

***Interactive comment on* “Brief Communication: Vehicles for development or disaster? The new Silk Route, landslides and geopolitics in Nepal” by Karen Sudmeier-Rieux et al.**

F E Taylor (Editor)

faith.taylor@kcl.ac.uk

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Thank you to anonymous reviewer 1 and 2 for their constructive and helpful comments in their review of NHESS-2017-462. Both reviewers have commented on the timeliness and relevance of the paper, but that it tries to answer too many questions in a short space. Indeed, there are perhaps several research papers condensed into one brief communication here. To move forward, the authors must focus the paper. I have been in discussion with the lead author Karen with regard to this, as there are several directions in which the paper could be taken.

We have agreed that the paper should remain as a brief communication type (b) as

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defined by NHESS as: “report/discuss significant matters of policy and perspective related to the science of the journal, including “personal” commentary”. The focus of the paper should be on the contemporary policy issues surrounding the belt and roads initiative and its implications for hazards. This means reducing some of the historical descriptions and some of the review of previous literature discussing evidence of the interaction between roads and landsliding in Nepal. This shifts the paper from being primary research to a short, opinion piece that informs the NHESS readership about the policy developments and stimulates new research around this topic.

Both reviewers have made very useful comments with regard to ensuring the commentary is not too reductionist or one-sided. Due to the more focused nature of the revised paper, there should be more room to ensure these are implemented. A small number of these comments may no longer be relevant with the new focus of the paper.

Thank you again to Reviewer 1 and 2 for their input. I look forward to the author responses to reviewers.

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