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Reimagining China's transportation funding investments in Africa in lieu of COVID-19

Africa has not invested enough in its healthcare system and China has been investing in and financing much of Africa's transportation system. Many African countries' fragile health and transportation systems are further weakened by the COVID-19 pandemic. This literature review confirms the interdependence of the key functional areas of comprehensive development planning and the importance of building and maintaining a sound transportation infrastructure. With respect to its partnership with China, the African nations need to enter into trade agreements from a more comprehensive lens. The trade agreements and financing deals need to take into consideration all of the functional areas of comprehensive development planning. It is all the more apparent given the COVID-19 pandemic that these trade deals need to include simultaneous heavy investments in healthcare, education, housing, public utilities (water and electricity), and economic development through improved supply chain management and the use of advanced digital technology. In addition to the deal structures for China's investments in China's transportation infrastructure, there are also opportunities to reimagine the African nations' internal transportation spending. For example, there are models in the United States for using transportation funds to invest in health clinics in transit stations. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought this issue to bear and it is a problem that can be rectified with 'comprehensive' development planning that takes into account all of the key functional areas of planning: healthcare, environmental protection, safety, education, housing, economic development and transportation. Five recommendations follow the literature review and discussion.

Record URL:

<https://annualmeeting.mytrb.org/OnlineProgram/Details/15652>
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Availability:

Find a library where document is available. Order URL: <http://worldcat.org/issn/03611981>
 (<http://worldcat.org/issn/03611981>)

Supplemental Notes:

This paper was sponsored by TRB committee AME40 Standing Committee on Transportation in the Developing Countries.

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Conference:

[Transportation Research Board 100th Annual Meeting \(/Results?q=&serial="Transportation%20Research%20Board%20100th%20Annual%20Meeting"\)](#)

Location: Washington DC, United States

Date: 2021-1-5 to 2021-1-29

Date: 2021

Language

English

Media Info

Media Type: Digital/other

Features: Figures; References;

Pagination: 14p

Subject/Index Terms

TRT Terms: [COVID-19 \(/Results?q=&datein=all&index="COVID-19"\)](#); [Economic development \(/Results?q=&datein=all&index="Economic%20development"\)](#); [Financing \(/Results?q=&datein=all&index="Financing"\)](#); [Infrastructure \(/Results?q=&datein=all&index="Infrastructure"\)](#); [International trade \(/Results?q=&datein=all&index="International%20trade"\)](#); [Investments \(/Results?q=&datein=all&index="Investments"\)](#); [Literature reviews \(/Results?q=&datein=all&index="Literature%20reviews"\)](#); [Transportation planning \(/Results?q=&datein=all&index="Transportation%20planning"\)](#).

Geographic Terms: [Africa \(/Results?q=&datein=all&index="Africa"\)](#); [China \(/Results?q=&datein=all&index="China"\)](#).

Subject Areas: Finance; Planning and Forecasting; Transportation (General);

Filing Info

Accession Number: 01763866

Record Type: Publication

Report/Paper Numbers: TRBAM-21-01042

Files: TRIS, TRB, ATRI

Created Date: (/edit/1759494)Dec 23 2020 11:13AM

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

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