

# LIFE CYCLE COST RISK CALCULATOR FOR GREEN HIGHWAY CRITERIA

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## **DEDICATION**

This thesis is dedicated to my father, who taught me that the best kind of knowledge to have is that which is learned for its own sake. It is also dedicated to my mother and wife, who taught me that even the largest task can be accomplished if it is done one step at a time.

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## ABSTRACT

The negative perception of the high initial cost of investment in green characteristics into buildings or infrastructure projects is a stigma for project developers when adopting sustainable construction. A green project must ascertain the long-term cost benefits during the project viability stage. Life Cycle Cost (LCC) analysis is a method introduced to highlight the return of investment and cost risks that possibly encounter during the life span of the buildings or infrastructures. Besides green building, "green highway" or "green road" is among the emerging concern in sustainable construction. The establishment of Green Highway & Road (H&R) Rating Tools such as Malaysia Green Highway Index (MyGHI), offers multi-criteria of sustainable initiatives that count towards the score of the green certification of H&R. The decision to implement sustainable initiatives implementation raises questions about the cost risk of the investment. This research aims to develop Life Cycle Cost Risk Calculator (LCC-RC) for green highway criteria as a decision-making support for the green cost benefits and prediction of risk analysis. This research used the highways certified by MyGHI to identify relationships between LCC components and the green highway's measurable criteria. The subject of cost benefit and risk analysis was based on risk associated with the green criteria of Energy Efficiency (EE) only. A questionnaire survey of 65 respondents was conducted. Friedman's Test and Spearman's Correlation Coefficient Analysis were used to validate LCC component, and the correlation was used in LCC-RC. The results show the average total LCC of RM481,156 for a green highway project and its energy efficiency green criteria cost have a positive and significant relationship except for capital, maintenance, and replacement costs. Risk contingency costs have the strongest positive relationship (0.29,  $p < 0.005$ ). The results of the calculator portray the descriptive statistical summary of the calculated LCC analysis, along with the simulation output chart. The electrical system of LED street lighting data from LED lantern manufacturer in Malaysia was selected to test the LCC-RC. The User Acceptance Test (UAT) resulted in agreement that the LCC-RC is a unique and user-friendly tool. It was also agreed that LCC-RC supports the decision-making for green H&R projects by accumulating the total LCC of green criteria investment. This research innovation is novel in terms of an alternative for reducing the negative perception of green highways. The LCC-RC also exceptionally facilitates decision-making, hence, aiding the H&R stakeholders in foreseeing the green highway cost benefits and risks evaluation.

## ABSTRAK

Persepsi yang negatif daripada kos awalan yang tinggi dalam pelaburan ciri-ciri hijau ke projek-projek bangunan atau infrastruktur ialah stigma kepada pemaju dalam menerapkan pembinaan lestari. Projek hijau perlu menentukan kos faedah jangka masa panjang pada peringkat daya maju projek. Analisis Kos Kitaran Hayat (LCC) adalah kaedah yang telah diperkenalkan untuk menyerlahkan pulangan pelaburan dan risiko kos yang berkemungkinan dihadapi semasa jangka hayat bangunan atau infrastruktur. Selain bangunan hijau, “lebuhraya hijau” atau “jalanraya hijau” adalah antara keprihatinan muncul dalam pembinaan lestari. Penubuhan rating lebuhraya & jalanraya (H&R) seperti Index Lebuhraya Hijau Malaysia (MyGHI), menawarkan multi-kriteria inisiatif kelestarian yang dikira sebagai skor daripada pensijilan H&R hijau. Keputusan untuk melaksanakan inisiatif kelestarian menimbulkan persoalan tentang risiko kos kepada pelaburan. Penyelidikan ini bertujuan untuk membangun suatu kalkulator risiko LCC (LCC-RC) untuk kriteria lebuhraya hijau sebagai sokongan membuat keputusan untuk analisis kos faedah dan anggaran risiko. Penyelidikan ini telah menggunakan projek lebuhraya yang mendapat pensijilan MyGHI untuk mengenal pasti perhubungan antara komponen LCC dan kriteria ukuran daripada lebuhraya hijau. Subjek analisis faedah kos dan risiko telah berdasarkan risiko berkaitan dengan kriteria hijau daripada kecekapan tenaga (EE) sahaja. Kaji selidik telah dijalankan terhadap 65 responden. Ujian Friedman dan Analisis Pekali Korelasi Spearman telah digunakan untuk menentusahkan komponen LCC, dan korelasi tersebut telah digunakan dalam kalkulator risiko LCC. Keputusan menunjukkan purata jumlah LCC berjumlah RM481,156 daripada projek lebuhraya hijau dan kriteria EE hijau mempunyai hubungan positif dan signifikan kecuali untuk kos kapital, penyelenggaraan, dan gantian. Kos kontingensi mempunyai hubungan positif yang paling kuat ( $0.29$ ,  $p < 0.005$ ). Keputusan daripada kalkulator menggambarkan ringkasan statistik deskriptif yang telah dikira daripada analisa LCC bersama dengan carta output simulasi. Sistem elektrik daripada data lampu jalan LED daripada pengeluaran lampu jalan LED di Malaysia telah dipilih untuk percubaan kalkulator LCC-RC. Keputusan Ujian Penerimaan Pengguna (UAT) telah menunjukkan persetujuan yang kalkulator risiko LCC adalah unik dan mesra pengguna. Persejutan tentang LCC-RC menyokong pembuat keputusan untuk projek lebuhraya hijau dengan mengumpulkan jumlah LCC daripada pelaburan kriteria hijau. Inovasi penyelidikan ini membuktikan kebaruan dari segi alternatif untuk mengurangkan persepsi negatif projek lebuhraya hijau dengan menggunakan kalkulator risiko LCC. Kalkulator LCC-RC ini juga menyumbang khusus untuk memudahkan pembuatan keputusan, sekali gus, membantu pemegang taruh H&R dalam meramalkan faedah kos dan penilaian risiko lebuhraya hijau.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CO <sub>2</sub>	-	Carbon Dioxide
GTMP	-	Green Technology Master Plan
LCC	-	Life Cycle Cost
LCC-RC	-	Life Cycle Cost Risk Calculator
TBL	-	Triple Bottom Line
H&R	-	Highway and Road
DSS	-	Decision-Making Support System
EE	-	Energy Efficiency
MyGHI	-	Malaysia Green Highway Index
LED	-	A light-emitting diode
PV	-	Present Value
PDF	-	Probability Distribution Function
CBA	-	Cost-Benefit Analysis
IRR	-	Internal Rate of Return
LAN	-	Local Area Network
OLAP	-	Online Analytical Processing
TBL	-	Triple Bottom Line
EIA	-	Environmental Impact Assessment
AASHTO	-	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
MHA	-	Malaysian Highway Authority
ETC	-	Electric tax collection
LCM	-	life-cycle management
LCSA	-	Life cycle sustainability assessment
WLC	-	Whole-Life Costing
SEM	-	Structural Equation Modelling
VBA	-	Visual Basic For Application

## LIST OF SYMBOLS

$\alpha$	-	Alpha
$\bar{c}$	-	Average Covariance between Item-Pairs
$\bar{v}$	-	Average Variance
$\kappa^2$	-	Friedman
$\rho$	-	Spearman coefficient

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Many green highway projects aim to improve biodiversity, improve the quality of air and water, reduce waste, together with protecting the infrastructure's natural assets. The aims are mainly to support sustainable development which in direct outcome the green projects responsive to environment and inhabitation. There is huge ambiguity while discussing the cost of green highway projects. Much research has proven that green projects require high initial costs at their initial stage of implementation. According to Taleizadeh et al. (2020), green criteria costs are incurred when green materials and the cost of green commodities are to be used. A green project in building or infrastructure creates a new approach for green technology applications in the construction industry and can impact cost escalation (J. S. Khan, 2019).

The problem of global warming and natural resource depletion has been addressed differently by various nations. Recent surveys reveal that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are expected to continue to develop as Malaysia's economy develops (Azlina and Mustapha, 2012; Begum et al., 2017), unless the growth paradigm "grow first, clean up later" changes to greener and sustainable routes. There is, therefore, still a significant cause of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for fossil fuel combustion, which is a resource-efficient route of development when considering the shift to a low carbon economy (Babatundea, et al., 2018). Equally, issues of sustainability were commonly discussed (e.g., Crane et al., 2019; Neardey et al., 2020; Zhou et al., 2018). One of the examples of green projects is the development of green highway and road (H&R) construction projects led to environmental issues such as exposure to contaminated and dangerous materials, resource depletion, habitat disturbances, noise, soil, and land. According to Ahmad et al. (2016), the operations of the H&R project have a strong environmental impact, and this situation can have a negative environmental impact, creating a

sustainable problem. Furthermore, Balubaid et al. 2015 stressed that growing concerns on the scarcity of supply of non-renewable material for H&R and increasing costs of manufacturing of natural resources had encouraged designers and engineers to find an alternative solution to the above issues. Ahmad et al. 2016 also stressed the same issues by stated the transport industry consumes 30% of the worldwide electricity, consumes 25% of fossil fuels, and emits about 40% of air and greenhouse gas emissions. This industry may trigger hazardous emissions, global climate changes, disturbances to ecosystems, and the depletion of natural assets, in particular aggregates and binders, because of the increased demand in the building of pavements.

Set against the global context, it is anticipated that in future Malaysia will face a critical decrease in natural aggregates and binders if no action is taken to resolve these problems (Bujang et al., 2018). Furthermore, there is an increase in the depletion of current resources in natural pavement products that do not ensure sustainability for future generations (Azahar et al., 2016; Idham and Hainin, 2015). The primary focus when to concern in implementing sustainable development goals into highway infrastructure projects is the energy efficiency criteria. Most of the green rating tools over the globe put significant consent in energy efficiency criteria in order to response to the effects of climate change by reducing energy consumption. Likewise, energy efficiency should be carefully considered during the creation of green Highway and Road (H&R) projects. Energy efficiency in H&R projects and its operation, for instance, refers to consuming less energy by obtaining adequate electrical power and significantly reducing air pollutant emissions (Qin et al., 2014). In example the energy efficient for H&R street lighting have to provide safety and comfort which refer to clear and soft illumination with assurance of no light pollution of harmful light generation such as ultraviolet light and glare.

Mukta et al. (2020) claimed increasing the energy efficiency of public lighting systems is a primary priority for energy-conscious organisations worldwide. In the case of energy efficiency in lighting systems is sometimes undervalued by the traditional measures of reduced energy demand and lower GHG emissions, it has the potential to play a crucial role in promoting environmental sustainability, bolstering economic growth, accelerating social development, and protecting the energy system's

security. Taking instance of H&R street lighting, each pole need at distance of least 2.5-3 of the lighting pole height and it is multiply with kilometres of the highway (Ramli et al., 2016). This numbers of streets lighting is more serious in urban highways and toll plaza. The cumulative number of street lighting indicates that the consumption of energy is high and improving energy efficiency has the potential to save large amounts of energy annually.

On Malaysian highways, the installation of Light-Emitting Diodes (LED) for street lighting is an example of the application of green technology. Increasing the energy efficiency of street lighting systems is frequently one of the primary initiatives that highway operators can adopt as part of their sustainable initiatives. Although the absolute amount of electricity consumed by street lighting is low, it has a significant symbolic value for energy conservation in cumulative for all urban and rural H&R in Malaysia; and for cities lighting in Malaysia. In the context of local government budget constraints, identifying energy efficiency techniques that do not require costly expenditures and are compatible with existing technology is an option (N. Das et al., 2015). Malaysia has primary agenda of energy reduction and recently launched Malaysian Green Technology Master Plan (GTMP). GTMP is to encourage green technology projects in developing a nation, the construction of viable green H&R for future requirements is one of the critical problems being discussed (Mohd Nusa et al., 2020).

The present worldwide improvement in the harmful impacts of building on the environment is designed to promote viable growth and implement green actions (C. Kibert, 2015). Indeed, nations are moving their focus to a domestic priority for sustainable growth. Aiming to make this concept more applicable and raise awareness among those involved in green highway projects is the goal. The entire cost of various green project designs should be assessed based on the Life Cycle Cost (LCC), which involves all costs and revenues over the lifetime of the building. In order to achieve LCC of green highway projects, all elements should first be identified as the green variable or criteria cost at the LCC component stage, and the correlation between them should be established (Rahman & Zakaria, 2018). This expected outcome and ability able to assist and boost the green project Triple Bottom Line (TBL), specifically green

technology example in green H&R investment area and the correlation amongst its LCC components of total green criteria cost, can be known. Besides, the LCC components variance control can be applied using correlation studies, and the total green criteria cost inferring can be improved with integrated risk and life cycle costing tools (Ilg et al., 2017). Nevertheless, the LCC value for green highway projects can be optimised, plus the LCC profile and cost library of green highway projects can be established by aligning the green criteria cost model with value engineering.

Furthermore, it is essential to remember that green project technology is presently at the most advanced stage than ever before, and as the world's supply of non-renewable resources becomes scarce and costly, green technology remains to increase its importance. Taking again the example of green H&R projects, the cost of using this infrastructure is a consequence of the accumulated total green criteria cost during the lifetime of the H&R. Initiatives reducing future cost (e.g., power efficiency, increased H&R component durability) often lead to higher investment costs (e.g., adding heat insulation, more resilient paving materials). Automatic optimisation can substitute manual variations of various design parameters and save the H&R designers a great deal of job and simultaneously lead the designers to cost-effective H&R design with excellent results (Kleppmann, 2017). Equally important, the use of computer simulation to accurately assess the performance of various H&R design criteria, where problem definition and criteria variation can take a great deal of time. If future costs are not included in the assessment, these projects are not endorsed accordingly. In particular, it is often desirable to assess the cost-effectiveness of green highway project across separate LCC component when assessing total green criteria cost. The cost can assist and analyse the trade-offs between different green criteria, such as unique energy efficiency characteristics.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The notion of green technology innovation fosters an enticing green revolution for sustainable environmental and economic enhancement impacting developing nations (Kenis and Lievens, 2016). For instance, in recent years, the prolonged and

inefficient use of most lighting services has been a top focus, particularly in densely populated and industrialised nations with relatively high electricity rates (Beccali et al., 2015). Existing lighting systems are a huge drain on a nation's energy reserves, despite the fact that their activities are insufficient. In addition, the length of daylight changes throughout the year, but traditional lighting systems are often turned on at 6 or 7 p.m. and turned off at 6 or 7 a.m., resulting in significant energy loss (Mukta et al., 2020). Also, the lights remain on throughout the night regardless of whether there are any cars or pedestrians present, squandering energy and lamp life. In this situation, building a so-called green project with carbon-neutral equipment, in one way, expected to reduce the risk of emissions from fossil fuels and greenhouse gases (Attahiru et al., 2019).

The efforts made are a significant step forward in typical green highway projects and industries. Similarly, investment in installations is long-lived and necessarily involves threats to green project for its construction longevity, operational and maintenance costs, as well as many other factors affecting the economics of installations. If the cost and time details are substantially risky, an LCC appraisal can have little benefit for consumers and policymakers. Therefore, if the LCC models can incorporate a quantitative approach for determining the risk likelihood, this kind of obstacle can be resolved. The most significant improbabilities commonly occur in the earlier stages of a project, even when investment decisions have the most significant effect. However, future cost modelling risks entail similar risks. Likewise, the uncertainties of future capital investment and LCC projections need to be calculated in the post-road or highway variable cost analysis. Therefore, risk assessments offer useful insights into situations that explicitly describe the probability density function (Oduyemi and Okoroh, 2016) and reduce the risk of loss and optimise green highway project opportunities. It is risk assessment and final monitoring that is not adequate (Suter and Norton, 2018), and formal risk assessment strategies are required to ensure that regularity and standardisation of green project measurable variables are accomplished. Most of these approaches are, however, generally tricky, complicated, and expensive, and therefore the use of these methods is exorbitant for many projects. The lack of understanding and questions regarding adequacy within the ecosystem professions was also recognised as reasons for the slow approach (H. T. Nguyen et al., 2017).

The present study does so in the context of the green highway projects by developing a life cycle cost risk calculator as a decision-making support system (DSS) model for the green criteria cost area using LCC in Malaysia. Hence, how to implement the life cycle tools in the decision-making process becomes more critical. Green highway projects should not end up being just a conventional cost. The green highway project should have carried out the cost risk. Cost risk involves performing a risk analysis of that green highway project's cost value to determine the likelihood of finishing the green project on budget as well as estimate the requisite contingency reserve needed to provide the desired amount of certainty about achieving the cost-plus reserve. The suitable contingency reserve usually differs from the reserve included in the traditional cost estimation process, which is frequently a rough estimate. An understanding of cost risk can prove important for green highway projects to lead to a better plan, as it leads to early mitigation of the investment of green criteria and allows management or other stakeholders to make an investment that has the desired level of certainty offers.

Though many products are using life cycle costing as a decision-making tool, its use is still far from being systematic, and the calculation methodologies are based on trial-and-error methods. Moreover, these products are not using life cycle costing to reach the minimum LCC. Achieving high "green ratings" also acts as a safeguard to minimise the effects of future energy price increases, the impact of which should not be underestimated. Therefore, this research concerned with identifying the relationship between the LCC component and green criteria to aid the designers and engineers and decision-makers in selecting their right green options and initiatives with cost and risks analyses.

### **1.3 Research Gap**

Almost all green or sustainability rating tools across the world pay high attention on energy reduction. H&R projects, also public infrastructures that utilising energy on its operation and the consumption is relative to the length of the H&R. For instance, when constructing and analysing street lighting, the energy reduction via

energy efficient of lighting must be considered for at least two reasons. First is the increasing awareness of global warming, which drives the quest for energy-saving strategies. The second factor is an increase in the cost of electrical energy, which compels the organisations responsible for street lighting to demonstrate the value and cost-effectiveness of their efforts. Given the range of available street lighting options, it would be beneficial to have a mechanism for more precise cost estimation. Therefore, the element of energy efficiency in H&R projects is absolute in gaining attention compared to other criteria in highway and road construction. With above reason, and in comparison, to other criteria, Energy Efficiency (EE) criteria is suitable to represent a green highway project in general.

The green highway project financial aspect provides various opportunities to be considered, and LCC is one of them. In addition, LCC would be confirmed by risk concepts, so the relationship between LCC components and LCC of total green criteria cost could be established. The form established and raised the inevitable research questions; firstly, how to correlate measurable green criteria cost and cost components of LCC. Secondly, how the calculation of green criteria incurring costs and LCC will presage the output of cost in LCC functionality. Thirdly, can the DSS framework to be utilised on LCC which at the same time designates the risk probability.

Given the rising prevalence of green criteria costs incurred for green highway projects investment, there is an essential need to establish complete information in the form of summary statistics for total green criteria cost output results in the form of LCC using cost risk analysis through probability distribution simulation. The simulation depicts a DSS insight using a virtual population of costs identical to the one being analysed, based on summary statistics such as mean cost and also costs at any percentile of the virtual population of costs.

#### **1.4 Research Question**

Bougie and Sekaran (2019) propose an inclusive strategy to address a study issue. Considering the problem statement outlined in the previous sub-section, this

study tries to explore the association of LCC of green highway projects with LCC component of green criteria to help decision-makers choose their green criteria cost approaches of a project. Specifically, the research questions are formulated as follows:

1. How to correlate measurable criteria of green highway project with cost components of LCC?
2. How will the calculation of green criteria incurring costs and how LCC pointing the output of cost and risk probability?
3. Can the DSS to be utilised on LCC, which simultaneously indicates the risk probability?
4. Is there any manual of Life Cycle Cost Risk Calculation for decision-maker that associate LCC and risk probability?

### **1.5 Aim of the Research**

This research aims to develop a Life Cycle Cost Risk Calculator (LCC-RC) by determining the correlation between the LCC of green highway projects and the LCC component of Energy Efficiency (EE) criteria costs using integrated Monte Carlo Simulation. With this aim, this study enables the following four primary research objectives to be achieved:

1. To establish the relationship of LCC components related to the green highway project criteria.
2. To correlate triangular probability distribution in the life cycle costing components and associate green criteria cost structured with risk probability.
3. To develop a calculator framework that analyse total cost for green criteria using life cycle costing integrated with risk probability calculator.
4. To develop a manual of life cycle cost risk calculator for the analysis of cost risk in green highway project.

## 1.6 The Scope of the Study

This study undertakes green H&R projects as case studies of green projects. Although many studies have provided evidence of evaluating green H&R and issues related to sustainability in the H&R construction industry in Malaysia, none of them has exclusively investigated the pattern, dimension, and effect of LCC application with the DSS model towards Malaysian green H&R. Thus, focus on the green H&R beneficial and understandable DSS are necessitated in the Malaysian H&R scenario.

The purpose of this study is to examine the green criteria cost for green H&R as extracted from the Energy Efficiency (EE) section of the Malaysia Green Highway Index (MyGHI) via a survey questionnaire. It is very important to note that the proposed procedure or framework can also be applied to other types of infrastructure. Therefore, the results of this study are also applicable to other infrastructure criteria and are not limited to the case studies presented in this thesis. Compared to other criteria, EE has gained attention due to its greater influence on green highway projects, as its criteria directly show the energy efficiency of the technology or methodology, especially in green rating. For example, LCC data on EE consists of planning and operating costs compared to materials such as H&R construction materials, which require a longer period for LCC data to wait for the replacement cycle of the construction material.

A preliminary pilot study was taken, whereby the EE section is used to look at the applicability of the questionnaire to determine the correlation that occurs between green highway projects LCC and LCC component of total green criteria. Next, LED streetlight criteria within the EE section in MyGHI is taken as the green criteria cost of this study. In this study, the main interest lies in creating the correlation of LCC component of total green criteria cost for LED streetlight. The reason for choosing EE criteria with its LED street lighting component is visible and available within the stages of H&R project life cycle and availability of data in representing the main element in the green H&R ecosystem. The visibility and availability of this component element has drawn attention to the availability of cost risk data and makes people easily understand and aware of the implications of rapidly changing technology, especially

in the EE criteria. Even though the bitumen asphalts materials is look very visible, however, the data availability is almost impossible due to total H&R resurfacing make takes from 5-10 years cycle. The materials and the replacement with green materials is only taken at certain stretch of H&R for pilot study of the workability and strength on the materials.

Furthermore, the scope of the study also covers the type of LCC component utilise a probabilistic approach by using the Monte Carlo simulation. The correlation between life cycle costing components and associate green criteria cost is used for further risk probability analysis using an excel calculator will be developed. This study determine the LED streetlight criteria cost of risk prediction. The purpose is to incorporate risks and uncertainties in order to develop an integrated calculator that analyse LCC with a probability approach based on given input and probability distribution preferred. The input cells are based on the life cycle costing Present Value (PV) formula, and there are three (3) types of Probability Distribution Function (PDF) alternatives for Monte Carlo Simulation, which are triangular distribution to be selected. The present value formula is used in the calculator with up to a 15-year analysis period. Interest and discount rates can be chosen depending on the information available. Within deductive and exploratory research, the application of the model to a case study of LED streetlights best fits as a research strategy. This step also focuses more on the quantitative part of the problem analysis by looking at figures.

### **1.7 Significance of the Study**

This research contributes to the growing body of knowledge of green criteria cost and LCC cost component. Even though LCC is a topic that has been researched extensively around the world but is still in its infancy stage in Malaysia. Due to that, this increases the value of the findings and is highly relevant to bridging the gap in the slow tendency literature of green criteria in linking to the critical cost components related to sustainable measures in green highway project investments. Notably, this study can make a substantial contribution to the body of knowledge in a number of ways.

In this study, Systems Theory were applied to contribute to the contemporary understanding of project management theory. This study is expected to strengthen its predictions towards adequate positioning, implementation of (where necessary) period, transformation and redefault of the construction industry structure, the industry must plan structural adjustments to guarantee the continued survival of the entire system, continually formulating new interpretations of green highway projects. Furthermore, applying this theory in this study will also contribute to improving the generalisation concerning today's thinking on H&R construction focuses on how green initiative design needs to be harmonised with local economic factors, how subsequent environmental destruction and over-use of resources can be prevented, and how sustainable development ideas can be incorporated into green highway projects.

The study is essential from a scholarly standpoint since it allows expansion of knowledge academics to reconsider the LCC, its impact on green highway project investments, and its cost risk, all relevant sources of which are extensively addressed in the literature. This empirical study helps conducted empirically and facilitates the unbiased assessment and critical interpretation of the cost components of LCC. In addition, this research compared reliable LCC outcomes from the environmental effects of the Malaysian highway construction as the case examples. The essence of the outcomes is to enable the identification of procedures and techniques that have significant adverse effects on the setting that are presently lacking in current literature.

The findings of this study may assist policymakers in properly outline measures in planning, developing and implementing the critical cost components related to sustainable measures in green highway project investments. In addition, there are social issues in terms of readiness and acceptance of green highway projects among the Malaysian construction industry, and the findings of this study may provide incentives as well as enables a regulatory mechanism that affects the rest of the strategies created to address the Malaysian green highway project problems. This could be materialised through the establishment of LCC assessment and a green highway project database (e.g., green H&R programs, tools, indicators, and design codes) that allows users to get the required information to create and maintain a green project-built environment.

This research provided a valuable application for investors to help them for a better understanding of green highway project cost benefits. K.-K. Seo, J.-H. Park et al. (2002) argued that the design of the product influences between 70% and 85% of the total cost of a product. Therefore, developers are in a situation to significantly decrease the cost of the item they design by taking due account of the cost of the life cycle of design choices they make. Henceforth, this tool will be useful for designers' decision-making such as on the materials in green highway projects. In other words, this research will provide an appropriate database and repository of available green materials in the Malaysian market and will be valuable for suppliers in creating a competitive market in terms of green procurement. The result of this research may assist academics such as lecturers, PhD, Master as well as bachelor's degree candidates to carry out further research in green projects and critical cost components related to sustainable measures such as in H&R infrastructure investments and in other construction sectors in Malaysia, which could help in understanding the contribution of LCC assessment strategies to the overall growth of this sector.

### **1.8 Novelty of the Study**

The novelty of this study brings the LCC risk calculator for green highway criteria towards the better solution of LCC of green highway projects. The research study contributes to the body of knowledge by developing new innovative integrated calculator tool of LCC incorporated with risk probability, which had not been developed before for the quick, easy and time-saving decision-making process for the green highway projects facilitators and investors. This kind of dynamic invention will attract green highway project investors by benefiting them in determining the initial and future cost of green highway projects.

However, this rigorous approach have potential to commercially available for all the stakeholders of the green highway projects industry through their industrial domain. Green highway projects investors, builders, contractor, project managers, engineers, designers, and planners will get great benefit out of this viable and easy usable dynamic tool. LCC with risk probability tool will help to prioritise the

Malaysian government's initiatives, plans and strategies developed for the sustainable built environment for 2030 (UN-SDG, 2016) and MGTP (2020). Significantly, this tool is unique innovation in green project built environment and construction industry at large.

## **1.9 Summary of Research Chapter**

The structure of this thesis is organised in five chapters. Chapter 1 consists of the discussion on the background of the study, which is composed of the introduction, problem statement, research objectives, and questions, significance of the study, identifying the scope of research, and defining key terms. Chapter 2 summarises the current state of knowledge by addressing the relevant literature. Areas covered in this chapter include sustainable development principles and the evolution of green projects taken example of highway infrastructure development. The literature review also covers the long-term financial management in highway development, which includes the principles of long-term financial management, application of LCC in highway projects, development of the LCC models and programs, and the limitation of existing LCC studies regarding sustainability. The literature on the responses to the sustainability challenge and cost implication in highway infrastructure is also surveyed. Overall, this chapter identifies the research gap, which justifies the need for this study.

Chapter 3 describes the research methodology in detail including the research methodology; data collection methods (namely questionnaire, framework development and case example); research information; selection of participants and case projects; research instrumentation; data analysis and validation of results; and, finally, guideline formulation. Chapter 4 describes the data analysis and results of the questionnaire and semi-structured interview. Questionnaire feedback is presented, and the results tabulated in order to answer the research questions. Total green criteria cost in term of LCC components are identified, and conclusions are drawn. The data analysis and findings of the interview results illustrate the understanding of the current industry practice of long-term financial management in green H&R infrastructure.

Besides, potential issues hindering the integration of green criteria cost into LCC are identified.

Chapter 5 reviews the research objectives and development processes; and offers conclusions concerning the research outcomes based on the particular research questions, the contributions to the body of knowledge and its implications for both the research community and the highway infrastructure recommendations for future research are proposed.

## **1.10 Chapter Summary**

In this introduction chapter, the structure of the thesis and the theme of the study have been introduced. Background of the research has been presented and the research problem described. The broad research questions which incorporate the objectives of this research have been articulated. Finally, the anticipated benefits deriving from this research, the scope of study and the inherent limitations of the research employed are elaborated. The next chapter takes a brief look into the literature to explore the nature of the development of green highway projects and the LCC, taken example of green H&R as the main focus of this research. The chapter provides the literature review related to concepts included in the research framework and hypothesis developed.

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## LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

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