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Public Bus Transport Services — Guidelines

Transport services are key elements in the infrastructure of a nation as it provides services essential for promoting economic and social development and plays a significant role in mobility, economic activities and improving productivity. Largely, the urban population depends on public transport with a modal split of 20 percent to 70 percent by public transport in different cities. Over the past few years, as there has been a rapid growth in industry, infrastructure, economic activities in the urban areas, the need for better public transportation facilities becomes necessary. The deficiencies in terms of low quality public transport systems and lack of appropriate supply of transport related infrastructure is leading to congested urban roads as well as crowded public transport systems. The present supply of bus fleet in urban areas far lower than the required fleet (demand) leading to a situation of severe congestion and uncomfortable conditions in public transportation systems. The high usage of private vehicles causing many problems like traffic congestion, air and noise pollution leading to unhealthy societies and high energy consumption, therefore leading to serious consequences on the environment. To accommodate the ever increasing high demand for public transport, there is a need to establish minimum standards for attractive, safe, sophisticated and sustainable public bus transport systems in the city.

Though public transport system is considered an integral part of urban transportation system, they continue to suffer from service delivery related issues like frequency, safety, security, comfort, information etc. Because of such impediments, the users are constraint to choose personal transport modes over the public transport.

To accommodate the ever increasing high demand for public transport, there is a need to establish guidelines for attractive, safe, sophisticated and sustainable public bus transport systems in the city. Therefore, this standard is formulated to improve the quality of public bus transportation services to remove drawbacks in the system and meet the user expectations from the system as well as commuter satisfaction. The standard is applicable to the bus service providers, feeder transport service providers and other stakeholders involved in public bus transportation.

This standard provides the guidelines to maintain or improve the quality of public bus transport services in urban areas. It includes the implementation of feeder modes for public bus transport system, parking facilities at public bus transport stations/terminals, use of intelligent transport system (ITS), integration with other mass transport systems and sustainable strategies to restrict the usage and ownership of private vehicles.

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