, teachers** and the wider adult society **to impress upon our children the importance of using the overpass every** single time there is a need to cross the highway.

The 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.