



وزارة التجهيز والإسكان
MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉQUIPEMENT ET DE L'HABITAT
MINISTRY OF EQUIPMENT AND HOUSING



INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

Designing and Managing Roads According to the Safe System Approach



9–11 DECEMBRE 2026

TUNIS | TUNISIA

TC 3.1 Road Safety • TC 4.6 Road Design Standards

PIARC in figures

Founded in **1909**, the World Road Association (PIARC) is the oldest and most prestigious international organisation dedicated to road infrastructure and road transport. Recognised as the global benchmark in the sector, it brings together road authorities, public institutions, research centres, universities, engineering consultancies and private companies around a common goal: to design safer, more sustainable, more resilient and more efficient infrastructure.

120+

member countries

115+

years of expertise

3,500+

experts deployed

No. 1

A global leader in road infrastructure

An organisation that shapes road policy worldwide

Organised into **international Technical Committees**, PIARC develops guides, standards, recommendations and best practices used by road authorities and infrastructure managers across five continents. Its work covers, in particular:

- Road safety and the **Safe System** approach;
- Infrastructure resilience in the face of climate change;
- Road asset management;
- Network operation and maintenance;
- Smart mobility and innovative transport systems;
- Environmental sustainability and infrastructure performance.

Why does PIARC offer a unique opportunity for sponsors?

By becoming a partner of **the PIARC Tunisia 2026 International Seminar**, your company will benefit from being associated with a globally recognised organisation and from visibility amongst an audience comprising decision-makers, experts and key players in the transport infrastructure sector.

You will thus be associating your brand with:

- ✓ an international organisation that has been a leading authority for over a century;
- ✓ a network spanning more than **120 member countries**;
- ✓ several **thousand international experts**;
- ✓ **road authorities** and **the sector's leading public and private stakeholders**;
- ✓ an event dedicated to **innovation, road safety** and **sustainable development**.

Why this seminar?

A global challenge calling for concrete solutions

Every day, **road accidents** claim the lives of **more than 3,200 people** worldwide and leave **millions seriously injured**.

Beyond the **human tragedy**, they represent a **considerable economic cost**, estimated at nearly **3 per cent of GDP** in many countries.

In response to this urgent situation, the United Nations has proclaimed the **Decade of Action** for Road Safety 2021–2030, with an ambitious goal: to halve the number of deaths and serious injuries.

This ambition can only be achieved through the joint efforts of public authorities, international organisations, researchers and companies developing infrastructure, technologies and mobility services.

It is precisely within this context that this PIARC international seminar takes place.

Why is this seminar strategic?

The PIARC Tunisia 2026 International Seminar will bring together key road sector stakeholders to share international best practices and accelerate the transition towards safer, more resilient and more sustainable infrastructure.

Drawing on the principles of safe road design and the **Safe System** approach, the event will provide a unique forum for discussion and the sharing of experiences amongst road authorities, international organisations, donors, private companies, engineering consultancies, researchers and recognised experts. Discussions will focus in particular on how to integrate road safety into every stage of the infrastructure life cycle, prioritising a design approach that takes account of foreseeable human errors, limits the consequences of collisions and ensures effective protection for all road users, particularly vulnerable road users.

The seminar's objectives

- To showcase the latest international advances in road safety.
- **To promote design that is suitable for all road users**, particularly pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists, people with reduced mobility and other vulnerable road users.
- To foster dialogue between key public and private decision-makers.
- To accelerate the adoption of the Safe System approach in the region.
- To strengthen the skills of engineers, infrastructure managers and consultancy firms.
- Showcase innovations developed by companies in the sector.
- To position Tunisia as a regional centre of excellence in road safety.



An event to advance the design of safe roads

The Tunisian Roads Association (ATR), in collaboration with PIARC and the Tunisian Ministry of Public Works and Housing, announces that an international seminar entitled 'Designing and Managing Roads According to the Safe System Approach' will be held in Tunis from **9 to 11 December 2026**.

Over two days, public officials, experts and road professionals will discuss ways of designing and managing safer infrastructure for all road users. A day of technical visits will extend these discussions to the field.

Why this theme?

A safe road must anticipate foreseeable errors and prevent a collision from resulting in a fatality or serious injury. This approach requires a holistic consideration of actual speeds, infrastructure characteristics, the diversity of road users, vehicles and the response following a collision. The seminar will link these principles to the practical decisions taken throughout a road's lifecycle: planning, studies, detailed design, construction, maintenance and operation.

The international framework of the Safe System sheds light, in particular, on design choices at junctions, access management, the continuity of pedestrian routes, crossings and speeds compatible with potential conflicts. Feedback from practical experience will enable us to assess the feasibility of these measures in different national contexts, including where available resources and data are limited.

Discussions focused on practical application

The sessions bring together the perspectives of road authorities, safety specialists, designers and managers. For each topic, the challenge will be to go beyond principles: how can a risk be identified before an accident occurs? Which aspects of a project need to be checked? How can a decision be documented and its effectiveness monitored after implementation? Discussions between countries and across disciplines will help to distinguish between solutions that can be transferred and those that need to be adapted to local constraints.

Objectives of the seminar

- To share design and management practices that take human error into account and limit the severity of collisions.
- To examine the protection of pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and other vulnerable road users right from the project design stage.
- Facilitate dialogue between public authorities, practitioners, researchers and businesses on digital tools, data and assessment methods.
- To identify practical lessons for the planning, development and operation of roads.

Who is this event for?

Road and transport managers, local authorities, engineers and consultancy firms, businesses, research organisations, universities, road safety organisations, financial institutions and international experts.

The two associated technical committees

Two PIARC Technical Committees (TCs) will contribute to the seminar's work: **TC 3.1, dedicated to road safety**, and **TC 4.6, dedicated to road design standards**. Their discussions will focus on a common question: how can safety objectives be integrated into road design and then translated into concrete measures on the ground?

TC 3.1 Road Safety

TC 3.1 approaches road safety as a matter of risk management and outcomes. Its contribution to the seminar may shed light on methods for assessing road networks, the use of traffic and accident data, the evaluation of infrastructure safety, and the monitoring of corrective actions. In line with the Safe System approach, particular attention will be paid to fatalities and serious injuries, as well as to the needs of those most at risk.

For participants, this section provides a framework for identifying risks, setting priorities for action and verifying that the measures adopted produce the expected results.

TC 4.6 Road Design Standards

TC 4.6 deals with road design standards and practices. Its scope enables an examination of how geometric characteristics, junctions, verges, access points, the clarity of layout and facilities influence user behaviour and the severity of collisions. It thus offers a practical starting point for integrating safety from the design stage onwards and maintaining it during the redevelopment of existing networks.

The seminar will explore how design requirements, site constraints and safety objectives can be reconciled: actual driving speeds, the role of vulnerable road users, the consistency of transitions and the resolution of conflicts.



Proposed topics

- Design and management of safer infrastructure for all road users.
- Taking vulnerable road users into account in urban and interurban environments.
- Diagnosis and assessment of infrastructure safety.
- Big data, artificial intelligence and connected or automated vehicles in the service of safety.
- BIM, digital tools and new approaches to design and management.

Coordination of committee work

Road safety and geometric design cannot be addressed in isolation. Technical Committee 3.1 can inform the identification of risks and the evaluation of outcomes; Technical Committee 4.6 can contribute to the analysis of design choices, applicable regulations and geometric trade-offs. Their collaboration will help participants track a single issue from diagnosis through to the implementation of measures, and subsequently to their monitoring in the field.

Session format

The sessions will alternate between technical presentations, feedback on practical experience, discussions with the audience and exchanges between public and private sector stakeholders. Depending on the programme, they may be based on specific case studies: analysis of an accident-prone site, trade-offs between design options, evaluation of an existing development or the prudent use of digital tools in decision-making.

Preliminary scientific programme

Expected content of the sessions

- **Day 1: Safety by Design**

Session 1 opens up the discussion to all road users: it examines the balance between road functions, speeds, conflict points and the protection of pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists. **Session 2** focuses on the infrastructure itself, from design principles through to safety management during operation. **Session 3** places vulnerable road users at the forefront of planning: their needs must guide the design of road cross-sections, crossings, junctions and access points, both in urban and rural areas.

- **Day Two: Tools and Outlook**

Session 4 examines what big data, artificial intelligence and connected and automated vehicles can contribute to design and safety, whilst remaining mindful of data quality and the evaluation of results. **Session 5** links the Road Safety Manual to topics related to BIM; it explores how to transform knowledge and digital models into verifiable project decisions.

Session 6 brings together two complementary perspectives: diagnosing safety issues and exploring the use of artificial intelligence and virtual reality in road design. **Session 7** takes the form of a round-table discussion on the future of roads, their safe design and their operation. Each session will provide participants with the opportunity to ask questions and apply the examples presented to their own contexts.

- **Friday 11 December 2026: technical visit**

Technical visit; location, purpose and details of participation to be confirmed.

The presentation sessions will be followed by a question-and-answer session with participants. The order below follows the programme provided by the committee; timings, speakers and detailed content will be communicated once approved.

Wednesday 9 December 2026

Session	Content and format
Opening	Welcome to participants and presentation of the seminar's objectives, followed by an opening lecture on the Safe System approach and its application to road infrastructure.
Session 1: Safe roads for all	How can roads be designed and managed whilst taking into account the diversity of road users, their travel patterns and their exposure to risk? Technical presentations followed by a discussion with participants.
Session 2: Road Infrastructure Safety	Examination of design choices and management practices that can prevent collisions or reduce their severity, particularly at junctions and on standard road sections. Presentations followed by a question-and-answer session.
Session 3: Vulnerable road users	Taking pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists into account from the earliest stages of planning. Discussions will focus on crossings, routes and conflict points, in both urban and interurban settings. Presentations followed by a question-and-answer session.
Closing of the day	Summary of the key takeaways and an overview of the topics to be covered the following day.

Coffee breaks are scheduled after the opening address and after Session 2; a lunch break will take place between Sessions 1 and 2.

Thursday 10 December 2026

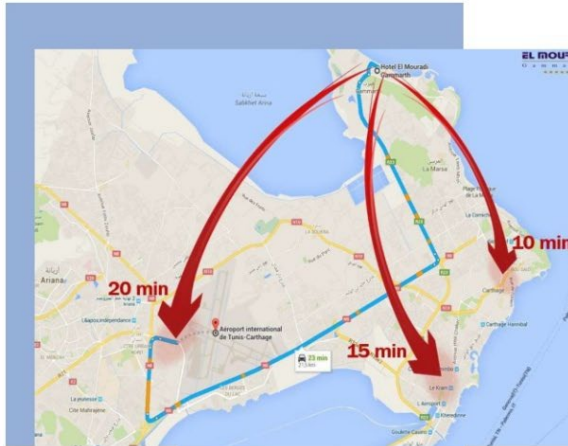
Session	Content and format
Opening	A recap of the key takeaways from the first day and a presentation of the themes focusing on data, digital tools and future prospects in road design.
Session 4: Data and new technologies	The contributions of big data, artificial intelligence and connected and automated vehicles to road design and road safety. Presentations followed by a question-and-answer session.
Session 5: Standards and digital modelling	5.1 Road Safety Manual: presentation of its principles and their application by practitioners. 5.2 BIM: potential applications in the design and management of road infrastructure. Presentations followed by a question-and-answer session.
Session 6: Assessment and innovative design	6.1 Diagnosis of road safety issues: methods for identifying risks and guiding interventions. 6.2 Artificial intelligence and virtual reality: opportunities offered by these tools for analysing and visualising road projects. Presentations followed by a question-and-answer session.
Session 7: Shaping the roads of tomorrow	Round-table discussion on how to integrate safety sustainably into the design and operation of roads. Discussion with participants.
Closing of the scientific seminar	Summary of discussions, key takeaways and conclusion of the two-day programme.

Coffee breaks are scheduled after sessions 4 and 6; a lunch break separates sessions 5 and 6. Sections 5.1 and 6.1 are associated with TC 3.1 and sections 5.2 and 6.2 with TC 4.6 in the programme references provided.

Venue and participation

The seminar will take place in Tunis, at the **El Mouradi Gammarth** Hotel.

EL MOURADI
Gammarth
★★★★★



UN EMPLACEMENT QUI FAIT TOUTE LA DIFFÉRENCE !

UNE ADRESSE STRATÉGIQUE AU CŒUR DE LA CÔTE NORD DE TUNIS

- Situé à El Mouradi Gammarth, votre séjour commence par un avantage incomparable une localisation idéale entre mer, culture et accessibilité.
- À seulement 20 minutes de l'essentiel
- Rejoignez facilement l'Aéroport international de Tunis-Carthage en environ 20 minutes. Parfait pour les voyageurs d'affaires comme pour les escapades spontanées.
- 10 minutes du charme emblématique
- À peine 10 minutes vous séparent du village mythique de Sidi Bou Said, célèbre pour ses ruelles blanches et bleues, ses cafés panoramiques et son atmosphère artistique unique.
- 15 minutes entre modernité et détente
- À 15 minutes, profitez des quartiers animés du Lac de Tunis et de Le Kram, idéals pour le shopping, les restaurants branchés et les sorties en bord de mer.
- Au cœur de la prestigieuse banlieue nord
- Implanté à Gammarth, à proximité de La Marsa, l'hôtel vous place dans l'une des zones les plus exclusives et recherchées de la région.

Discover Tunisia whilst attending the seminar

In the heart of the Mediterranean, Tunisia invites participants at the PIARC International Seminar to extend their discussions by discovering a country where history is around every corner. From the ruins of Carthage to the narrow streets of the medina in Tunis, from the white and blue façades of Sidi Bou Saïd to the sea views of Gammarth, the capital and its surroundings offer an ideal setting for combining professional meetings with cultural discoveries. The Tunisian welcome, generous cuisine and vibrant craft traditions lend this experience a unique flavour. For those wishing to extend their stay, the country's landscapes open up further possibilities: the coastal charm of Mahdia, the grandeur of the El Jem amphitheatre, the oases and the vast expanses of the Sahara. Taking part in this event also means taking the time to discover Tunisia, its heritage and its people; an invitation to enrich scientific exchanges with human connections.



Gammarth and the Gulf of Tunis



The Antonine Baths in Carthage



Tunis and Sidi Bou Saïd



An alleyway in the medina of Tunis

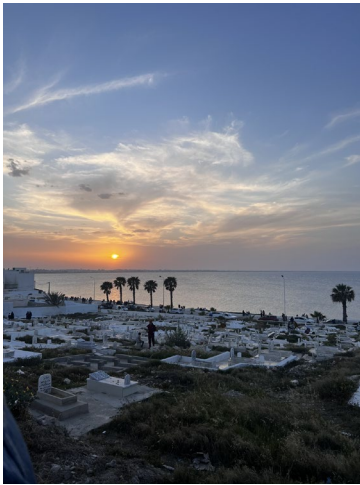


The colours of Sidi Bou Saïd



The harbour at Sidi Bou Saïd and the Gulf of Tunis



Mahdia and El Jem*Mahdia and its coastline**The amphitheatre at El Jem***Photo credits**

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Practical information

Languages: French, English and Arabic are envisaged for discussions; details regarding interpreting arrangements will be provided at a later date. International participants are advised to check entry requirements for Tunisia with the relevant consular authorities and to allow sufficient time for any necessary formalities.

Taking part and making travel arrangements

This initial announcement enables government departments, businesses, universities and associations to plan their participation and express their interest in the seminar's topics. Information on submitting a proposal, deadlines, registration fees and opportunities to take part in the technical visit will be provided by the organisers. No proposal constitutes acceptance into the programme until formal confirmation has been given.

Participants travelling from abroad are advised to check their visa requirements well in advance. Further information will be provided regarding accommodation, transfers and any specific conditions.



Organisation and contacts

PIARC, World Road Association: scientific and technical contribution. Tunisian Road Association (ATR): local organisation. Tunisian Ministry of Infrastructure and Housing: institutional partner

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For registration, submission of proposals and general enquiries: <https://event.atr-tunisie.org/fr> or visit the ATR website: www.atr-tunisie.org

Next announcement

The second announcement will set out the seminar programme, the speakers, the fees, the registration procedure, the confirmed venue, as well as information on accommodation and the technical tour.

