

Upgrading Motorways in Slovakia

A before & after study

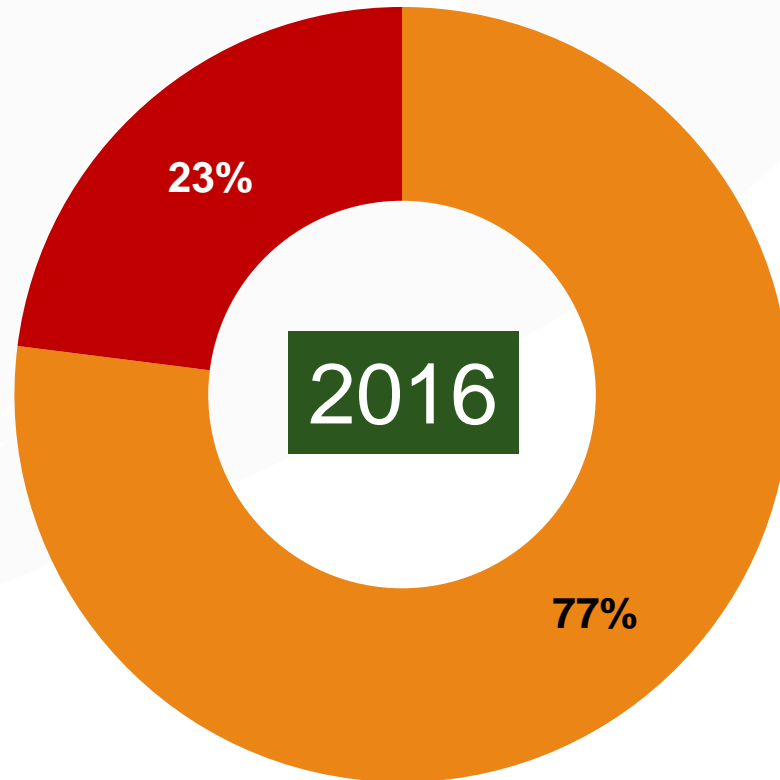
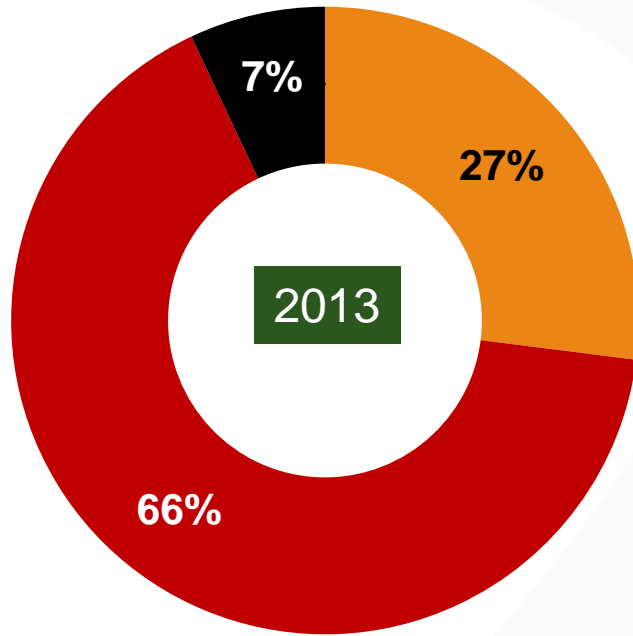
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- in December 2013, as part of the SENSoR project, the whole Slovakian motorway & expressway network (including all TEN-T road sections) was surveyed, assessed for safety and given a RAP Star Rating. The authority, responsible for these roads in Slovakia was and still is the Slovak National Motorway Company (NDS)
- **the results revealed embarrassing facts:** more than a **HALF** of the inspected superior Slovak road network was rated 2 or less stars
- the NDS understood the SENSoR message **very soon** and declared the interest to move forward - however...

- several meetings were organized with NDS engineers in order to explain the methodology & benefits (we are not a competition, etc.)
- full access to the SENSoR results (through ViDA software) was granted to the NDS → very important, but at this stage we desperately missed the national language mutation...
- ... waiting ... no response ... the same old story again ?
- then surprisingly came the decisive twist
NOTE: INDIVIDUALS IMPORTANT!

- **UNBELIEVABLE, HOWEVER THE TRUTH:** the SENSoR project results challenged the NDS to implement the recommended road safety countermeasures on a part of their network
- between 2014 and 2015, a wide ranging package of improvements, taken from the SENSoR Safer Roads Investment Plan was implemented by NDS on 327kms, whereby the cost was **about EUR 40m**
- **early 2016** the NDS **asked** EuroRAP's Slovak branch to reassess the RAP Star Rating on those road sections, where the company had implemented the countermeasures. This aimed to verify how the road improvements had affected the Star Rating results

Guess What ?



- completion of CONTINUOUS safety barriers, both passenger & driver side (metal or concrete)
- removal of unprotected dangerous objects (tree cutting)
- sealed shoulder extension, passenger side
- sealed shoulder extension, driver side (where possible)
- completion of shoulder rumble strips, both passenger & driver side
- installing of energy absorbing barrier ends on demerge lanes
- installing of energy absorbing barrier ends, replacing the old ramped ends
- delineation renewal (horizontal)
- installing of non-aggressive road signs (vertical)
- building of earth embankments, protecting dangerous object
- installing of retro-reflective studs within the central dashed line
- extension of concrete barriers, where they are protecting bridges
- densification of flexible delineators (passenger side)

Picking Up the Fruits

- an estimated **355 deaths and serious injuries should be prevented** over the next 20 years on this particular 327km of Slovakia's motorways and expressways.
- by the upgrade, a **third of the whole Slovak motorway network has reached the 3-star rating**
- if the implemented road safety countermeasures prove themselves truly effective, Slovak superior road network could **move towards vision Zero in the next 20-30 years**



Why Important ?

- restriction, increasing fines and a massive police presence on the roads have now apparently **reached their staff- and financial limits** in Slovakia
- since 2014, the road accident statistics **have started to climb**
- implementing an forgiving road design seems to be nowadays in Slovakia the **most effective** tool to cut down the FSI's effectively (considering the 2020 deadline)
- after a **decade** of assessing, analysing, advocating and convincing, we finally crossed the GAP from „talking“ to „action“ → **DON'T GIVE UP!!!**

Thank You

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