Trinidad Road Users' Understanding of the New Zebra Crossing

Madaniyo I. Mutabazi

Abstract

Pedestrians are the most vulnerable road users; more so in developing countries such as Trinidad and Tobago as drivers fail to yield right-of-way to pedestrians crossing roads. Trinidad and Tobago has introduced a new zebra crossing to increase drivers' yielding rates. The crossing affords drivers to identify the crossing at a reasonable distance, and improve visibility of pedestrians in the crossing vicinity. This paper reports the result of a study aimed at exploring road users' understanding of the crossing. Some crossing elements are well understood by drivers while other elements present a challenge. Drivers support the new crossing, but most pedestrians are not satisfied with drivers' yielding rates. Through engineering, education, and enforcement improvements the crossing has a potential of improving pedestrian safety. These results will increase public education on the new crossing, and suggest crossing improvements.

Keywords: Zebra crossing, Pedestrian safety, Zigzag lines, Flashing lights, Trinidad and Tobago