



The Salient Features of Colombo Katunayake Expressway (CKE)

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The long felt need of a high mobility link between the Bandaranaike International Airport and the capital of the country has now been realized with the opening of Colombo - Katunayake Expressway to public on 27th of October 2013. Now, we are able to witness the successful completion of long awaited expressway passing through the open land of Muthurajawela marshes and the Negombo lagoon giving a glimpse of natural beauty of this country. The CKE will reduce the travel time between Peliyagoda and Katunayake to 20 minutes from the earlier time of 1.5 hours. The quick travel between the Bandaranaike International Airport and the capital of the country with enhanced safety will surely help to boost the country's economy in addition to providing pleasant travel to the road users.

Colombo – Katunayake Expressway is a 4-lane User-fee levying Expressway with a designed speed of 100kmph. It consists of three interchanges, namely Peliyagoda, Jaela and Katunayake. It is expected to connect the CKE to the proposed Outer Circular Highway (OCH) at Kerawalapitiya in the future. The Expressway has been constructed according to the international standards to ensure the safety of all road users and emphasis has been given to increase the mental and physical comfort of passengers and drivers.

The entry point to the highway is close to the new Kelaniya bridge. However, the User-fee levying Expressway begins at Peliyagoda interchange about 1.8km after new Kelaniya bridge. Therefore, the vehicles that are permitted to use the Expressway can enter at new Kelaniya bridge entry point and those who want to use CKE can proceed through User-fee station of Peliyagoda interchange and others can exit to Colombo-Kandy road or Peliyagoda-Puttalam road via this interchange by-passing the User-fee station. The motorists who enter from Peliyagoda interchange will not be issued an entry ticket and have to pay the use-fee before exit at Katunayake.

Those who enter from the interchange at Ja-Ela, would be issued an entry ticket and have to pay accordingly at the end of the journey either at Peliyagoda or at Katunayake. On the other hand, motorists entering from Katunayake will not be issued an entry ticket but have to pay at the end of the journey at Peliyagoda or Ja-Ela. This is to reduce delays in the issuance of tickets.

The most important benefit of the Project is to facilitate high speed passenger and freight movement which will lead to permit rapid industrial expansion in the area, boost tourism industry, enhance employment opportunities, reduce traffic on Colombo-Pattalam road (A003), encourage outward migration of people living under congested conditions in and around Colombo.

As the CKE is an important segment of much awaited north-south link, when the construction of OCH from Kottawa to Kerawalapitiya is completed the much awaited north-south connection will be established enabling the users of CKE to reach southern parts of the country through Expressway Network. In turn it will contribute to achieve overall Development objectives of the country through the Expressway Network. Ultimately the Expressway Network would contribute to harness the expected economic benefits to the country with shorter travel times and reduced vehicle operating costs.

Project Details:

- Date of commencement : 18 August 2009
- Open for Public : 27 October 2013
- Road Length : 25.8 km
- Number of Lanes :
 - New Kelani Bridge to Peliyagoda Interchange: 6 Lane
 - Peliyagoda Interchange to Katunayake: 4 Lane
- Speed Limit : 80 km/h and 100 km/h
- Travel Time : 20 Minutes (Peliyagoda to Katunayake)