

Rehabilitation works on Cavendish Bridge at Ville Noire

The British Governor Sir Cavendish Boyle built the Cavendish Bridge in 1911 to connect Mahebourg to the village of ‘Ville Noire. The bridge span approximately 200 metres over the La Chaux River and consists of a 6.1 metres wide carriageway. In the early 2000s, the steel structures which were constructed on each side of the bridge supported a 1.25 metres wide wooden plank pedestrian footway. It was among the first bridges in Mauritius to make use of concrete construction instead of being fully stoned. Over the years, the state of the bridge had degraded considerably and rehabilitation works were critical for the safety of road users and to prevent further deterioration of the structure.

In 2021, the government assigned the Road Development Authority the task to rehabilitate the 110 years old bridge, which was completed in April 2022. In this context, the Hon Minister of National Infrastructure and Community Development, Mahendranuth Sharma Hurreeram, unveiled a commemorative plate on this occasion. Other eminent personalities were also present on to grace the function, such as the Hon. Jean Christophe Stephan Toussain Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation and Hon Rameswar Doolub Member of the Legislative Assembly.

The rehabilitation work was done by Transinvest construction which took approximately 8 months and cost around Rs 32m. In a statement to the press, the Minister of National Infrastructure and Community Development stated that there will be many more infrastructure developments in the region.

The Road Development Authority carried out the following works for the renovation:

- Replace existing wooden planks on footway with treated timber boards fixed by steel rails;
- Fix steel bracing to support the cantilever U-Section beams under the footway;
- Painting of handrails along footways
- Treat all corroded reinforcement iron bars and repair cracks under the soffit of the bridge
- Repair all structural steel elements
- Sand blasting of bricks.
- Upgrade all drainage outlets.
- Repair faulty luminaires.
- Provide adequate road furniture