

DECONGESTION & MOBILITY

Briefing:

Overview:

Population growth and lack of efficient, sustainable and trouble free public transport system leads to rise in the numbers of personal vehicles in Delhi which leads to increased traffic congestion in Delhi-NCR. *There are over 1 crore vehicles in the State and it is predicted that all junctions and roads in Delhi would have outlived their capacity by 2021. Furthermore, traffic speeds are expected to go down to 5 kph (the same speed as walking) by 2030.*

While, investment in infrastructure is a part of the solution, global research shows that there are more long-term strategies that need to be developed to address the issue of congestion in Delhi.

The Master Plan of Delhi (MPD) 2021 states that “The Vision for Delhi is to have a mobility transition which will deliver a sustainable urban transport system for the city that is equitable, safe, comfortable, affordable, energy efficient and environment-friendly; a system that satisfies the mobility needs of all sections of the population and enhances their quality of life.”

Traffic congestion is a public policy issue and solicits a policy response which can strike a balance between urbanization and urban mobility. In Delhi several policy initiatives have been undertaken but have not yielded

desired outcomes. This is primarily due to a gap between the public consultation process and the needs & demands of the public that are largely been neglected.

Introduction:

Since 2014, URJA has been at the forefront of bringing together Urban Mobility Experts, Operators, RWA and the Government to assist and to solve the problems related to traffic congestion and mobility. With this objective URJA held a seminar on 5th Sept.2018 to discuss the status of existing policies on decongestion and mobility, at India International Center, New Delhi with transport experts and town planners of the area. As a result of these deliberations a consensus was built in the roundtable to the establishment of Municipal Ward/Assembly level planning committees to overcome gaps between policy makers and public and the way ahead.

URJA believe that it is time for leading stakeholders in this space to reconvene and outline short-term, as well as long-term solutions to congestion and the increasing space crunch in Delhi.

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Observation:

Transport is a key element in the infrastructure. It provides services essential for promoting development. During recent times, mobility needs of the people, due to increasing economic activities, have been insatiably increasing across the globe. There is a phenomenal increase in the growth of vehicles and traffic in Delhi. Besides the above, Delhi has developed as a Borderless city and an urban continuum comprising of a number of rapidly growing towns in Haryana and UP. This has added to the flow and movement of traffic within Delhi.

To cope up with these issues government is formulating several policies which remain unimplemented and is one of the main reasons of the policy failure. The Plan and strategy for transportation will have to be worked out in such a manner so that its implementation on ground could be made visible and the policy is not termed as failure. This would be a win-win situation for everyone from the formulators and the beneficiaries.

Urgency:

To meet these objectives there is a need to provide a significant increase in efficient rapid public transport systems and facilities with a corresponding

reduction in individual private transport usage.

It is believed that in case the formulation of a policy is done in such a manner that it meets the public interest and opinions under consideration in that case only the policy may be implemented on ground and accepted largely by everyone from government to public.

Way Forward:

URJA is trying to fill this gap between executive stakeholder and resident stakeholder and finding the solution to pressurise the government mechanism to do their efforts in implementing the policy by integrating them together at ward level planning. Thus a consensus was built in the roundtable deliberations held on 5th Sept.2018, and it is proposed to establish Municipal Ward/Assembly level planning committees with public participation through RWAs to take stock of policy to formulate area level requirements from 'ground up' with help from experts & town planners that are implementable without resistance.

Local Area Plan-LAP

In this regard a Local Area Plan (LAP) sets out a strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of a specific area/ward with a public participatory approach.

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Objectives:

Land Use Zoning, built use & density ,Open Space system, Movement system, Provision of physical and social Infrastructure, Conservation of Built Heritage, Conservation of Natural Environment and systems, Design & Development Standards , Legislation and Governance

Collaborations:

Institute of urban designers, Delhi & NCR centre (IUDI DNCR) & United residents joint action of DELHI -URJA are collaborating in this regard to create LAP's for various wards of Delhi and NCR, keeping in mind a larger public good for the region as the two interact at several levels of connectivity. IUDI DNCR & URJA would sign a MoU for carrying out these LAP's. IUDI DNCR would further be engaging architecture and urban design institutions present in Delhi and NCR and URJA will help integrate with public through RWAs and other community organizations.

IUDI DNCR would be giving the professional and knowledge support to do these LAP's with the institutions of architecture and urban design. The process would include the following:

- An in-depth documentation, study and analysis of the wards.
- Public meetings to empower the people and gain the local knowledge of the issues in the wards.

- The outcomes of the meetings would be put together as a people's plan. Further to which vision and strategies for the areas using the tools and approaches of urban design shall be formulated.
- A detailed structure plan with an aim to showcase urban design approaches and interventions for the area shall be prepared.

About URJA:

URJA, the apex body of RWA in Delhi, was set up in 2005 it gathers, analyzes, disseminates information & aggregates public opinion to demand efficient delivery of civic amenities, health services, security, clean air and water to residents of Delhi through an accountable, efficient and responsive Government. We connect and network with around 2500 RWA apart from several significant NGOs.

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