Building a Climate Resilient Transport Sector in Jamaica: Risks and Opportunities

**Jamaica’s transport network**

- **Roadways**: 22,077 km
- **Railways**: 330 km
- **Seaports**: 14
- **Airports**: 3 international, 3 domestic
- **Public transport**: 2,747 km

**Major climate impacts**

- **Higher temperatures**
- **Rising sea levels**
- **Stronger tropical storms**
- **More intense rainfall events**

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**What can Jamaica do to build resilience?**

- **Mobilize finance for adaptation**
  - Assess financing needs for climate-proofing transport infrastructure.
  - Catalogue the design lifetime of major infrastructure (e.g., roads, bridges, ports) and include in investment plans.
  - Cost out improved maintenance regimes for different types of infrastructure and include in annual budget.

- **Mainstream adaptation into governance and planning**
  - Increase capacity of the bodies responsible for the management and regulation of infrastructure to build climate resilience and disaster risk reduction approaches into plans and operations.
  - Strengthen collaboration among various ministries, departments and agencies to address exacerbating factors, such as solid waste, construction waste and drainage.
  - Increase capacity of other transport sector stakeholders to understand and address climate risks such as sea level rise, increased flooding and landslides.
  - Integrate climate resilience approaches into the revised National Transport Policy (NTP), along with planning mechanisms such as a medium-term strategic plan, an action plan, and an M&E plan.
  - Develop a hazard mitigation strategy and disaster response strategy for each transport subsector (roads, airports, seaports and railways).

- **Improve data for decision-making**
  - Improve quality and maintenance of existing data to allow for better dissemination and coordination.
  - Develop more detailed hazard and vulnerability assessments for specific critical assets.

- **Adopt risk-reducing management practices**
  - Update urban development plans and revise design criteria for assets such as bridges and culverts to reflect changing risk profile of floods, heavy rainfall, and landslides.
  - Include resilience and disaster risk reduction language in all new concession agreements.