



TDM Strategies in Beijing



Overcrowded Public Transport Services

Sustainable Urban Transport in Review - 2008

Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities Center



Electric Jeepneys of Metro Manila



NMT Lanes in Bangkok

WHY BRT DOES NOT WORK

Great idea, implemented all wrong. 54th Parliament's Standing Committee. Recommendations should be accepted. It also report opinion to point out why the successful BRTs model is failing in Delhi

<p>1 ROAD SPACE REDUCED</p> <p>A divided 6-lane arterial road that needed widening to cope with growing traffic actually shrank by 3 metres. This 'major blunder' has narrowed cycle lanes, cars & 2-wheeler's pay off cycle lanes. Also, higher fatal accidents</p>	<p>2 WRONG IMPLEMENTATION</p> <p>Delhi's BRT has 4-lane bus corridor and 8-lane road for cars & 2-wheeler's. against Delhi's 2 lanes for buses & 4 lanes for cars. And Delhi's trial is 1:200 of Delhi's</p>	<p>3 SIGNAL SYSTEM FLAWY</p> <p>50-phase traffic signal has resulted in waits of over 10 min per signal cycle in off-peak hours. During peak hours, the wait is 16 min or more due to '100% cycle failure'</p>
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Therefore, ~~consider~~ BRT corridors. Or else, it will ~~be a nightmare~~ for Delhiites

Delhi BRTS - Look who is complaining?

Photos: Treehugger, Greenpeace, Photobucket, Times of India & Dave's gallery @ picasa

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INTRODUCTION

Year 2008, from the urban transport perspective, can be considered as a pivotal year as many countries began to realize the impact of transport on quality of life. The issues concerning urban transport received good media coverage thanks to Beijing Olympics, fuel price hike, continued air pollution and congestion problems, as well as climate change. In order to get results quickly, many cities are contemplating on a mix of carrot and stick policies such as increasing investments both on roads and public transport, fuel subsidies and congestion charging, and tightening new tail-pipe emissions standards while still struggling to implement in-use emissions standards, etc. The impact of such actions would be more visible and measurable in the future years but considering the year 2008, what is the status of urban transport? How did year 2008 rate on sustainable urban transport in Asia? What were the issues and the challenges?

At the end of the year when we in CAI-Asia try to recapture the highlights of 2008 related to urban transportation, air quality, and climate change, we can see many stories and images with mixed feelings of hope and despair. Some of the significant events/news/issues of 2008 are summarized below for policy makers, researchers, NGOs and other stakeholders working on SUT issues in Asia.

For more information, please visit our website <http://www.cleanairnet.org/suma>

For comments, questions, and suggestions, please write to Sudhir Gota (sudhir@cai-asia.org).

JANUARY

1. Beijing Introduced cleaner fuel standards as a step to reduce pollution (ahead of the Olympic Games in August) - The move was supported by many other initiatives taken to clean the air before the Olympics. Beijing also designed measures to take out more than half of its 3 million cars off the roads during the Olympic Games in a bid to guarantee air quality and improve traffic flow.
2. Launch of Tata Nano- “People’s car” – With the launch of world’s cheapest car – Tata Nano, many urban transport professionals got a nightmare considering the magnitude of problems it could generate. A car costing only 2500\$ would change the entire ownership paradigm boosting multiple vehicle ownership in India. Many experts ranging from Paul Barter, Sreekant Gupta, Dinesh Mohen etc analysed the situation in India after Nano is launched in traffic. Dr Pachauri summed up the feeling with the quote *“This is not the transport option for the country of a billion people many of whom cannot afford to buy even a bus ticket,”*
3. London, Paris Win 2008 Sustainable Transport Award- The committee member composed of experts from ITDP, CAI-Asia, GTZ, UNCRD and Environmental defense. Walter Hook summed up the event with a gem of a quote *“All of these cities took politically risky decisions that made a huge contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and making their cities more livable”*.

FEBRUARY

4. Bus rapid transit system for Cebu eyed - The Cebu City government wants to establish a BRT system as a means to improve their urban transport system. Discussions with the National government and other development agencies have been initiated.
5. Creation of NMT Cell in Pune Municipal Corporation - the Interface for Cycling Expertise (I-CE) in cooperation with local NGOs like Parisar and the Municipal Corporation of Pune has established the first NMT Cell in India. The SUMA program has substantially contributed by bringing together I-CE and other stakeholders in Pune.
6. Cars sold to meet new emission standards (Beijing) - Further continuing with the efforts to decongest and reduce pollution, it proposed banning the sale of new cars failing to meet new emission standards equivalent to Euro IV starting from March 1- 2008. The new standard for Beijing cars is estimated to bring emission of carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides further down by 48,000 tons, 5,300 tons, and 4,100 tons this year.
7. Shimla Road Users and Pedestrians Act 2007 enforced (India) - This act is considered as a way to make Shimla Town pollution-free and safe for the pedestrians especially for children and the aged people. This act also has a unique TDM strategy of annual tax to use some roads and with some good NMT strategies.
8. Congestion charge 'boosts health' (London) - A new research from the Journal Occupational and Environmental Medicine estimated that congestion charges saves 1,888 years spread across the whole of London. Scientists from two London colleges calculated that since 2003, 1,888 extra years of life had been saved among the city's seven million residents.

MARCH

9. Third Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Forum in Asia - Leading stakeholders and experts participated in discussions during the EST forum. During the forum, CAI-Asia and Philippine Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) and UNCRD signed an agreement for working together for formulating National EST strategy for Philippines under the SUMA program.
10. Delhi to have an 'intelligent' traffic system by 2010 - In preparation for the Commonwealth Games in 2010, Delhi is working on major transport planning overhaul especially an IT-driven Intelligent Traffic System (ITS) which will monitor and streamline vehicular movement.
11. China unveils major government revamp - China announced a plan to organize a new transport ministry that would cover road, water and air transit, but railways have been excluded. With this reorganization, urban transport issues would receive tremendous boost.

APRIL

12. SUT Training Courses - GTZ in partnership with CAI-Asia and other SUMA partners conducted capacity building training courses on “Non-Motorized Transport and Mass Transit in China and India.” The capacity of officials and stakeholders in understanding the complexities of public and non-motorized transport is often left much to be desired. The SUMA program proposes scaling-up the capacity building activities in Asia.
13. Ha Noi acts to return city pavements to pedestrians - Towards the end of 2006, the responsibility for managing the capital’s pavements and roads had been transferred to the local district People’s Committees. The committee in order to free up the pedestrian spaces started acting against encroachers and people who park on footpaths.
14. Promoting Cycling in Metro Manila- Celebrating its 10th year anniversary, the Firefly Brigade organized the annual Tour of the Fireflies; the 50km bicycle ride through seven cities to promote the use of the bicycle as an alternative means of transportation that is cheap, efficient, environmentally sensible and good for one’s health. The Tour attracted about 10,000 cyclists from various sectors of the society.
15. Metro to zoom into 4 cities soon (India) - In order to strengthen the public transportation, Metro projects in Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai and Kochi were approved by the Indian government.

MAY

16. Asia launches the climate change fund with US\$40m - The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is establishing a new fund to slow the onset of climate change and to help the Asia-Pacific region adapt to the expected devastating impact of global warming. ADB will provide an initial \$40 million to the Climate Change Fund, which will be open for further contributions from countries, other development organizations, foundations, the private sector and other sources. With this development, the best way forward is to move the co-benefits agenda promoting the SUT with the GhG reductions.
17. Developing Integrated Emission Strategies for Existing Land Transport" (DIESEL) Program, Bangkok – Thailand - The three years of hard work was finally rewarded when the final report was published online. The World Bank supported program intended to develop a comprehensive understanding of the in-use diesel vehicles, their emissions and emission control options and decision making for better urban air quality in Asian cities.
18. Clearing the Air in Nepal - Clean Air Network Nepal (CANN) - CAI-Asia's local network in Nepal, in partnership with Shree Eco Visionary Pvt. Ltd. is implementing a project with support from GEF/SGP to increase the number and applications of electric vehicles through effective market

diversification as a means to reduce the transport sector's dependence on fossil fuels and the associated CO₂ emissions in Nepal.

19. International Transport Forum 2008 - Policy makers, leading industry representatives, top scientists from the transport sector met in Leipzig during the three day Forum. The Key Message of the International Transport Forum was the call for a strategic approach to meeting the energy and climate change challenge, based on a package of policy measures. This includes technology development, strengthened research into new technology and fuels, increased use of information technology and integrated mobility management as well as a wide variety of nontechnology policy tools with potential to improve economic efficiency and reduce emissions.

JUNE

20. Oil Price Hike - The countries across the world started feeling the heat as oil prices started climbing steeply. In the month of June it reached a record of 138.54 dollars per barrel. The subsidies took the toll on economy and many countries started realizing the follies of such an arrangement and started thinking of reorganizing the policies to balance the subsidies.
21. Sri Lanka poised for Vehicle Emission Test Run - The government has selected two firms to establish testing centers around the island to issue emission certificates for owners since these certificates will become mandatory to obtain annual revenue licenses. The government has also indicated that vehicles that do not meet proposed exhaust emission standards will not be given revenue licenses. Sri Lankan arm of Clean Air Initiatives had an important role to play in this process.
22. ADB Clean Energy Forum - Under the onslaught of raising fuel prices, nearly 500 key stakeholders met in Manila in an ADB forum to discuss ways and means of addressing global warming by utilizing the cleaner fuels. It was acknowledged during the meeting that the region will need up to \$6.4 trillion in new energy infrastructure by 2030 and unless there is a move away from the dependence on oil and coal, countries will continue to be vulnerable to price hikes in these commodities and will further contribute to climate change. During the "Roundtable Discussion on Sustainable Cities Through Better Transportation Planning" held at ADB Headquarters on 4 June 2008, Enrique Peñalosa, former Mayor of Bogota quoted "*Transport is a peculiar problem: it gets worse as a society gets richer!*"
23. SUT Training Course - Mass Transit and BRT planning two-day workshop/ training course under SUMA. GTZ-SUTP, EMBARQ-WRI, ITDP, Indore Transport Services organized a 2-day workshop / training course on Mass transit and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and related measures in Indore, India on 27-28 June 2008 as part of the SUMA program. The event was hosted by Indore City Transport Services Ltd.
24. Beijing game for clean air challenge - Professor Wang Wen-Xing and his team from the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences measured the concentrations of well-known air

pollutants in Beijing in August and September 2007, the same summer period the Olympic Games in 2008, in order to get a picture of the likely air quality during the Games. They compared their results against The National Ambient Air Quality Standard. The purpose of their study was to inform measures to improve the air quality of the capital, in anticipation of the Olympic Games.

JULY

25. India Unleashes the Climate Action Plan - Under growing concerns, India came out with its climate action plan. It put forward the co-benefits agenda which SUT prescribes. With National Urban Transport Policy and Climate Action Plan, India certainly is moving towards the sustainable future (but these plans should be read in conjunction with its NHDP road policies which are multiplying the road space in India).
26. Odd-even rule to reduce traffic by 70% (Beijing) - More than 2.3 million cars, up to 70 percent of the total, could be removed from Beijing's roads during the Olympics, as a result of TDM measures.
27. Car-free day reduces air pollution: tests (Indonesia) - Generally the Transport Improvement projects neglect the air quality improvement indicators. Air quality tests along Jl. Sudirman in South Jakarta and Jl. Thamrin in Central Jakarta show that the monthly Car-Free Day decreased air pollution in the areas. The indicators of air pollution include the amount of dust, carbon monoxide and nitrogen monoxide in the air along the car-free route.
28. Electric Jeepneys in Manila. The Philippine Land Transportation Office has approved the commercial registration of E-Jeepneys. The E-jeepneys, promoted by Greenpeace in the Philippines, now has several units plying the routes in Metro Manila.
29. Xi'an Sustainable Urban Transport – (China) - The city of Xi'an, home to the world-renowned Terracotta Army and other cultural relics, faces a huge challenge of balancing preservation of its cultural heritage with the demands of a modern city. Through the new Xi'an Sustainable Urban Transport Project supported by the World Bank, bus prioritization, bicycle routes, traffic calming and speed-reducing strategies would be introduced in an effort to foster better road use and access to cultural sites.

AUGUST

30. Chinese cities overhaul transport systems for Olympics - Olympic host city Beijing and six co-hosts made some last-ditch efforts to overhaul public transport systems in order to support the upcoming Olympic Games. China's Ministry of Railway announced that a rapid railway linking Beijing with the co-host city Tianjin will be officially operational on Aug. 1, one week before the Games begin. The ultra-modern line would cut the traveling time between the two cities from the current 70 minutes to about 30 minutes.

31. Hyderabad to get 71-km metro 'free of cost' (India) - One of the most 'interesting' developments in India on MRTS was the 71-km metro without the central or state government paying a rupee. Instead, the Andhra Pradesh government was supposed to receive Rs 1,240 crore (calculated at present value) by simply giving the concession to a private consortium. The developments in the coming years would be interesting to note.
32. The pressure on public transport was very high during this month as oil prices climbed up to some 147 USD per barrel. People started using public mass transport to escape higher driving costs and high increase in general prices due to inflation.
33. Air pollution was identified as the leading cause of mortality and morbidity in Bangladesh, according to a new study by Country Environmental Assessment (2006) report. The government of Bangladesh and the World Bank jointly conducted the assessment while government recognized the need to address the problem of urban air pollution because of its wide ranging adverse impacts. It developed the 'Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (CASE)' project with proposed WB financing to facilitate the adoption of sustainable environmental initiatives in the key polluting sectors (urban transport and brick making) with a focus on reducing air pollution and improving safe mobility.
34. All the efforts put on by the officials to solve pollution and traffic issues before Olympics (China) showed results with many reports indicating reduction in vehicle numbers and pollution levels. The CAI-Asia Center supported the Beijing EPB in communicating China's efforts to improve its air quality during the Olympic Games (see <http://www.cleanairnet.org/caiasia/1412/article-72720.html>)

SEPTEMBER

35. ADB Calls for Environment-Friendly and Inclusive Transport Projects – ADB Transport Forum – The forum attracted nearly 250 leading stakeholders from various countries. ADB VP set the tone for the conference with the quote “Action must be taken at both the local and national level to promote sustainable and energy efficient mobility. ADB will support the developing member countries to effectively adapt to the effects of climate change – through climate proofing – in our transport and other infrastructure projects,”
36. Vietnam plans to use biogas in their buses - The Transport Department of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, is planning to run passenger buses on biogas instead of diesel to save on fuel costs and reduce air pollution.
37. More cities in India planning BRT systems - In an international conference in Vishakapatnam organized by the IGIAT, GVPCOE & Vishakapatnam Municipal Corporation, many SUMA partners such as CAI-Asia, GTZ, Embarq and ITDP participated actively in the training sessions.

38. Measuring the Invisible: Quantifying Emissions Reductions from Transport Solutions - Hanoi Case Study. The primary goal of this EMBARQ's study in Hanoi was to test a methodology for estimating local and global emissions from a series of transport activity scenarios and alternative-vehicle emissions standards prepared for the city of Hanoi.

OCTOBER

39. The first partnership meeting of EST partners for formulating the EST policy was held in Manila. The meeting brought together major stakeholders and agencies from Philippines such as DOTC, DENR (transport, environment and all the relevant stakeholders)
40. CNG buses project in Pakistan – Pakistan announced its proposal to introduce buses powered by compressed natural gas (CNG) in nine major cities of the country, including the provincial capital Peshawar.
41. ADB issues first loan for local road traffic safety in PRC - Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced a \$200 million loan for road development in Yunnan Province in the People's Republic of China (PRC) incorporating road traffic safety strategy at the local level. It is the first assistance of its kind in a country with a high number of road accidents.
42. New York New York. If they can do it there, you can do it anywhere! (Street blog)- In 2008, New York took rapid strides in making the city sustainable. They provided a prime role for designing for people -- designing for pedestrians, designing for cyclists, designing for buses, designing for better mobility in city planning.

NOVEMBER

43. BAQ-2008 - The Better Air Quality (BAQ) 2008 workshop was held in Bangkok on 12-14 November. BAQ workshops since 2001 have brought together a growing number of policy makers and stakeholders to discuss how to improve air quality management in Asian cities. Nearly 1050 participants from various countries participated in the lively discussions. SUMA partners in order to maximize the outreach activity participated in various pre events and main events. The discussions were on two-three wheelers, e-bikes, fuel economy, social impact assessment, transport, air pollution and green house gas emissions, NMT facilities, BRTS etc...
44. Signing of the Kyoto Declaration by twelve Asian Mayors for the Promotion of EST in Cities – During BAQ-2008. The latest cities to endorse the campaign are Bangkok (Thailand), Baguio (Philippines), Cebu (Philippines), Colombo (Sri Lanka), Batam (Indonesia), Guwahati (India), Karachi (Pakistan), Kathmandu (Nepal), Makassar (Indonesia), Makati (Philippines), Palembang (Indonesia), and Surat (India). They join the 22 mayors and senior government officials from 14 Asian countries who signed the Declaration in Kyoto, Japan, in April 2007 at the first "Asian Mayors' Policy Dialogue for the Promotion of Environmentally Sustainable Transport

in Cities.”The campaign aims to achieve more synergies among national, local, and city authorities in enhance sustainability in the transport sector.

45. A Roadmap for Cleaner Fuels and Vehicles in Asia - Developing countries in Asia should raise their vehicle emission standards to the levels of Japan, Europe and USA as emissions from cars are expected to increase over the next few decades, threatening public health and quality of life for urban population, according to a report funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The report “A Road Map for Cleaner Fuels and Vehicles in Asia” has been compiled by an expert team, consisting of Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia) and consultants.
46. Jakarta air getting healthier- According to government officials, data from the Jakarta Environment Management Board (BPLHD) shows Jakartans breathed healthy air on 104 days up to October this year, compared to only 73 days last year and 45 days in 2006 thanks to increase in number of cae-free days and other strategies.

DECEMBER

47. Oil Price Decrease – With decrease in oil price, it looks like the issue of subsidies would again be played down by many countries citing economic recession and other political issues. The fuel prices which was increased by number of times by various countries during the course of year was decreased thus losing a golden opportunity to reduce the subsidies.
48. In the Delhi – Urban Mobility conference, Indian government awarded the following cities for excellence in urban transport initiatives –
 - i. Surat Municipal Corporation for best PPP initiative in Urban Transport Project
 - ii. IIT Guwahati for Dipbahan Rickshaw Bank Project for Best Cycle-Rickshaw / Cycle Transport Project
 - iii. Delhi Metro Rail Corporation for best transit projects (BRTS / Metro / LRT etc.)
 - iv. Surat Municipal Corporation for Best Environment Friendly Project
 - v. Bangalore City Traffic Police for best Intelligent Transportation System Project
 - vi. Pune Municipal Corporation for Best Multi-Model Integrated Project
 - vii. Special Awards to Road Transport Authority, Pune for Project of Scientific Management of Autorickshaw and Municipal Corporation of Badodara for city bus service
 - viii. Special Award to Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) for best ticketing in Mysore.
49. Jakarta to set new school and working hours - Jakarta city administration is set to issue a regulation to make school hours begin half an hour earlier (6.30 a.m.) as of Jan. 1, to ease morning and noon traffic congestion around the city. The administration will also issue a non-mandatory instruction for private companies in Jakarta to rearrange their operating hours according to the location of their offices.

50. Delhi BRTS – Delhi BRTS which started its trail run from the april-2008 came into heavy media onslaught from its first day of operation. The issue generated a lot of debate during the course of year as to what was the problem with it. Many experts suggested some minor changes in the operation plan aspects and some on the placement of bus stops. Some of the experts differed with various other people and recommended that it was a success considering nominal increase in speed, safety and provision of excellent non motorized transport lanes. Some powerful lobbies tried hard for closing the bus corridors stating the reduction in space for private vehicles. During the December-2008, one news report suggested that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on urban transport has recommended that despite the “potential benefits of BRTS”, the Bus Rapid Transit System BRTS has been a failure in the Delhi. The Standing Committee report recommended that in view of the city’s experience, the Delhi government should “abandon the other five BRT corridors as approved earlier”. Instead, the government should strengthen the Delhi Metro rail service with a strong feeder bus network, covering all bus networks in the city. It remains to be seen in 2009 as to what action the Delhi government takes?
51. Conference of Parties (COP) 14, Poznan - For the first time at the Conference of Parties, about 15 organizations promoting low carbon transport strategies have decided to coordinate their activities and efforts, promote the creation of better framework for addressing transportation CO2 emissions, and to better integrate transportation in the post 2012 framework of the Kyoto Protocol. The Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities Center, Clean Air Institute, World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), with assistance from the Carbon Assist Program of the World Bank organized the “Transport and Climate Change: An Urgent Call for Action” as a special event at COP 14 (10 December). It is clear that Transport sector needs to be better integrated into the climate change agenda and its win-win situation for both.
52. 20,000 bicycles, 1 lakh users: some spending, more earning- Pune - The “rent and ride” plan to promote bicycles as a popular means of transport is set to take off in a big way. The initial report of the Non-Motorised Transport (NMT) cell of the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) projects that the plan, backed by the World Bank, will not only decongest the road alongside the BRTS but also rake in revenue.