

Press Release

Transforming Cities with Smart and Sustainable Mobility

Urban mobility is vital for cities and is a major contributor to economic growth, jobs and competitiveness. **Tamil Nadu accounts for 9.3 percent of the total urban population** in the country and is the most urbanized State. The degree of urbanization in Tamil Nadu has progressively on the increase over a long span of period and has emerged as the State with the highest level of urbanization.

Demand for improved intercity mobility is also growing, to create faster and more direct connectivity between settlements. This growing demand converges with an inadequate supply of physical transport capacity in many cities, which can result in crowding, congestion, and an unpleasant experience of the city.

Efficient Transport System- Challenges

Rapid growth in the **absence of demand in widespread public transport system has caused a rapid increase of private car ownership**. Other modes include metro rail, and local trains. Cities feature large numbers of auto rickshaws, taxis, and forms of informal car pooling. **The use of personal vehicles is dominant resulting negative externalities such as traffic congestion, consumption of fossil fuels**, road accidents, emissions and air pollution. Efforts are required to enhance overall sustainability and resilience of urban mobility to overcome the above issues. **Strategies to enhance mobility, ensure accessibility and an efficient transport systems is the need of the hour.**

In this context a virtual workshop on “**Urban Mobility - Linkages and Access**” was held under the Chairmanship of Thiru C. Ponnaiyan, Hon’ble Vice Chairman, State Development Policy Council (SDPC) (erstwhile State Planning Commission), Tamil Nadu on 09.12.2020 at 11.00 a.m. with Stakeholder departments and domain experts at the SDPC Conference Hall, Ezhilagam, Chennai -5. Thiru. Anil Meshram, IAS., Member Secretary, State Development Policy Council, Thiru P. Prabhakar, IAS., Deputy Secretary to Government, Transport Department, Thiru Raj Cherubal, CEO Smart City Mission, Senior officials from Transport Department, CMDA, CMA, CMRL and domain experts participated in the workshop.

Seamless Travel

The Hon'ble Vice Chairman emphasized the **promotion of seamless public transport with a clear hierarchy amongst different modes- from non-motorized (pedestrians, cycles) to public and lastly private transport.** Public transport should be made affordable, comfortable and accessible to ensure better adoption with focus on multi-modal systems. **State Urban Transport Policy is under formulation which** shall provide a framework for Public Transport expansion and usage in both rural and urban areas.

Efficient Parking Management

Efficient parking management such as **multilevel car parking, reallocating urban space in favour of sustainable modes are effective way** to ensure better streets and cities and avoid off- street parking. **Introduction of e-buses** will be significant step towards reducing pollution, mitigation of climate change and reducing health hazard to the citizen.

Skyway Corridors

The Vice Chairman, SDPC also suggested sky way corridors by introduction elevated highways within metro cities viz., Chennai, Madurai, Trichy & Coimbatore for faster and safer transport. It would be viable solution for commuters with less travel time, reduction in fuel consumption, and it also address in bringing down accidental rates and traffic congestion.

Development of intermodality and multimodality, integration of transport infrastructure together with urban planning, **preservation of nature and public places in the city** are the urban strategies for ***Transforming Cities with Smart and Sustainable Mobility.***

Member Secretary
State Development Policy Council

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