CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

This manual has been commissioned by SANRAL for use on its routine road maintenance contracts on the national road network. The intention of the manual is to provide guidance which will assist the Site Management Team to:

- appreciate the various aspects of road management, priorities, safety, environmental issues, materials and equipment
- identify various problems that need attention
- understand the reasons for the problems
- select suitable actions or repair methods
- prioritise actions required
- have a systematic approach to maintenance work which is in step with the other national routine maintenance contracts.

Conditions across South Africa are not the same. Pavement structures, materials, traffic and climate are all important variables that affect the actions required in response. In addition a balance is required between a safe, efficient road network and responsible environmental practice. For these reasons there are no absolute solutions. The aim of this manual is thus to help the Route Managers to make logical decisions and apply sensible and appropriate methods to carry out the necessary maintenance actions.

As far as possible road pavement terms used are based on the recommendations of TMH9 (Standard visual assessment manual for flexible pavements) and TRH6 (Nomenclature and methods for describing the condition of asphalt pavements).

The following references are mentioned in this Manual:

- Bituminous Pavement Repairs General Repairs and Patching Published by SABITA. SABITA 1997.
- South African Development Community (SADC) Road Traffic Signs Manual - November 1997
- Problem plants of South Africa - Clive Bronilow - Briza Publications - 2001

Other manuals and information of SANRAL which have relevance to Routine Road Maintenance and which can be downloaded from the SANRAL website are:

- Site Management System for Routine Road Maintenance Contracts - June 2001
- National Slope Management System (SMS) - May 2006
- Land Acquisition Guidelines for Consulting Engineers - April 2007
- Statutory Control Manual - Expected November 2008
- Drainage Manual (5th Edition)
- Manual on Bi-Annual Bridge, Culvert and Gantry Inspections (expected in 2009)

In addition, the Standard Drawings of SANRAL should be referred to for standard details on road infrastructure elements (fencing, guardrails, drainage details, etc)

Typical road cross sections and road nomenclature illustrations are contained in Appendix A.