

# Urban Transportation: New Developments

## Presentations

**Presentation 1: Dr Ekroop Caur** (Managing Director, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation-BMTC) stressed on the importance of bus transportation in the public transport network. She highlighted the key initiatives like network optimization and introduction of hub and spoke model, initiatives around safety of women passengers, ITS enablement of bus fleet etc. taken up by BMTC in providing adequate transportation in Bangalore. She also highlighted the importance of integrated planning in providing adequate connectivity to commuters. She also informed the audience about the intent of BMTC to procure electric buses.

**Presentation 2: Mr. Mukund Kumar Sinha** (OSD and Jt. Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development) recounted success stories of schemes like JNNURM and briefed the audience about new funding mechanisms like AMRUT mission. He talked about the intent of government in funding technological advances like ITS and electric buses for enhancing passenger convenience and reducing environmental impact of the transportation. Mr. Sinha further informed about the proposed national green urban mobility scheme for funding projects which enhance mobility especially through non-motorized modes.

**Presentation 3: Mr Ramshekhar** (MD, Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System Ltd.) talked about the future of mobility including the disruptive trends like shared autonomous vehicles. He also stressed on the importance of an integrated authority for urban transport and the importance of political will in developing such an authority.

**Presentation 4: Mr Shashi Verma** (CTO and Head of Customer Experience, Transport for London) highlighted the importance of an integrated authority in providing seamless urban mobility. He also presented the measures taken by TFL in enabling a safer and greener urban freight mobility including setting-up of ultra-low emission zones, fleet operating regulations, promoting use of side bars in commercial vehicles etc. Mr. Verma also spoke about the importance of persuasion alongside the regulatory regimes to enable compliance.

## **Addresses & Panel Discussion**

### **Members:**

**Mr. Ramshekhar**, MD, DIMTS

**Mr. Abhay Damle**, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

**Mr. S.K. Lohia**, CEO, Indian Railways station development corporation limited

**Mr. Prasanna**, CMD, Purple Mobility Solutions

**Mr. Ravindra Verma**, Mobility Infrastructure group

**Mr. Axel Sondermann**, Principal, A.T. Kearney

**Mr. Nitin Kumar**, Deputy MD, Fairwood group

**Mr. Stefan**, Scania India

Panelists discussed the importance of policy and its importance in enabling seamless public transportation. Panelists discussed the strengths and limitations of public and private participants in urban transit. Currently, most common PPP model worldwide is government investing in infrastructure and private participants managing operations and maintenance activities. However, most panelists agreed that public transport which requires large investment would also benefit from private participation in infrastructure investment. There is also a need to adopt innovative models like land monetization and advertisement to enhance viability of public transport.

A unified urban transport body on the lines of Transport for London or the newly founded Riyadh authority can enable integrated and coordinated network and can have huge impact towards seamless urban mobility. Role of technology in enabling a seamless connectivity and enhancing public transport use was also discussed. Panelists also put forth the role of private players in technological innovations.

Answering some of the questions raised during the session, the Panel stated that Government is considering granting national permits to buses. Also, schemes are being launched at taluka level for establishing driving schools for truck drivers.