

B. URBAN PLANNING AND TRANSPORT

Sanjivi SUNDAR, Distinguished Fellow, The Energy Resource Institute (TERI), National Thermal Power Corporation Professor, TERI University, India

Title

Urban Planning and Transport in India

Abstract

Urban land use policies and planning shape the spatial structure of urban conglomerations and in turn the nature of the transport system. A sustainable development strategy calls for planning urban structures which reduce overall travel demand and place greater reliance on public transport instead of structures that promote greater dependence on personal vehicles and rapid motorization.

Unfortunately, due to inadequate appreciation of sustainability concerns and poor planning Indian cities have grown into urban sprawls and have been caught in the vicious cycle of motorization - more personal vehicles , more roads and more vehicles. .With rapid and poorly planned urbanization there has been an exponential growth in personal vehicles in Indian cities with serious implications for energy security and green house gas emissions. There is now an increasing awareness in India of the interaction between urban planning and transport systems ; there is also the recognition that urban planning should extend beyond land use planning to encompass traffic demand and supply management aimed at reducing the growth in energy consumption and green house gas emissions. Recent policy initiatives which take into account the implications of unfettered motorization on energy and environment , and programmes that seek to build capacity in Indian cities to plan better should help to make urban transport sustainable and Indian cities livable.