



Review of Urban Transport in India



Preface

Indian cities have been witnessing rapid motorisation. The total number of motor vehicles in many cities has more than doubled in the last 10 years alone, causing severe congestion, air pollution, increasing incidence of road accidents and a very rapid increase in the consumption of petroleum fuels. It is well recognised that poor transportation has the potential to adversely impact the economic efficiency of our cities as well as the health and well-being of urban Indians. Although the country adopted a National Urban Transport Policy in April, 2006 emphasising on the prioritisation of public transport and non-motorised modes over personal motor vehicles, the pace of motorisation has continued. Clearly there is a need to step back and review what has happened so far so that future directions can be better aligned to deal with the emerging problems.

It is in the above context that this paper reviews the past trends, the current situation, the measures taken so far, the gains from them as well the gaps that still remain. It projects multiple scenarios for the future and, thereafter, it suggests a way forward.

This review becomes particularly important in the light of the national effort to build 100 smart cities and undertake the renewal of 500 cities. The transport system in the cities will have to be at the core of such renewal and hence this paper would prove useful for decision makers who are charged with the responsibility of developing Indian cities. The authors hope that this effort will prove useful in the task of building urban India as the “Engines of our Economic Growth”.

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Institute of Urban Transport (India)

1st Floor, Anand Vihar Metro Station Building,
Entry adjacent to Gate No 1,
Delhi - 110 092 (INDIA)

Tel. : (+91) 11 66578700 - 709

Fax. : (+91) 11 66578733/44

E-mail : info@iutindia.org

URL : www.iutindia.org