

Publication: The Times Of India Mumbai;Date: Oct 15, 2013;Section: Times City;Page: 6



## Need a planned approach to solve city's transport woes: Vision docu

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Mumbai: The People's Vision Document (PVD), which has been submitted to the development plan (DP) department, has called for a planned, holistic approach to solve the city's transport problem, make the transport system more peoplefriendly and sustainable, and to use it to shape development.

The PVD pointed to the limited success of the Bandra-Worli sea link, which sees less than half the daily traffic initially expected, and the huge environmental impact in implementing the coastal road plan, to make a case for not building multi-crore projects and approaching the transportation problem holistically.

The document called for a high-density mix of housing, employment and recreation options within walking/cycling distance of each other and of mass rapid transit system (MRTS) stations to induce a change towards healthier living. A secondary transport system is needed to ensure convenient and quick dispersal of large volume of commuters, it said.

The PVD said the collapse of the public transport system is encouraging more people to buy vehicles. While the total number of vehicles in Mumbai has increased by 93,432 since 2009, the number of buses, taxis and autos has increased by only 5,083 until March 2010. "An increase in the number of train coaches and BEST buses can be a simplistic solution. If public transport is made comfortable, more people will start using it," said a transport expert.

Not surprisingly, the issue of parking has got attention in the PVD. Experts said parking should be treated as usage of space and should be charged. Road congestion pricing should be introduced for access to a road/area at certain times to promote carpooling and sharing. **THE OTHER SUGGESTIONS**

A few of the recommendations in the People's Vision

Document that was recently presented to the BMC to assist in the formulation of Development Plan (2014-34)

### **Waste Management**

Decentralize waste management process to reduce dumping of waste by 90% Ensure all new buildings and societies have their own composting pits Ensure that all new constructions have garbage chutes Provide dry waste sorting sheds and biogas plants in various locations Recycle construction debris into bricks, paver blocks **Environment and Open Spaces**

Correct wrongly mapped existing land use survey to prevent mangroves, forests and other ecologically sensitive areas from being opened up for development. Such areas need to be demarcated clearly as 'protected spaces' in the ELU survey and the following DP

Do not classify beaches as open spaces

Map private and public open spaces clearly, and open private elite clubs and gymkhanas to the public

Categorize open spaces into community, ward and city levels

Make playgrounds open to the public after school hours

New open spaces need to be created

### **Health**

Build a dedicated tertiary-level centre for TB and MDR in addition to the Sewri TB Hospital Ensure private and charitable hospitals that avail of incentive FSI give the poor access to beds reserved for the underprivileged

