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**Challenges and Solutions of Environmental Impact Assessment in Highway
Development Case Study: Imam Ali Highway in Tehran**

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ABSTRACT

Every development activity will affect the ecological and social-economical patterns of the impressed region. Therefore, it is crucial to consider environmental and social aspects of each project as well as technical and financial ones. Road construction projects as one of the most important components in case of improving infrastructures should be evaluated based on aforementioned factors. In this study, by considering environmental impact report (EIR) of Imam Ali Highway, current status of Iran's EIRs and their imperfections has been detected. Lack of knowledge, not obligatory regulations and faults of contractors could be introduced as the major reasons for imperfections. In this case study, based on field study and the EIR it seems that technical and financial aspects had been considered with higher weight than other factors.

Key words: Environmental Impact Assessment, Sustainable Development, Imam Ali Highway