Unprecedented urban growth coupled with inadequate urban infrastructure has resulted in a shortfall of basic urban services for Bhutan’s urban residents. Infrastructure requirements across urban centers vary, but access to water, sanitation, solid waste management, and urban transport are often inadequate. The government’s Tenth Five-Year Plan identifies the need to invest in urban infrastructure and management in Bhutan’s two major municipalities—Thimphu and Phuentsholing—and other larger urban centers to ensure sustainable urban management.

To help address the growing urbanization, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved the Urban Infrastructure Project in November 2011. The project will support the Government of Bhutan’s efforts toward sustainable urban development in its two largest municipalities and two emerging urban centers (Samdrup Jongkhar Municipality [SJM] and Nganglam Town). It will have four outputs: water supply and sanitation (WSS) infrastructure rehabilitation and expansion, mobility improvement, urban management strengthening, and project management and capacity development.

The project is in line with the strategic directions of ADB’s South Asia Department. The strategy focuses on sustainable infrastructure, climate change mitigation and adaptation, human development, regional cooperation and integration, public-private partnership, and good governance.

**ADB**

Asian Development Bank
Project Brief

Project Features

(continued)

A health and hygiene awareness program under the project will enhance public participation and improve the health of poor families through improved hygiene behavior.

Mobility will be improved in Phuentsholing through the construction of a bridge, road access, and resurfacing sections of associated existing roads.

The Project at a Glance

Cost and financing: Asian Development Fund, $19,870
Project approval date: 29 November 2011
Project themes: Capacity development, Social development, Gender equity, Poverty reduction and inclusive growth, Climate change
Status of project implementation: Ongoing
Expected loan closing date: 14 August 2018

Executing agency
Department of Engineering Services
Ministry of Works and Human Settlement

ADB department
South Asia Department
Urban Development and Water Division
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The project supports the government’s poverty reduction program and contributes to the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 7 by providing both the poor and non-poor continuous access to basic services

Project management and capacity Development. Public awareness in health and hygiene, and strengthening project implementation in the four project areas are being implemented.
