

Review of Urban Transportation In India

Urban transportation is a major challenge in India with increase in population both natural and migration from rural and smaller towns leading to transport demand. Towns are turning to cities and cities to megacities. The deteriorated public transport has led to increase in motorized transport both for household and industrial activities have led to some serious impacts. The demand has overtaken the road capacity leading to traffic congestion and delays. Others being accidental deaths and increase in pollution. A good sustainable infrastructure for transport is very much needed especially improved bus services which can attract more commuters.

As per the available statistics the concern is not with increase in vehicles but with these plying in metro cities alone. The share of bus services when compared to personalized vehicles is very negligible.

As far as infrastructure is concerned the area covered by the roads and streets is insufficient when compared to other global cities. Rail services are limited to very few cities. The available bus services are very crowded, unreliable and involve long waiting periods, so people opt for private vehicles. State undertaking of buses and private buses has at least helped in meeting some of the traffic demand.

Transport sector contribute very much to pollution, the pollution metric for Indian cities is very high when compared with WHO standard. Congested roads and increased traffic has reduced peak hour speeds of vehicles to 5-10km/hr. which in turn is leading to pollution. It's high time that there should be some policy measures to improve urban transportation.

The key policy would be on bus transport being less polluting when compared to personalized mode and better than rail mode. Political pressure had always been keen on keeping these services in loss by not allowing to increase ticket costs, leading to poor services. A good monitored private bus transport is also a good option.

There should be good coordination between different bodies of transportation thereby providing adequate and efficient service. Encourage technologies that produce less carbon emissions and restraining from use of polluting vehicles like two stroke engines.

Implementing demand side management measures like restraints on road use and supply-side management measures like one way traffic and improvement of traffic signals and engineering would be very helpful. Encouraging green modes like bicycles and pedestrians. The institutions which takes care of these is spread across state (bus transport) and central (railways) governments. With not so much revenues flowing in there is a need to strengthen these institutions to provide good infrastructure and accountability.

With rise in urban population transport sector would play a key role in our day to day activities affecting quality and safety of life. There is a immediate need for development of this sector. People should be encouraged to use bicycles or public transport and proper funding has to be given for these institutions. With lack of policies, coordination and infrastructures commuters are going for personalized modes of transport which would make matter worse.

References:

“Review of Urban Transportation in India” by Sanjay K.Singh .Public Journal of Transportation
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