**STUDY OF ROAD CONNECTIVITY IN OGBOMOSO NORTH**

**BY**

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**Certification**

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# Dedication

This project is dedicated to the Almighty God who has been my source of Strength, Grace and Wisdom throughout the period of my course, through whose Grace and Favor I have been able to run my course and scale through the hurdles of my academic pursuit.

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The success and the outcome of this project were possible by the guidance and support of many people. I am incredibly privileged to have got this all along with the achievement of my project. It required a lot of effort from each individual involved in this project with me and I will like to thank them.

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# Abstract

This Research aims to conduct an in-depth examination of the road connectivity in Ogbomoso North, with a focus on understanding its current state, identifying potential challenges, and proposing strategic solutions for enhanced urban development. The study recognizes the pivotal role of effective road infrastructure in fostering economic growth, ensuring social well-being, and promoting overall sustainable development. The research methodology encompasses a multi-faceted approach, combining field surveys, data collection, and advanced spatial analysis techniques. Geographic Information System (GIS) tools will be employed to map the existing road network, analyze traffic patterns, and evaluate the condition of key transportation arteries. Concurrently, interviews and surveys will be conducted with local residents, government officials, and transportation experts to gather qualitative insights into the community's perspectives on road connectivity. The investigation will address critical aspects such as the adequacy of existing roads, the efficiency of traffic flow, accessibility to key facilities, and the impact of road conditions on the local economy. Additionally, the study will explore the environmental implications of road connectivity and propose eco-friendly solutions to minimize adverse effects. The findings of this research are expected to contribute valuable information to urban planners, local authorities, and policymakers, aiding in the formulation of evidence-based strategies for optimizing road connectivity in Ogbomoso North. By aligning with the principles of sustainable urban development, the project seeks to enhance the overall quality of life for residents, promote economic prosperity, and create a blueprint for similar assessments in other regions. In conclusion, this study aspires to be a comprehensive resource for understanding, assessing, and improving road connectivity in Ogbomoso North. Through a meticulous investigation of the current infrastructure and thoughtful recommendations for future development, the research aims to play a crucial role in shaping the sustainable growth of the region and providing a template for similar studies in other urban contexts.

# CHAPTER ONE

# 1.0 **Introduction**

## 1.1 Background of Study

Roads play a pivotal role in sustainable development, particularly in the context of agricultural growth and rural revitalization. They act as essential conduits, facilitating the movement of goods, services, and people crucial to agricultural production. Efficient road networks enable better connectivity between agricultural hubs, markets, and transportation centers, thereby enhancing agricultural trade, productivity, and access to resources (Munir *et al*., 2021). The impact of road construction on sustainable development is multifaceted. While improved infrastructure can boost agricultural labor productivity and mechanization, it also poses challenges such as land fragmentation and ecological costs. Hence, understanding the intricate balance between road development and its environmental and social implications is crucial in promoting sustainable agricultural practices within rural areas (Ali *et al*., 2021).

The layout and structure of road networks wield considerable influence on urban development, dictating how people and goods navigate within an area and impacting its overall functionality and accessibility. Roads are the lifeblood of civilization, crucial for social interaction and economic prosperity. In urban areas, convenient transportation systems, especially in commercial spaces like marketplaces, are essential. However, unplanned urban sprawl has often led to unprepared road infrastructure, impeding traffic flow and hindering road connectivity. High-quality roads and robust connectivity enhance economic output, reduce travel costs, and make planning regions more attractive. Traffic congestion, a result of increased motorization and inadequate road networks, adversely affects productivity and urban infrastructure (Akinola, 2023).

Enhanced road connectivity plays a pivotal role in driving multifaceted development indices. It significantly improves access to essential services like education, healthcare, and markets while fostering employment opportunities (Munir *et al*., 2021) This heightened accessibility becomes a catalyst for economic growth, elevating living standards within communities. Conversely, insufficient connectivity poses a barrier to development, isolating regions and impeding socio-economic progress by limiting access to crucial resources and opportunities. Thus, the correlation between effective road connectivity and development underscores the critical role that well-connected infrastructure plays in shaping thriving and inclusive societies (Khuvung & Odyuo, 2023).

Ogbomoso, situated in Oyo State, Nigeria, has witnessed significant urbanization since its establishment in the mid-seventeenth century, evolving into one of Nigeria's prominent urban centers. With a population of approximately 645,000 people, predominantly from the Yoruba ethnic group, Ogbomoso is characterized by vital agricultural activities, including the cultivation of yams, cassava, maize, and tobacco (Olajoke, 2021). This study zeroes in on the road connectivity aspects of Ogbomoso North Local Government, one of the two local governments in the city.

The current road connectivity in Ogbomoso North reflects a mixed landscape, showcasing strengths alongside significant challenges. While certain segments exhibit commendable accessibility and connectivity, others suffer from infrastructure inadequacies, including poor maintenance and limited capacity. Residents and businesses grapple with irregularities in road conditions, hindering efficient transportation and impeding economic activities. Specific areas, particularly key commercial hubs and residential zones, require immediate attention due to congestion and inadequate infrastructure. Addressing these issues is crucial to meet the burgeoning demands of urban development, necessitating targeted improvements and strategic enhancements in the road network to foster seamless connectivity and support the region's evolving socio-economic needs (Oluwaseyi, 2021).

## 1.2 Statement of Problem

In an ideal scenario, a robust and efficient road network in Ogbomoso North should seamlessly connect various areas, facilitating smooth transportation for residents and businesses. However, the existing infrastructure presents a challenge, characterized by inconsistent road conditions and inadequate connectivity, impeding the region's socio-economic progress. This issue significantly impacts daily life, hindering accessibility to essential services, limiting economic opportunities, and hampering the overall quality of life for residents. The project aims to conduct a comprehensive analysis of Ogbomoso North's current road networks, pinpointing key bottlenecks that impede efficient connectivity. By identifying these obstacles, the study endeavors to propose strategic solutions that will significantly enhance road connectivity. Ultimately, these improvements are designed not only to benefit the community but also to invigorate economic activities within the region.

The significance of this solution lies in its potential to catalyze positive change, not merely in addressing immediate infrastructural shortcomings, but in laying the foundation for sustainable development in Ogbomoso North. By improving road connectivity, the study aims to unlock the region's economic potential, fostering a conducive environment for businesses to thrive while enhancing the overall well-being of the populace. Moreover, the proposed solutions will serve as a template for future urban planning endeavors, setting a precedent for inclusive, sustainable, and efficient infrastructural development in similar regions, thereby amplifying its impact beyond the immediate locale.

## 1.3 **Aim and Objectives**

The aim of this research is to examine and understand the road connectivity specifically within Ogbomoso North.

The objectives of this project are as follows:

1. Analyze traffic patterns and congestion points to identify areas for improved road connectivity and traffic flow enhancement.
2. Identify key transportation routes and corridors crucial for connecting different areas within Ogbomoso North.
3. Evaluate the existing road infrastructure, including road conditions, types (urban, rural, highways), and capacities, aiming to optimize overall road connectivity in the region.

## 1.4 Scope and Limitation

This study covers a thorough examination of Ogbomoso North's road connectivity, with an emphasis on evaluating traffic patterns, congestion hotspots, and the general condition of the road infrastructure. It seeks to provide thorough insights into important transportation routes and corridors with the goal of identifying places that could be improved to improve traffic flow and lessen congestion. The study also assesses several kinds of roads, including rural, urban, and highways, in order to comprehend their capacities, limitations, and overall state, offering a comprehensive picture of the road network in the area.

The study is, however, constrained by the accessibility and availability of information about traffic patterns and road conditions. The difficulty in acquiring precise or up-to-date data regarding particular traffic hotspots or patterns may have an impact on the breadth of these areas' analysis. Furthermore, due to financial or logistical limitations, the study is unable to address immediate infrastructure improvements; instead, it is primarily concerned with suggesting strategic answers rather than putting them into practice.

## 1.5 Significance of Study

This study bears significant importance by directly addressing critical issues that impact daily life and economic activities within Ogbomoso North. By investigating road connectivity, it aims to provide tangible solutions for enhancing transportation efficiency, reducing congestion, and improving overall accessibility for residents and businesses. The findings derived from this research not only contribute to optimizing the road network but also have the potential to bolster economic growth by streamlining transportation, fostering smoother trade routes, and potentially attracting investments. Moreover, by proposing strategic solutions to enhance road connectivity, this study aligns with broader sustainable development goals, fostering a more resilient and conducive environment for the community's well-being and future growth. Ultimately, its significance lies in the potential positive impact on the region's socio-economic landscape, offering pathways toward enhanced connectivity and improved quality of life for the populace.

# CHAPTER TWO

# 2.0 Literature Review

## 2.1 Roads as Infrastructure

Road infrastructure serves as the backbone of transportation systems, encompassing various types tailored to distinct purposes (Parvard *et al*, 2023). Urban roads, primarily found in cities and densely populated areas, facilitate intra-city travel, connecting residential, commercial, and industrial zones. Rural roads, contrasting urban counterparts, cater to sparsely populated areas, linking villages, farms, and remote regions, often crucial for agricultural activities and rural connectivity (Ganguli, 2020). Highways, the arterial routes of transportation, connect cities and regions, facilitating long-distance travel and trade. Each type plays a pivotal role in enabling the movement of goods, services, and people, thereby fostering economic activities, enhancing accessibility, and supporting the social fabric within communities (Heinonen & Czepkiewicz, 2021)

## 2.2 Historical Evolution of Road Networks

Road networks have evolved historically throughout millennia, mirroring the advancement of civilizations and the expansion of their societies. Roads began as old paths and trails made by the earliest human settlements and progressively changed to suit increasing trade, communication, and social relations. Road construction was greatly advanced by early civilizations like the Roman Empire, which created a massive network of stone-paved roads that allowed for effective trade and transit across large areas. The evolution of civilizations was influenced by these ancient highways, which not only made it easier for armies and merchandise to travel, but also acted as channels for cultural exchange (Chu, 2022).

In the Middle Ages, wars and political turmoil caused roads to decay, leading to neglect. Turnpikes and toll roads emerged to fund maintenance. The Renaissance and industrial revolutions spurred significant road development. Steam-powered transport in the 19th century revolutionized road networks, enabling modern freeways and transcontinental routes. This era facilitated extensive mobility, trade growth, and urbanization, fostering societal progress and economic prosperity (Wang et al., 2020).

The influence of highways on the development of society cannot be emphasized. As roads got bigger and better, they stimulated economic growth by making it possible to move goods more effectively, promoting trade, and making markets easier to access. Road networks also encouraged cross-cultural interactions and the transfer of ideas, innovations, and expertise. Roads connect villages and made it easier for people and resources to move about, which helped shape societal growth, promote regional integration (Parvard *et al*, 2023).

## 2.3 Road Connectivity in Urban Development

The concept of road connectivity stands as a fundamental pillar in urban development, elucidating the significance of integrated road networks in fostering societal growth. It serves as the lifeline of urban landscapes, enabling efficient movement of goods, services, and people, thereby propelling economic activities and shaping urban fabric (Maity *et al*, 2021). Urban transportation planning principles underscore the vital theories and methodologies guiding the strategic design and implementation of road networks. These principles are pivotal in orchestrating the systematic arrangement of road infrastructure to meet the evolving demands of urban spaces, ensuring accessibility, and facilitating smooth mobility within cities (Ali *et al.*, 2021).

## 2.4 Traffic Flow Analysis and Management

An essential component in comprehending the complex dynamics of urban mobility is traffic flow analysis. It includes a range of approaches meant to evaluate traffic patterns, points of congestion, and their significant effects on the planning and construction of transportation networks. By utilizing methods such as density evaluations, speed analyses, and traffic volume counts, traffic flow analysis clarifies the fluctuations in vehicle movement and pinpoints locations that are vulnerable to traffic bottlenecks. This empirical knowledge allows urban planners to strategically deploy infrastructure and resources to reduce traffic demands. It also acts as a blueprint for efficient road network design (Kolesov *et al*., 2022)

In order to alleviate traffic and improve the general effectiveness of road networks, traffic management measures become essential. These tactics include lane management, intelligent transportation systems, and traffic signal optimization, among many other techniques. Urban authorities can optimize traffic flow and reduce congestion by using congestion pricing systems, adaptive traffic signals, and real-time traffic monitoring. A more sustainable and balanced urban mobility scene is also fostered by creative solutions like bike lanes, pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, and dedicated bus lanes (Kim *et al*., 2023)

Zheng and Huang (2020) conducted a study that targets urban congestion by using deep learning, specifically LSTM networks, for accurate traffic flow prediction. Comparing with traditional methods, the LSTM model proved superior in forecasting accuracy, revealing dynamic traffic patterns and aiding effective traffic management decisions using real traffic data. Overall, there research showcases deep learning's potential to enhance traffic flow analysis and management in tackling urban congestion.

## 2.5 Infrastructure Development and Management

In the field of infrastructure development, investigating various models is essential for efficient road network planning, building, and upkeep. Road design and management are shaped by a variety of techniques, ranging from conventional to cutting-edge methods, which affect the roads' sustainability and long-term viability. Furthermore, the range of urban-rural dynamics in Nigeria has a major influence on road infrastructure. Road network development and maintenance present a variety of challenges depending on the region's unique urban and rural characteristics. This necessitates customized solutions to address connectivity problems, unequal resource allocation, and differing infrastructure demands between urban and rural areas (Chang *et al*., 2023).

Within Nigeria, the perspective on road infrastructure highlights critical aspects of development and management. The country faces multifaceted challenges, including inadequate maintenance, funding constraints, and diverse terrain conditions influencing road quality across urban and rural landscapes. Urban areas often require robust and well-connected road networks to support economic activities, while rural regions demand infrastructural improvements to bridge accessibility gaps. Balancing these urban-rural dynamics becomes imperative in Nigeria's infrastructure planning, emphasizing the need for tailored strategies that consider local contexts, resource allocation, and equitable infrastructure development to foster nationwide economic growth and social cohesion (Ali *et al*., 2020).

## 2.6 Environmental Sustainability in Road Infrastructure

Henke *et al*. (2020) conducted a study focusing on decision-making within the transport sector, specifically examining a sustainable evaluation method for road infrastructure. They addressed the significant concern around negative externalities generated by daily transportation activities, impacting both the environment and quality of life. The research aimed to propose a sustainable assessment method for evaluating the impacts of new transportation infrastructure. Their quantitative analysis assessed social, economic, and environmental sustainability concerning a renovation project for a "greenway" in southern Italy.

Ben (2021) explored the significance of road infrastructure on economic sustainability, emphasizing its crucial role in eradicating hunger, reducing poverty, and enhancing human life quality. The study highlighted road transport as a door-to-door means of transportation vital for delivering finished goods to consumers. Additionally, it underscored how road infrastructure can transform subsistence farming into a thriving commercial system, unlocking rural areas' potential. The paper discussed various economic theories, including neoclassical growth theory, endogenous growth theory, growth pole, and growth center theory, to understand how road infrastructure contributes to economic growth. It concluded by advocating for public investment focused on economic returns, proposing the adoption of road pricing strategies in Nigeria to spread demand, reduce congestion, improve reliability, and benefit the broader economy.

Ruiz & Guevara (2020) examined road infrastructure's environmental and economic impacts using a system dynamics approach. Their study compared traditional and sustainable techniques in road construction and maintenance, emphasizing the importance of prioritizing sustainable practices in maintenance over green methods in new construction. Their research highlighted the significant effect of maintenance on costs and emissions, recommending a focus on road maintenance to enhance road network conditions. It proposed their model as a tool for policy development and suggested further research on green interventions in existing road networks globally.

## 2.7 Environmental impact assessment

The study by (Mavrin *et al*., 2020) addresses road transport's environmental impact by focusing on enhancing traffic management efficiency through infrastructure modernization. They analyzed problematic areas within a medium-sized city's street and road network, creating simulation models using a discrete-event approach. The study proposed measures for modernizing these areas and conducted computer experiments, revealing substantial potential for improving traffic flow parameters and subsequently reducing environmental impact. This research emphasizes evidence-based methods for managing traffic effectively and suggests practical steps for infrastructure enhancement in urbanized areas.

In this paper by Onokala & Olajide, (2020), the focus is on highlighting the challenges faced by Nigeria's major transportation modes in contributing to the country's economic development in the 21st century. They extensively reviewed the historical development of each mode—road, waterways, railways, and airways—and its past role in economic progress. The study delves into the present challenges, with a major emphasis on the overuse and mismanagement of road transport, underutilization of waterways' capacity, outdated railway systems, and the need for significant enhancements in air transport. These challenges result in environmental issues, frequent road accidents, port inefficiencies, and missed opportunities for imports at Nigerian seaports. The paper concludes by proposing sustainable approaches to address these challenges and enable these transportation modes to better contribute to Nigeria's economic growth in the 21st century.

## 2.8 Sustainable road network models

In Nabeeh’s (2023) research, the focus was on assessing sustainable growth in diverse road transport systems using an Intelligent Neutrosophic Multi-Criteria Decision-Making (MCDM) model. The study examined environmental and economic facets, emphasizing the need to reduce carbon emissions, enhance energy efficiency, and consider broader societal objectives. It employed the MCDM model to balance competing factors like environmental impact, energy efficiency, legislative frameworks, and economic influence. By incorporating a DEMATEL approach and 14 secondary criteria, the research aimed to comprehensively evaluate the progress of current road transport systems towards sustainability, aiding stakeholders in future planning for sustainable transportation.

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