

C-45: Optimum double line extension for the main line of Sri Lanka railways *

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The project has been carried out with a view to ascertain the optimum distance the double tracking of the main line need be extended from Polgahawela, while considering the present rail passenger volumes and also with an anticipated 20% modal transfer from road buses.

In the analysis, the cost of construction, maintenance of infrastructure and operating costs were taken into account while the travel time saving reduction in congestion costs and the revenue were the only benefits assumed although there are other benefits such as comfort and pollution, which were not taken into the evaluation as they cannot be easily quantified.

The analysis was carried out using present values by way of passenger demand, fares and construction cost and was evaluated for a period of 20 years and the distance where net benefit obtained was positive, was analysed.

Taking the above analysis as the base case, a sensitivity analysis was carried out for high and low scenarios for fares, passenger growth and an anticipated increase in operating and maintenance costs.

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