

 **SOCLEEN**
SOCIETY FOR CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

Sustainable Urban Transport Solutions For Vadodara Urban Region

SOCLEEN seminar on “Sustainable Urban Transportation Solutions”

The seminar organized on 4th February 2024 at Lukshmi Vilas Palace, Vadodara was attended by over 183 representatives from public organisations, industry, academic institutions, Non- Government organisations and citizens. It included two technical sessions and a Panel Discussion. Seminar speakers were experts of international and national repute. Beside the seminar, there was an exhibition and demonstrations of technologies, products, and models relevant to the subject.

The purpose of the seminar was to:

- create awareness and enable Public Participation;
- discuss Urban Planning to facilitate Safe, Healthy and Comfortable mobility for urban citizens; and
- discuss improvements and innovations in Vehicle systems and fuels to provide efficient and safe transportation.

Dr. O. P. Agarwal	IAS (retd.) Distinguished Fellow, NITI AYOJ and Advisor World Bank HQ
Shri Chaitanya Desai	MLA, Akota, Vadodara
Shri Praveen Gupta	Advisory Board Member Sanctuary Asia, Former MD & CEO, Raheja QBC GIC Ltd.
Dr. Shalini Sinha	Head, COE Urban Transport, CEPT University
Shri Satyen Kulabkar	Trustee, Vadodara Traffic Education Trust, National Awardee, Govt. Of India Road Safety and Traffic
Dr. Nachiket Gosavi	Asst. Professor, Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research (SPIESR), Ahmedabad
Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Choudhary	Vice Chancellor Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Vadodara
Dr. Vijay Anadkat	Senior Fellow WRI India
Dr. Sudhir Gupte	Principal Associate, Learning and Development, National Automotive Test Tracks (NATT), MP
Dr. Pankaj Prajapati	Associate Professor, Civil Engineering Dept., Faculty of Technology & Engineering, The MSU of Baroda, Vadodara
Dr. I. P. Gautam	Former Lokpal and Municipal Commissioner, Ahmedabad
Dr. Ajay Ranka	CMD, Zydex Industries, Vadodara
Shri Vinod Krishnan	CEO Gallagher Re, Mumbai
Prof. Chetan Vaidya	Independent Director (Non-Executive) GIFT City and Former Director NIUA



REQUISITES

- **The city should develop a comprehensive sustainable transportation plan.**

The plan should include goals and strategies for reducing our reliance on two wheelers and cars, improving public transportation and making our streets more walkable and bikeable.

- **The city should invest in new infrastructure to support sustainable transportation.**

This includes new bike lanes, pedestrian crosswalks, and public transportation facilities.

- **The city should work to reduce the cost of sustainable transportation.**

This includes offering subsidies for public transportation and electric vehicles.

- **The city should engage the community in sustainable transportation planning.**

This includes holding public summits and workshops and creating opportunities for community members to provide input on transportation decisions.

SUGGESTIONS

- **Creating efficient mass transportation system, based on city buses:**

Metro and BRT system are not viable options for Vadodara as the space available and cost of implementation does not justify both the options.

Efficient multi-terminal, multiple category bus service system is the most affordable and suitable option for city like Vadodara.

- **Promoting carpooling and vanpooling:**

This can help to reduce the number of cars on the road and improve air quality.

- **Encouraging people to walk and bike more often:**

This can help to improve public health and reduce traffic congestion.

- **Investing in electric vehicle charging infrastructure:**

This can help to make electric vehicles more convenient and accessible.

- **Working with businesses to develop transportation demand management plans:**

These plans can help to reduce the number of employees who drive to work alone.



WAY FORWARD

SOCIETY FOR CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

SOCLEEN will be pleased to collaborate with State Government, Vadodara Municipal Corporation, Vadodara Urban Development Authority, NGOs, Industry and Trade Associations, Research and Academic institutions, etc. to further plan and implement follow up actions based on deliberations of the Seminar.



SOCIETY FOR CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

In order to offer sustainable urban transport solutions for Vadodara Urban Region following recommendations are proposed:

- To provide efficient and cost effective bus services to offer alternate transport facilities for 2 wheeler and IPT users.
- To introduce ultra-comfortable air conditioned bus services for the 4 wheeler users and for those who do not use buses currently due to poor upkeep conditions of buses.

PROPOSED CONCEPT PLAN

- To create multiple location bus terminals. Bus terminals at Harni, Bhayli, Sama and at similar locations are proposed in addition to existing railway station city bus terminal.
- To increase number of buses to 500 at the earliest in first phase and then to 750.
- With the extensive use of Artificial Intelligence efficient scheduling of bus services to be done from multiple terminals as per the expected defined commuters requirements.
- In addition to efficient bus services, following very important end point connecting infrastructure to bring citizens from residence to bus stops are to be created:
 - a. Good quality of footpaths without encroachment.
 - b. Efficient network of cycling tracks along the roads with secure cycle stands at bus stops.
- Smart Bus stops to be built with facilities to park bicycles securely including protection from sun and rain.
- To introduce additional categories of Air conditioned and ultra-comfortable bus services.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

SOCIETY FOR CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

- To form an **“Experts Committee”** to evaluate, analyze and propose guidelines to implement proposed concept plan.
- To form a **“District level Project Implementation & Coordinating Committee”** to implement the project based on the **“Experts Committee”** guidelines.



SOCLEEN

SOCIETY FOR CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

Municipal Commissioner to form an experts committee comprising experts from the field of transportation academia and agencies to prepare guideline on efficient mass transportation system for city of Vadodara.

SOCLEEN will be pleased to collaborate at all levels to coordinate with various institutions and agencies to support Municipal Commissioner to form the expert committee and follow up with experts committee.

DISTRICT LEVEL IMPLEMENTATION & COORDINATING COMMITTEE

District Collector to form the implementation and Coordination Committee with representatives of the following government agencies to implement the project based on the “Experts Committee” guidelines :

- Urban Development Department
- Police Department
- GPCB/CPCB
- Vadodara Municipal Corporation
- VUDA
- Representatives from Academic Institutions/Industry/Voluntary Organisations



SOCLEEN

SOCIETY FOR CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

**Thank You
For
Your Attention**