

### **Unprotected Road users and Road Safety Improvements**

Road accidents are causing a considerable economic loss to Sri Lanka in addition to the pain and grief suffered by the victims and relatives. About 50% of the accident victims are pedestrians and cyclists who can be considered as the unprotected road users. Thus, these users are at great risk on Sri Lankan roads. This situation has to be improved gradually which will need extra investment for road safety. Whenever there is extra expenditure, it is necessary to provide economic justification for such expenditure.

In this study, it was shown that the total cost of accidents involving unprotected road users is Rs 2.507 billion in the year 1998. This has to be compared with the total investment on the road sector of Rs 5.783 billion in year 1998. This clearly indicates that at least a small percentage of the accident cost should be invested for the improvement of the number of accidents are reduced even by a small percentage planned continuous investment over few years, it would be possible to bring in economic benefits and tremendous social benefits, by reducing the number of fatal and grievous accidents suffered by the unprotected road users.