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ROAD UPGRADES TO IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY ALONG RATU SUKUNA ROAD AND EXTENSION STREET

The Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport, Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau, officiated at the launch of the Ratu Sukuna Road Upgrade Project and the Extension Street Road Link Project on 21 July 2026, marking the official launch of two major infrastructure initiatives that will improve road safety, strengthen connectivity and support Suva's growing transport network.

Speaking at the ceremony, Hon. Tuisawau said the projects reflect the Government's commitment to delivering modern, resilient infrastructure that improves the daily lives of Fijians while supporting long-term economic and social development.

"The Ratu Sukuna Road corridor is far more than just a stretch of road. It is a vital transport link that connects residential communities, schools, government offices, health facilities, diplomatic missions, commercial centres and regional service providers, making it one of Suva's most important urban corridors," the Hon. Minister said.

The approximately 2.7-kilometre corridor serves more than 15,000 residents from around 3,165 households and accommodates thousands of motorists and pedestrians every day.

It also provides access to several major educational institutions, including Draiba Primary School, Suva Grammar School, Veiuto Primary School, Sacred Heart College, Yat Sen Primary School and Secondary School, Marist Brothers High School, Pacific Theological College and Multiple Intelligence School.

"This project will significantly improve pedestrian safety through the construction of continuous footpaths, upgraded pedestrian crossings and improved road infrastructure, ensuring safer and more efficient travel for all users," he said.

The Minister also noted the strategic importance of the corridor, which provides access to the Muanikau residential area, home to senior Government officials, diplomatic representatives and the New Zealand High Commission. He said maintaining a safe and reliable transport corridor in this area is of national and diplomatic importance.

Hon. Tuisawau said the Ratu Sukuna Road Upgrade Project forms part of the broader effort to strengthen the Suva-Nausori transport corridor, which continues to experience increasing traffic volumes due to urban growth, expanding commercial activity and increased demand for essential services.

The scope of works for the Ratu Sukuna Road Upgrade Project will include pavement rehabilitation, kerb reconstruction, drainage improvements, construction of continuous dual footpaths, installation of safer pedestrian crossings, upgraded road markings and signage, and localised road widening within existing road reserves to improve traffic flow.

In addition to the Ratu Sukuna Road upgrades, Hon. Tuisawau announced the Extension Street Road Link to Brown Street project, which will create a new connection between key parts of Suva to improve traffic flow and accessibility.

The project, spanning around 500 metres, will include comprehensive road construction, drainage works, pavement improvements, traffic management measures and associated ancillary works.

Once completed, the new road link is expected to ease congestion, improve access between surrounding communities and commercial areas, and support continued urban growth and economic activity within the capital.

Hon. Tuisawau said both projects represent strategic investments in strengthening Fiji's transport infrastructure while supporting climate resilience, safer mobility and sustainable urban development.

"These projects are more than road improvements. They are investments in safer communities, stronger economic growth and a more sustainable future for Fiji. By investing in quality infrastructure today, we are building a stronger foundation for future generations," the Minister said.

Hon. Tuisawau acknowledged the contributions of engineers, planners, contractors, stakeholders and community members whose collaboration has made the projects possible and thanked everyone involved in bringing the initiatives to fruition.

The Government remains committed to delivering transport infrastructure that enhances connectivity, improves public safety and supports Fiji's long-term development aspirations.



BUA COMMUNITIES CELEBRATE OPENING OF NEW SUSPENSION BRIDGE

After years of navigating challenging river crossings, the long wait for safer and more reliable access is finally over for communities in Bua Lomanikoro and surrounding areas. The Bua Suspension Bridge was officially commissioned by Prime Minister Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka on 7 August, marking an important milestone for the communities it serves.

The new bridge provides safe and reliable year-round access for communities that have long faced the risks associated with crossing the river.

Constructed under a two-phase programme valued at approximately \$1.97 million, the bridge will directly benefit around 701 people from 133 households in Dalomo, Tiliva, Bua Lomanikoro, Navuniyevu, Waitabu, Luvuluvu, Tavusa and Nawi.

Speaking at the commissioning, Prime Minister Rabuka said the bridge “represents far more than physical infrastructure”, highlighting its importance in strengthening communities, improving livelihoods and creating new opportunities for the people of Bua.

He also said that the project “is an investment in people, productivity, and opportunity”, reflecting the importance of safe and resilient infrastructure in improving access and supporting communities across Fiji.

The project is expected to strengthen connectivity, improve access to essential services and support the livelihoods of communities in the area.

FROM HARDSHIP TO HOPE: THE LONG WAIT FOR A BRIDGE

“I still remember the day I had to swim across the river just to deliver food to my grandchildren at school.”

For 64-year-old Mere Tabakau of Lomanikoro Village in Bua in the Northern Division, crossing the river was once a difficult reality of everyday life.

“On that day, there was no boat available. Waiting for the bus would have taken too long, as it only runs on scheduled times and takes a longer route, so I swam across the river to deliver food to my grandchildren at school,” said Ms. Tabakau.

Ms. Tabakau struggled to hold back her tears as she spoke about the challenges they faced when there was no bridge to get to the other side of the river. The bridge, which reconnects more than 800 people across the communities of Dalomo, Lomanikoro, Tiliva and surrounding villages, has brought a sense of relief and renewed hope to the community.

Its opening comes nearly 11 years after the previous bridge collapsed, leaving residents to depend largely on boats and buses to cross the river. For Ms. Tabakau, the new bridge means that days of uncertainty and difficult journeys are finally over.

“This bridge is a blessing for our village and for all the communities here,” she said, overcome with emotion. “For years, we have had to rely on the boat to cross

the river, but the boat is not always available. If we wait for the bus, it can take almost half a day. So, the opening of this bridge is a big relief for all of us,” she said.

The bridge is more than just a structure connecting two sides of the river. For the people of these communities, it is a pathway back to their farms, their schools, and their everyday lives. Many residents have farms across the river. With the bridge now providing reliable access, Ms. Tabakau said more people have begun returning to their farms.

“Many of us have our farms across the river, and now we have started going back to our farms because it is easier to cross at any time of the day. Being able to start farming again is a relief for us,” she said.

Ms. Tabakau has two grandchildren who attend school across the river. For years, taking them to school meant facing the challenges of crossing the river and relying on whatever mode of transport was available.

“Now, seeing my grandchildren use the bridge brings so much joy to us,” she said. For Ms. Tabakau and the hundreds of people who call these communities home, the opening of the suspension bridge marks more than the completion of an infrastructure project.



Ms. Mere Tabakau
of Lomanikoro Village
in Bua

A BRIDGE TO BETTER BUSINESS



Mr. Mizra Mohammed Nasheem (right) with his son.

For 12 years, Mizra Mohammed Nasheem endured the challenges of keeping his family business afloat, as difficult river crossings made it harder for customers to reach his shop.

Now, the opening of the new Bua Suspension Bridge has brought a welcome change for Mr. Nasheem and his son, who have been running

Naikavaki Shopping Centre for the past 20 years.

“Since the bridge opened, we have been receiving more customers from across the river who had stopped coming because it was difficult for them to cross,” Mr. Nasheem said.

The bridge has also made it easier for

school students to travel across the river, with many now stopping at the shop on their way to school.

“The school students also come to the shop, and they find it easier to cross the bridge and come to school here,” he said.

For Mr. Nasheem, the new bridge represents more than improved access. It has brought renewed hope for families and businesses that have faced the challenges of living and working in interior communities.

“I thank the Government for this project because we often think we are forgotten in interior places, but this project has brought so much relief for everyone,” he said.

For the Nasheem family, the bridge has opened a new chapter for their business, bringing back customers, making daily journeys easier and strengthening the connection between communities on both sides of the river.

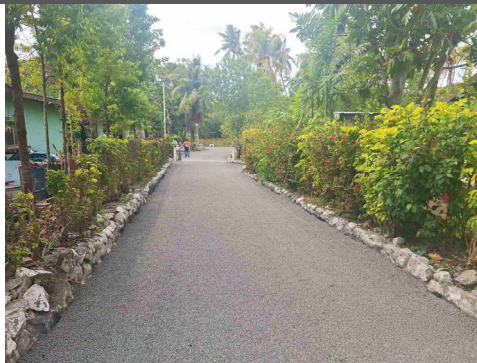
FRA DELIVERS MAJOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS ACROSS THREE DIVISIONS



WESTERN DIVISION

As part of the Village Frontage upgrade Programme, a total of 720 metres of sealing works have been completed along the Koroibebe Village Frontage and Koroibebe Village Road along Nadele Road in Nadi.

These road upgrades will improve access, connectivity, and safety for residents and road users, while supporting ongoing efforts to deliver safer, more reliable, and resilient road infrastructure for communities.



As part of our ongoing commitment to improving rural road infrastructure and enhancing community connectivity, Viseisei Village Roads 1, 2, and 3 have been successfully upgraded to chip sealed surface.

Improving accessibility and supporting the long-term development and wellbeing of the Viseisei community. A total of 337 metres of upgraded roadway, comprising 111 metres on Road 1, 71 metres on Road 2, and 155 metres on Road 3.



Navala Bridge 2 along Navala Road has undergone essential repair and improvement works following accelerated deterioration, helping restore the safety and reliability of the crossing for the community.

The completed works have improved the condition of the bridge and provided safer, more reliable access for residents and road users travelling along Navala Road.



Road improvement works along Ravouvou Street in Namoli Industrial, Lautoka, were completed under the Road Corridor Maintenance Works programme. A total of 720 metres of the road was targeted for asphalt concrete surfacing, with the completed works improving the condition of the road and providing a safer and more reliable route for businesses and other road users accessing the industrial area. The completed works formed part of ongoing efforts to maintain and upgrade the road network and improve connectivity for road users.



Under the Road Rehabilitation Programme, 900 metres of JP Bayly Road in Lautoka underwent road improvement works. Located within a growing industrial area, the rehabilitation works have improved the overall condition of the road, providing a resilient and more reliable route for suppliers, businesses, workers, and other road users accessing the area. The improvements will support the continued economic growth of the industrial area by enhancing road accessibility and improving the resilience of this road corridor.



Under the New Capital Works Tourism Programme, 460 metres of Wailoko Road in Nadi has been sealed, providing a safer and more comfortable travel experience for daily commuters and surrounding communities.

The newly sealed road will help address the dust issues experienced during dry weather, while also improving accessibility for road users during the rainy season. A total of 500 metres of road is scheduled to be sealed, with works progressing well towards completion.



With improvement works continuing in the Western Division, a total of 255 metres of road has been resealed along Kings Road in Rakiraki under the Reseals and Renewals Programme.

The resealing works form part of the 7.3-kilometre programme of road improvements planned along the route. These road improvement works are aimed at providing better accessibility for daily commuters while improving the overall road surface and driving conditions. As part of the renewal works, two new bus shelters have been completed, with one located along Kings Road in Tavarau, Ba, and another along Queens Road in Namatakula.



Streetlight maintenance works have been completed along Waterfront Road in Lautoka as part of the Street Light Renewals Programme.

The works along Lautoka's iconic seawall frontage will improve the reliability of street lighting along this well-used area, supporting safer movement for motorists, pedestrians and the wider community, particularly during the evening.

The Fiji Roads Authority continues to carry out streetlight maintenance and renewal works across the country as part of ongoing efforts to maintain safe and reliable road infrastructure.



ELLINGTON JETTY LANDING COMPLETED

Works on the Ellington Jetty Landing have been completed, providing an improved and more reliable landing facility for the surrounding community and other users. The upgraded jetty will support safer and easier access for passengers, vessels and the movement of goods, strengthening connectivity for communities that rely on the landing for their daily activities and essential services.

The completion of the Ellington Jetty Landing is an important improvement to the area's transport infrastructure, supporting safer access and more reliable connectivity for the community.



NORTHERN DIVISION

The Tabia Laqere Bridge along Tabia Naduri Road underwent essential emergency and maintenance repair works to improve the condition of the bridge and provide safer and more reliable access for daily commuters.



The Qelemumu Crossing along Coqeloa Road underwent essential maintenance works to improve its condition and provide safer and more reliable access for daily commuters and other road users. The completed works have improved accessibility for communities who rely on the crossing for their daily travel and connectivity.



A total of 163 metres of sealing works has been completed at the main entrance and rear emergency entrance of Seaqaqa Hospital in the Northern Division. The works were carried out to improve road conditions, drainage and accessibility at both entrances, providing a safer and more reliable surface for patients, visitors and staff.



A total of 417 metres of sealing works has been completed at Baitiri Village in Dreketi, Macuata, improving road access for the local community.

The project also included drainage improvement works, comprising the construction of new side drains and the installation of new cross-drainage and driveway culverts.

The upgrades will provide safer, more reliable access for villagers and daily commuters, while improving connectivity and the overall resilience of the road.



Installation of a new culvert crossing along Korolevu Road in Seaqaqa has been completed under the road maintenance programme.

During periods of heavy rainfall, the former crossing was prone to flooding and washouts, often becoming impassable and disrupting access for residents, farmers and other road users.

To address this ongoing issue, a more resilient crossing capable of accommodating higher water flows has been constructed. The new crossing will improve accessibility, enhance safety and provide more reliable access for the Korolevu Road community, particularly during the rainy season.



NUKUBALAVU VILLAGE ROAD REHABILITATION PROGRESSES

Road rehabilitation works are progressing well along 2.3 kilometres of road at Nukubalavu Village in Savusavu under the unsealed roads rehabilitation program.

Subgrade preparation has been completed along the full length of the road, while sub-base and base course preparation is currently underway.

Sealing works have also been completed along 1.2 kilometres of the road. The project involves the replacement of culverts, widening of the road to accommodate two-way traffic, and construction of surface water channels.

The works also include strengthening the road through subgrade, sub-base and base course preparation, followed by two-coat sealing and line marking.

Road safety improvements will also be incorporated through the installation of speed signs.

The project remains ongoing and is scheduled for completion in October 2026, within the 2026–27 financial year.





CENTRAL AND EASTERN DIVISION

Asphalt concrete (AC) mill and fill works were carried out along sections of roads in the Central Division as part of ongoing road improvement works. The works covered a total of 1,170 metres across six streets:

- Mal Street – 275 metres
- Sawani Street – 225 metres
- Matuku Street – 227 metres
- Moala Street – 35 metres
- Helson Street – 236 metres
- Hunter Street – 172 metres

The improved road surfaces will provide safer, smoother and more reliable access for residents, businesses and other road users, while contributing to improved connectivity across the Central Division.



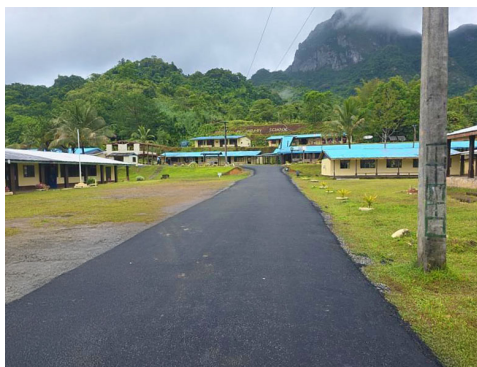
Upgrade works are currently underway on the Wainibau Bridge along Baulevu Road, with temporary nightly closures in place to facilitate the essential works. The bridge is a heavily used crossing and requires attention to improve its condition and ensure safer, more reliable access for the many commuters and road users who rely on it each day.

The ongoing works form part of efforts to improve the safety, accessibility and long-term reliability of the bridge for the surrounding communities.



Under the new capital rehabilitation works, approximately 4.1 kilometres of road works have been carried out along Navulokani Road to Wailoa Junction in Naitasiri. Road rehabilitation works, including grading, re-sheeting, widening and drainage improvements, have been undertaken.

These improvements will enhance road accessibility and connectivity for rural communities in the area, providing safer and more reliable access to essential services and facilities.



A total of 450 metres of road sealing works was completed along the frontages of Namosi Primary School and Namosi Secondary School, while a further 400 metres of road frontage in Namosi Village was also sealed. The improvements have brought welcome relief to students, teachers, parents and the wider community by providing smoother and more reliable access to the schools and village.

In addition to these works, 379 metres of the Dada Government Station Road was also sealed, improving the condition of the road and providing better accessibility for staff, residents and other road users. Together, these improvements are contributing to safer, more reliable and more convenient road access for the Namosi community.



IMPROVED ROAD ACCESS BENEFITS LOMARY SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Improved road access is making a difference for students, parents and the wider community around Lomary Catholic Primary School and Lomary Secondary School, following the completion of one-kilometre road sealing works at each school.

Lomary Catholic Primary School, which has 536 students, welcomed the completion of its one-kilometre school frontage during a special year for the school as it celebrates its 120th anniversary. The road was previously dusty and difficult to use, particularly during wet weather when rain made access challenging for students, parents and teachers.

Before the sealing works began, the road was raised and drainage improvements were carried out to improve water flow and provide a stronger foundation for the new sealed surface.

At Lomary Secondary School, the one-kilometre school frontage has also been sealed, improving road access and the movement of traffic around the school. The improvement has been welcomed by the school's 388 students, parents and members of the surrounding community.

With the works now completed at both schools, students and teachers have improved access to their schools, while parents can also enjoy smoother and more convenient conditions when dropping off and picking up their children. Together, the improvements provide a welcome upgrade for the Lomary school communities, supporting safer and more reliable access for more than 900 students and the many parents, teachers and community members who use these roads each day.



SMARTER TRAFFIC MONITORING TO SUPPORT BETTER ROAD PLANNING

Understanding how vehicles move across Fiji's road network is essential for effective road planning, traffic management and improving road safety. To strengthen this work, the Fiji Roads Authority is using modern automated traffic monitoring systems to collect more accurate and reliable traffic data across the country.

FRA has introduced 25 portable traffic counters and five permanent traffic counters supplied by MetroCount. The systems enable FRA to collect, analyse and manage important traffic information that supports national road planning, congestion management and road safety improvements. The traffic counters capture a range of critical information, including:

- Axle-based vehicle classification
- Traffic volumes
- Vehicle speeds
- Axle loads and traffic loading
- Headway and traffic gaps
- Direction of travel

The portable systems use pneumatic tubes placed across the width of the carriageway. The tube counters are installed at the back of the kerb or on the footpath and secured on site using padlocks and chains.

The 25 portable counters have been distributed across FRA's divisions as the Authority undertakes its annual traffic count programme across the

national road network. Motorists may notice the equipment installed along roads or FRA teams carrying out traffic monitoring activities.

The data collected through these systems provides FRA with a better understanding of traffic patterns and road usage, helping inform decisions on future road improvements, maintenance, traffic management and safety measures.

HELP US PROTECT THE EQUIPMENT

FRA is also asking the public to help protect these traffic monitoring systems while they are installed. There have been instances where some counters have been damaged or removed by members of the public, with one system damaged or removed and unable to be recovered.

These are specialised monitoring systems and an important investment in collecting the data needed to plan and manage Fiji's road network. When equipment is damaged or removed, valuable traffic data can be lost.

FRA urges all road users and members of the public not to move, damage or remove the traffic counters. If you notice any damage or an issue with the equipment, please report it to FRA.

Protecting these systems means protecting the data that helps FRA make informed decisions about Fiji's roads. Your cooperation helps ensure that traffic counts can be completed accurately and that future road planning and improvements are based on reliable information.



MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN PROGRESS



PROGRESS CONTINUES ON SEMO CROSSING REPLACEMENT

Works on the Semo Crossing Replacement Project are progressing well, with several key construction activities completed and others continuing on site. Over the past week, major foundation works were completed, including the successful pouring of the foundation beams that will support the new crossing structure. Deliveries of precast box culverts to the site have also continued, with a total of 12 units

now received. Construction works are continuing across other areas of the project, with preparations underway for the next stages of the rehabilitation. The Fiji Roads Authority thanks the local community and road users for their patience and support during the construction period. Once completed, the upgraded crossing will provide a safer and more reliable crossing for residents and road users.



PROGRESS CONTINUES ON REWAVUTIA ROAD DREDGING PROJECT

Progress continues for the Rewa-Vutia Road Dredging Project, which will improve connectivity and access for communities along the Rewa-Vutia corridor, including 11 villages. The project was officially launched earlier this year, in March, when the Minister for Public Works, Transport and Meteorological Services, Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau, officiated at the groundbreaking ceremony at Nabalili, Lomanikoro in Rewa.

Dredging works are progressing across the project sites, with approximately 200,000 cubic metres of material dredged from the first site to date. At Site B, approximately 55,000 cubic metres of material has been dredged against a target of 200,000 cubic metres. Alongside the dredging works, road and bridge design documentation has been received. Procurement for construction will proceed following the completion of the required preparatory processes.



TAMAVUA-I-WAI BRIDGE

Works on the Tamavua-i-Wai Bridge Reconstruction Project are progressing, with construction continuing on the bridge and approach roads. Construction of the Suva-side abutment has been completed, with curing currently underway. The project team is also working towards completing all remaining bridge piling works. Following the completion of the piling works, utility relocation works will commence to facilitate the

next stages of construction. Works are progressing across the bridge and approach roads, with overall project completion currently targeted for the end of 2027. The project team continues to work closely with the Consultant, Contractor, JICA and relevant utility agencies to ensure the works are carried out safely, efficiently and in accordance with the project programme.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is also nearing completion, marking further progress towards the next stages of the project. Once completed, the project will provide improved connectivity and more reliable access for communities along the corridor, supporting the movement of people, goods and essential services while strengthening the wider road network in the area.